



Benhart LaVerne Reichert

February 12, 1939 - July 27, 2025

Benhart LaVerne Reichert was born on a balmy winters eve, February 12, 1939 in Watseka, IL to Henry S. (Hank) and Mildred L. (Mil) Reichert, whereupon his maternal grandfather, Andrew Aurbeck exclaimed “Why, he’s a little Boobus” and an abbreviated version of the name stuck ever since. The newly christened “Boob” began telling tales at an early age when he informed fellow elementary school students excitedly that his Father had shot a Fox, right off of their mailbox, that very morning. This culminated in an immediate meeting with the school marm who informed them, particularly Mr. Reichert, that he should immediately refrain from spouting such nonsense to their young, impressionable son.

Benny grew up along the banks of the Iroquois river, frequently frolicking with his cousins who lived half a mile away on a neighboring homestead. He enjoyed school and participated in the many extracurricular activities offered, sports, plays and clubs. Upon graduation from St. Anne High School, he enlisted in the US Army, became a paratrooper and was stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY with the 101st Airborne Division. When queried about how many “jumps” he made, he’d grin and say 1 and indicate all the others were perhaps met with some resistance at which time he may or may not have been forcibly extricated from said plane.

Upon successful completion of his stint in the Army, he returned to the family farm and began dating the vivacious nursing student, Florence Y. “Cookie” Fortin and they were married on April 28, 1962 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church

in Beaverville. The young couple initially moved North, Benny driving a truck and working in construction while Cookie worked in the emergency room of a local hospital. They welcomed two children, James Edward in 1963 and Susan Ann in 1964. They decided to move closer to their respective families, so Benny purchased his Uncle Ted's Locker Plant in Papineau, IL and Cookie began working in the Emergency Room of St. Mary's Hospital. Hank decided to begin handing the reigns of the family farm over to Boob in 1974, so the meat processing business was sold to Skip Langellier.

Early on, Cookie had been diagnosed with a debilitating disease and as it progressed, her life was unexpectedly shortened when she succumbed to it in 1985. Ben was unexpectedly blessed with a second chance at love when he met Frances A. "Itsy" Matthews and they were fortunate enough to share 40 exhilarating years together.

Benny was very active in the community. He was a former township trustee, a former road commissioner, a volunteer fireman, a former school board member, card carrying member of the freemasons and American Legion, sold real estate, clerked estate sales, operated a bowling alley, opened the gym for the community at the High School. He enjoyed leisurely pursuits of Golf and Bowling. He was quick to lend his time, an ear or expertise in a variety of interests.

Ben is survived by his steadfast companion, Itsy, their combined children: Jimmy, Bret (Susan), Susie, Darby (Susan) and Kristin (Joe). Grandchildren: Chelsea (Kourtney), Kailee, Brittany (Derek) , Paige (Tony), Evan (Jennifer), Alexi (Alan), Conner (Giana), Trevor and Noah. Great Grandchildren: Deegan, Abriella, Coraline, Roman, Ryatt and Penelope. Sibling: Shirley (Ron) Zeedyk. Ben was pre-deceased by his parents, spouse and grandson, Will.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be conducted by Pastor Brent Salm on Monday, August 4th from 10:00 am to 2:30pm at Jensen Memorial Chapel, 3639 IL Route 17, Kankakee, IL, 60901. Interment immediately following at Kankakee Memorial Gardens, 15 Lowe Road, Kankakee, IL 60901.

Link for Virtual participation: <https://iu.zoom.us/j/8919918391?omn=86322282905>

Contributions may be made to Uplifted Care Hospice: <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1411477>

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 S 3000 E Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 4. 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Jensen Funeral Home
3639 EAST State Route 17
Kankakee, IL 60901
jensenfuneralhomes@yahoo.com

Funeral Service

AUG 4. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Jensen Funeral Home
3639 EAST State Route 17
Kankakee, IL 60901
jensenfuneralhomes@yahoo.com

Burial

AUG 4. 3:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee Memorial Gardens
15 S 3000 E Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall

M(

“ Offering my sincere condolences to Benny’s family. I remember him from school days at Papineau Grade School and St.Anne High school. His parents and mine were friends.

