



Henry Crenshaw Bernhardt

August 22, 1925 - March 20, 2010

Henry Crenshaw Bernhardt, 84, of Salisbury died Saturday, March 20, 2010 at Rowan Regional Medical Center.

Born August 22, 1925 in Salisbury, he was the son of the late Helen Crenshaw Bernhardt and Robert Linn Bernhardt, Sr. He was educated in the Salisbury schools and graduated from Boyden High School, Catawba College and the Southeastern Management Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Mr. Bernhardt was a veteran of the US Army, he served with distinction with the 90th Infantry of Patton's 3rd Army and received 2 Bronze Stars, numerous other citations.

After the war he operated his own band, the Henry Bernhardt Orchestra for a number of years.

He worked with his family at Salisbury Hardware on South Main Street and in 1960 as Executive Vice-President of the Salisbury Rowan Merchants Association, he more than tripled its membership and started the Holiday Caravan Parade. In 1967 he became Catawba College's first Development Officer; won three national (Case-U.S. Steel) awards for Alumni funds; completed two highly successful capital campaigns and founded the Chief's Club. In 1981, he founded his own consulting firm, Institutional Development

Association (IDA) which he directed for 20 years before retiring in 2001.

Mr. Bernhardt was Vice-Chairman of the “250 Fest” steering committee, which consisted of 15 citizens from all over Rowan County. He also served with the City of Salisbury on the Mayor’s Committee on Integration, founding member and Past Chairman of the Salisbury Planning Board, serving 24 years, served on the All-American City Committee and was a founding member of the Firemen’s Relief Fund.

A lifelong member of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church where he served on the Vestry and as Senior Warden, he was a driving force in starting the St. Luke’s Foundation. A member of the Salisbury Jaycees and served on the local, state and national level. He was a member of the Harold B. Jarrett American Legion Post #342, member and served as President of the 90th Infantry Association, was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame at Catawba College in 2009, and received the O. B. Michael Distinguished Alumni Award in 1981 and was a member of Wong’s Coffee Club. He and his 3 sons all received the rank of Eagle Scout while in the Boy Scouts.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Katherine “Kitty” Foss Hueper and his brother, Robert Linn Bernhardt, Jr.

Survivors include his wife of almost 52 years, Jo Ann Beasley Bernhardt, whom he married April 20, 1958; sons, Linn Bernhardt of Salisbury, John Bernhardt and partner T. J. Norman of Atlanta, GA, and Matt Bernhardt and wife Terri of Salisbury; daughter, Laura Bernhardt Smith and husband Dr. Brian Smith of Shelby and two grandsons, Austin Smith and Davis Smith of Shelby.

Funeral services will be conducted 2:00 PM Tuesday at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church with the Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr. Rector and Rev. Cecelia C.

Schroeder, Assistant to the Rector officiating. Interment will follow at Chestnut Hill Cemetery. Military Graveside Rites will be conducted by the Rowan County Veterans Honor Guard.

The family will receive friends at the Summersett Funeral Home from 6-8:00 PM Monday.

Memorials may be made to St. Luke's Foundation, 131 W. Council St., Salisbury, NC 28144 or Catawba College Chief's Club, 2300 W. Innes Street, Salisbury, NC 28144

The family would like to express their gratitude to Rowan Regional Medical Center and the Lutheran Home at Trinity Oaks for the care and love given to Mr. Bernhardt.

Tribute Wall



“ Our household here has been away for the last couple of months, but Mom just passed the obit to me upon our return. While I know Mom went to the visitation last month, I hope everyone there will receive our condolences from the rest of the family here. There's certainly sadness to hear the news, but so many good, fun memories came back of times with the Bernhardt family. Though I haven't met all of you, my personal best and heartfelt wishes to everyone - Jo Ann, Linn, John & T.J., Matt & Terri, Laura & Brian and the grandkids. What a fine man the world had in Henry Bernhardt and we've all benefited in many ways.##imported-begin##David zum Brunnen##imported-end##

May 03, 2010 at 11:42 AM



“ John
I am so sorry learn of your fathers passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Your friend forever.

Diedre##imported-begin##Diedre Butler##imported-end##

April 24, 2010 at 05:09 PM



“ Jo Ann, Little Linn, John, Matt and Laura - There was no one like Uncle Henry. My remembrances of time I spent growing up in Salisbury and Henry serving as a role model, providing security so important in growing up will always be remembered and appreciated. Not to mention all the trips to Blackwelder's. He was always there for me, to the very end. My love, condolences and prayers are with you and him always. With love to all the Bernhardt's. I know Salisbury will miss him and his contributions making the city so special.##imported-begin##Holly Foss##imported-end##

March 27, 2010 at 09:14 AM



“ Jo Ann and family.... so sorry of hear of Henry's demise...I learned of it today when I read my emails. Jack and I have been out of town for several weeks.##imported-begin##Telka Mowery Weant##imported-end##

March 25, 2010 at 07:54 PM



“ I remember, with fondness, getting to know your family during our stays at the Sea Vista at Ocean Drive Beach, SC Such good times. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this very difficult time. May the Lord give you comfort as you face the days ahead. God Bless you all

Mitzi##imported-begin##MITZI S. GOODMAN##imported-end##

March 24, 2010 at 10:18 PM



“ My brother George sent the beautiful write up on your father. I smiled so much thinking of your family - youth retreats many years ago & wonderful visits to your home & time with your parents. To have known your family was a blessing in my life and I will keep you all in my prayers.##imported-begin##Deanna Simons Hollis##imported-end##

March 23, 2010 at 09:39 PM



“ One of my favorite St. Louis Cardinal fans. I loved talking Cardinal baseball with Mr. Bernhardt. We would compare notes, talk about the difficulties in picking up KMOX and which pitcher was the best. he knew his stuff. great fund raiser and fun raiser. I learned from him and hope to carry on his legacy.##imported-begin##Greg Alcorn##imported-end##

March 22, 2010 at 09:43 PM



“ It is with deep sorrow that I read Henry Bernhardt's obituary today. He was a strong friend and church as well as civic leader during my years as rector of St. Luke's. May Jo Ann and his family know the presence of God's love that unites us always even across the threshold of death.

