



Paul Leake Bernhardt

November 22, 1953 - October 10, 2014

Paul Leake Bernhardt, Jr., familiarly known as “P.B.,” died in his sleep Friday, October 10, 2014, at the Winston-Salem Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He was 60 years old, and had been in failing health for the past six months. The son of the late Paul Leake and Naomi Rink Bernhardt, P.B. was born November 22, 1953, in Salisbury. He is survived by his sister, Eva Bernhardt Bingham with whom he had made his home since the death of his father in 2012. Handicapped from birth, P.B. worked at Bernhardt Hardware all his adult life. He presided over the store from his own office where it was his duty to answer the telephone. Not only could he recognize the caller’s voice, but also he was a walking telephone directory. P.B. had a special gift — a great capacity for remembering telephone numbers and birth dates. He could always be counted on to know a person’s unlisted telephone number. P.B. was quite philosophical about life and discounted his own disabilities. Always concerned about his friends, he regularly called to check on them or to convey his good

wishes on a birthday or anniversary. In turn, he had many acquaintances who regularly stopped by the hardware store to visit with him.

As a youth he attended Wiley and Samuel E. Duncan schools. He was a member of the first Special Education class in Salisbury that was taught by Catherine E. Hall. He was a lifelong member of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Service: A graveside service will be held Monday, October 13, at 11 o'clock at the Bernhardt family plot in Chestnut Hill Cemetery. Dr. David P. Nelson, a pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, will officiate. The family will receive friends at the cemetery following the funeral.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Chestnut Hill Cemetery

Salisbury, NC

Previous Events

Graveside Service

OCT 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Chestnut Hill Cemetery
Salisbury, NC

Tribute Wall

CW

“ I grew up around Bernhardt's Hardware and remember Paul well. Mr. Bernhardt gave me my first job in the holiday toy section when I was 15. Paul was always ready to lend a helping hand. My condolences. *Caroline Wong*

Caroline Wong - October 15, 2014 at 09:52 AM

SD

“ I was saddened this morning by the news of P.B.'s passing. He had the ability to always make me smile. Working for Bernhardt's hardware had changed direction in my life, and working with P.B. was a part of that. He would greet me every morning with either a moan or a grunt...then proceed to hand me his daily finds in the paper and we would discuss his opinion of those items.. Always ready to vacuum this way around the store, he would answer the phone and know who was at the other end. Amazing. He never missed a call for my Birthday, nor any special days we shared. He will be missed by many, loved by all, and cherished by God.
S. Dietz



Stephen Dietz - October 12, 2014 at 07:43 AM

EJ

“ *Edith Julian lit a candle in memory of Paul Leake Bernhardt*



Edith Julian - October 11, 2014 at 11:28 AM

EJ

“ Just when you think Heaven could not get any better, it has. That sweet chariot of song has swung low and delivered "PB" safely to his new home. I can hear his first words upon arriving: "Oh, wow!" As a saint called home, he sees, hears, and touches his beloved family, friends and pets. His sense of humor, his innate wisdom, and his courage go with him. He was a dear friend whom I will miss. At the death of your dear mother, you said, "Have fun in Heaven mother". You, too, "PB", you too.

Edith Julian - October 11, 2014 at 09:43 AM