Mary Ann (Henneike)Jimenez - August 31, 2025 at 06:31 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.

August 04, 2025 at 03:15 PM

TS

“ The Sandy Gorski and kids, the Snyders purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.



The Sandy Gorski and kids, the Snyders - August 02, 2025 at 06:57 PM

TS

“ The Sandy Gorski and kids, the Snyders planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.

The Sandy Gorski and kids, the Snyders - August 02, 2025 at 06:57 PM

JF

“Joyce Wood Family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.



Joyce Wood Family - August 02, 2025 at 02:52 PM

CC

“May the lord be with you on your journey, and bless all those lives you have touched. The Compton's



Chuck Compton - August 02, 2025 at 12:49 PM



“A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.

July 31, 2025 at 11:53 PM



“Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.



July 31, 2025 at 11:53 PM

CC

“ Chuck n Corky-Scott n Mary Beth-Mark n C purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.



Chuck n Corky-Scott n Mary Beth-Mark n C - July 31, 2025 at 04:28 PM

TE

“ Tina E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.

Tina E. - July 31, 2025 at 02:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.

July 31, 2025 at 09:47 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.



July 31, 2025 at 09:47 AM

ES

“ I bowled with Ben in the Saint Anne's Men's league. He was always very kind and encouraging to me.

Ed Steppan - July 30, 2025 at 08:50 PM

MB

“ Mary Blum lit a candle in memory of Benhart LaVerne Reichert



Mary Blum - July 29, 2025 at 11:12 PM

BS

“ Bud and Angie Schoth planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.

Bud and Angie Schoth - July 29, 2025 at 07:00 PM

BS

“ Bud and Angie Schoth purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.



Bud and Angie Schoth - July 29, 2025 at 07:00 PM

CM

“ Itsy, I was so sorry to see that your Ben had passed. May he rest in eternal peace. Keeping you & the family in my prayers.

Cathie (Sederstrand-Bergan) Miedema



Catherine Miedema - July 29, 2025 at 06:18 PM

RL

“ Everyone has someone that doesn't like them. But not Benny. He coached me in summer baseball as a kid and I've had the pleasure of bowling in the same league for the past several years. We'll all miss having you to joke with.

Rick Lesage

Rick LeSage - July 29, 2025 at 05:34 PM

KP

“ I send my deepest sympathy to the family. My prayers and thoughts are with you.

Kathy Peterson - July 29, 2025 at 05:33 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.

July 29, 2025 at 05:25 PM



“ Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.



July 29, 2025 at 05:25 PM

KF

“ Karie Ryan Ordway and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.

Karie Ryan Ordway and family - July 29, 2025 at 04:48 PM

KF

“*Karie Ryan Ordway and family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.*”



Karie Ryan Ordway and family - July 29, 2025 at 04:48 PM



“*A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.*”

July 29, 2025 at 04:43 PM



“*Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.*”



July 29, 2025 at 04:43 PM

KA

“*Kimberly A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.*”

Kimberly A. - July 29, 2025 at 04:34 PM

CB

“ Our most deepest condolences are with you and your family. Ben was such an amazing man. Love to all of you
Carey & Bob Burnes



Carey Burnes - July 29, 2025 at 04:31 PM

JF

“ Jaymie Falkenhan lit a candle in memory of Benhart LaVerne Reichert



Jaymie Falkenhan - July 29, 2025 at 04:08 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.

July 29, 2025 at 03:51 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.



July 29, 2025 at 03:51 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Benhart LaVerne Reichert.*



July 29, 2025 at 03:25 PM



“ *Susan Barnett Perry lit a candle in memory of Benhart LaVerne Reichert*



Susan Barnett Perry - July 29, 2025 at 03:21 PM



“ *Deborah Whitaker lit a candle in memory of Benhart LaVerne Reichert*



Deborah Whitaker - July 29, 2025 at 01:03 PM



“ *Rick Hanson lit a candle in memory of Benhart LaVerne Reichert*



Rick Hanson - July 29, 2025 at 10:48 AM