O'Kelley Whitaker##imported-begin##O'Kelley Whitaker##imported-end##

March 22, 2010 at 08:07 PM



“ *I would like to offer my condolences for your loss. I pray that the Lord will hold you all extra close to his heart during the coming days.##imported-begin##Chester Harrah##imported-end##*

March 22, 2010 at 04:56 PM



“ *Dear Matt and family,
Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you and yours at this difficult time. A poem for you, Matt. Susan*

Big Band, Slow Dance

*Were you close? Im asked, as if grief
Would sting less deeply were we friends
As well as son and father. Further apart
Two men could never meet, though blood bends*

*Through arteries, veins and capillaries
Summoned into Presence by his pleasure.
Oh that I could have grown more slowly -
Remember being held, and cradled like treasure.*

Bill Mohr##imported-begin##Susan Hinely##imported-end##

March 22, 2010 at 04:28 PM



“ Dear John and Family,
I am sending my most heartfelt sympathies to you. My thoughts are with you and I pray that God give you strength to carry you through the coming days and weeks and I pray that he give you comfort in the knowledge that Henry loved you and is now in the loving hands of our heavenly father.

Our thoughts, prayers and love go with you.##imported-begin##Diana Norman Meyer##imported-end##

March 22, 2010 at 04:25 PM



“ Our deepest sympathies go out to Laura and her family. After reading Mr. Bernhardt's obituary, I now see where Laura learned her rock-solid, down-home faith. At her father's knee. As it should be. Miss Laura, Brian, Austin, and Davis, your loss will be shared by many. Godspeed. You will be in our prayers.##imported-begin##The Rogers Family##imported-end##

March 22, 2010 at 03:11 PM



“ Dear Matt and family,
The City Council and I send our most sincere sympathies in the loss of your remarkable father. His obituary captured a wonderful, faithful man who certainly exemplified all the great attributes we see in you, Matt. May you all be comforted with happy memories and a legacy of service.

Warmest regards,
Jennie Stultz, Mayor

Gastonia##imported-begin##Jennie Stultz##imported-end##

March 22, 2010 at 10:35 AM



“ I loved Uncle Henry. He was my special Godfather. He was a very loveable person. I loved him dearly. I will surely miss him. He was at Saint Luke's watching me get baptized when I was a baby. God loves you Uncle Henry and I do too.##imported-begin##Mark Setzer##imported-end##

March 22, 2010 at 09:16 AM



“ Jo Ann, I wanted you to know that I am keeping you and your family in my prayers and thoughts. I did not know Henry, but knew what he meant to our community through the years. Hope that I will see you in the near future to express my sincere sympathy. Love, Mary Jane##imported-begin##Mary Jane Thompson##imported-end##

March 22, 2010 at 09:15 AM



“ Matt,

I just learned of your father's passing. I want you to know that you and your family are in my prayers. His grace is sufficient.

Larry##imported-begin##Larry Wood##imported-end##

March 22, 2010 at 07:24 AM



“ My deepest sympathy for the Bernhardt family. I am friends with son John Bernhardt and his partner TJ Norman. My thoughts and prayers are with you this week!
With sincere condolences,
Jonny##imported-begin##Jonny W.##imported-end##

March 22, 2010 at 05:31 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Henry is now in God's arms, safe and sound. How lucky!##imported-begin##Betty Sue M. Whitman##imported-end##*

March 22, 2010 at 03:51 AM



“ *Dear Mrs. Bernhardt & Family,
Please accept our condolences on the loss of Henry. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

With sympathy,

John & Tiffany##imported-begin##Tiffany##imported-end##

March 22, 2010 at 12:25 AM



“ *Your prayers are with us. You have our deepest sympathy he was very sweet man and he will be missed. If you need anything or if there is anything we can do please call us at 704 637 6451.##imported-begin##Randy and Karen Cauble##imported-end##*

March 21, 2010 at 04:50 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the entire Bernhardt family.*

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Bernhardt while teaching at Salisbury High School during my early years in education. What a wonderful family... always supportive of the school, faculty, and their children!

It was a pleasure to teach both John and Matt. Fine young men and students.....and Episcopalians (as I was then and still today)...

Those years at SHS were many years ago, but I do have great memories of my time there with John, Matt, and the many other students. I missed Linn during my time there.

May your many memories of Mr. Bernhardt comfort you in the days and weeks ahead.##imported-begin##Monte Taylor##imported-end##

March 21, 2010 at 02:41 PM



“ *Henry Bernhardt was a superb promoter of Salisbury, a city which he loved. He was proud of his family and always talked about them. During the recent three years I was at Catawba, Henry and I would have breakfast several times per year and he was still full of ideas and suggestions. We will miss Henry's enthusiasm and love for so many positive things.##imported-begin##Phil Kirk##imported-end##*

March 21, 2010 at 11:18 AM



“ *Dear Laura and family,*

I'm so very sorry to hear about your loss. From reading your father's obituary, I know he had a rich life full of adventure, service and love. I hope your memories give you many smiles during this hard time.

In love and peace,

*Elizabeth Scheld Glynn##imported-begin##Elizabeth Scheld
Glynn##imported-end##*

March 21, 2010 at 09:11 AM