



## Bernard Elliott Ames

May 1, 1936 - May 18, 2025

Bernard "Bernie" Elliot Ames took his last breath with open arms on Sunday, May 18, 2025, in Sherrills Ford, NC. His final days were spent in perfect "Bernie-style" with family and friends surrounding him, reminiscing on a beautiful life, and celebrating his 89th birthday (May 1), along with the birth of his fifth great grandchild, baby boy Ira James. His hand clutched a cherished gift; an olive wood, Bethlehem Cross, as he had every day since the passing of his beautiful Betty.

Son to Bernard and Beatrice Ames, Bernie was born May 1, 1936, in Mariana, PA. His parents, along with incredible wife, Betty Jean, greeted Bernie at heaven's gates alongside many friends and family members who had gone on before him.

Bernie leaves behind an incredible legacy, with a family and stories to be remembered, just as he would have wanted it: Daughters: Terri Cassily, Toni Chatman (husband Alan), and Tracie Bailey (husband Cole). Grandchildren: Cole Bailey Jr. (wife Ashley), Kara Kolmetz, Sheldon Bailey, Carlie Chatman, Cody Chatman, Madeline Kolmetz, Holden Bailey (wife Katie), and Jacob Bailey (wife Sophia). Great Grandchildren: Cooper Bailey, Wyatt Harrison, Halle Zeh, Kendall Harrison, and Ira Bailey. Sister: Janice Marshall, her children Todd Marshall, and Jodie Newnan, and their beautiful, ever-growing families.

Known as Bernie, Dad, Pap, and Uncle Bernie, he was surely someone who was loved and who deeply loved with all his heart.

There was a uniqueness to his love...not only unconditional, but unspoken, unyielding, unwavering, and often-times provided when we felt most undeserving. Love was always Bernie's motivation. Love of country, love of family, love of life, love of creation; his path, knowingly or not, was always one guided by faith.

A man who was as real and open as he was mysterious, Bernie lived life to the fullest.

Bernie grew up as a true athlete. If there was a sporting opportunity placed in front of him, not only would he play the game, but he would master the craft. A letterman in his high school years and a champion in the military, from basketball to boxing and softball, even water skiing (barefoot), and on to coaching; he did it all with grit and gusto.

Upon joining the United States Air Force, and marrying the love of his life, Betty Jean, a life of travel began, first as a soldier and husband then shortly followed as a father. Serving his country was an incredible honor to Bernie, an opportunity to see the world, learn, train, and always return home with tales of each journey/experience. A gifted storyteller, Bernie reveled sharing with family and friends as much as they all enjoyed listening.

Bernie especially loved his three girls, or "Bernie's Angels," as he loved to call them. Terri, Toni, and Tracie (the 3 Ts) were all placed on a pedestal from the moment each of them was born; Bernie wouldn't have it any other way.

And from his three beautiful girls came his eight beloved grandchildren, making him "Pap" and with whom he developed and shared extraordinary/unique bonds. "Blood is thicker than water," was a common quote mentioned in Bernie's life; a lesson he learned and was happy to pass on to the younger generations. It wasn't just about family loyalty but respecting your elders and never leaving your people behind. Bernie believed in second chances, lending a hand, and always answering the call. No matter the situation, family, close friend, or dog, Bernie Ames was your man.

After 20 years dedicated to USAF, Bernie retired in 1974. He and his family settled in Casselberry, FL where Bernie added a new love to his life, Lake

Kathryn. This lake was a sanctuary and Bernie was the Godfather. Overflowing with the perfect mixture of love, laughter, celebrations, and relaxation, all were welcome on the water with Bernie Ames.

A die-hard Gator and Steelers fan, a true patriot, honored veteran, and dog whisperer with incredible charm and a heart of gold, Bernie Ames shall live on in each of us. His love will be forever felt in our hearts and memories shared together. Until we meet again, sending all our love to you above.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, 494 East Plaza Drive, Mooresville, NC 28115, on Saturday, June 28th at 2:00pm. For those unable to attend, the service click the following link: <https://view.one-roomstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTc1MDQyMzE3NjM2NzkyNyZvbmVyb29tLWFkbWluJmNvcHlfbGluaw==>

Immediately following, the family invites you to continue the celebration of Bernie, at the home of Cole and Tracie Bailey, 1387 Langdon Road, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673.

In honor of Bernie's service to our country, and his love for sports, please dress patriotic or adorned in your favorite sports apparel.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Ames family. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN **28**. 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Chapel  
494 E. Plaza Drive  
 Mooresville, NC 28115

# Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bernard Elliott Ames.

June 28, 2025 at 07:34 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Bernard Elliott Ames.



June 28, 2025 at 07:34 AM



“ Your father will be missed by so many; he was such a wonderful man! I'm so glad I was able to see him last year... Wishing you all strength through this difficult time. Keep those memories close to your heart ~ Kimberly Everman

Kimberly Everman - June 27, 2025 at 11:33 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bernard Elliott Ames.

June 27, 2025 at 11:28 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bernard Elliott Ames.*



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June 27, 2025 at 11:28 AM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Todd Marshall** - June 17, 2025 at 04:25 PM



“ *I've had the opportunity to meet Bernie and experience his kindness and humor first hand. There are people in this life that you meet and never forget and he was one of those people, along with his beautiful wife Betty. They were/are an inspiring and lovely couple.♥♥*



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**Kerri Lane** - June 17, 2025 at 08:29 AM