



## Harold "Brent" Bachman

June 29, 1939 - October 9, 2017

Surrounded by his devoted family, Brent went home to the loving arms of our Lord on Monday, October 9, 2017. A resident of Adrian, MI, he was born in Detroit June 29, 1939 to Ralph Britton and Mary Gay Bachman. Raised in Dearborn, he entered the US Air Force in 1957 after graduating from Edsel Ford High School. Following basic training in Texas, Brent was stationed at Hickam AFB in Oahu, Hawai'i with the 1502 Flight Line Maintenance Squadron. His three years there, coinciding with Hawai'i's statehood in 1959, gave him an abiding love for the Hawai'ian culture and ignited his passion for military planes. A heartfelt patriot, he was proud of his service, the US flag, the USAF, and his fellow veterans.

After being honorably discharged in 1961, he arrived home to marry Annette Gervais, the "pretty, dark-haired girl" he'd met in 1957 just months before he shipped out. From a three-year courtship conducted mostly by letter, their love story grew and deepened over nearly 56 years of marriage as they worked and raised four children. After two years at the Bank of Dearborn, Brent joined the Dearborn Heights Police Department in 1963 as a patrolman. He worked in road patrol, identification, records and property, and communications, rising through the ranks to retire as uniform sergeant in 1987. He received several departmental citations throughout his career.

In 2004, Brent and Annette moved from Dearborn Heights to Adrian, Michigan, near his family roots. They joined Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Ridge Highway in Britton, which his great-grandfather helped found in 1861,

and where Brent reconnected with his faith. Retirement allowed him to devote more time to one of the keystone causes of his life – genealogical research. For 50 years he explored the Bachman and Britton families, corresponding with people all over the world, reuniting two branches of the Bachmann family after 300 years, participating in an international DNA project, and documenting an incredible amount of historical information on Dearborn and Lenawee County. He contributed several articles to the Dearborn Historical Museum publication and donated materials to the museum. He truly loved uncovering family stories, and has left us a vast, amazing legacy in words, photos, and documents.

A quiet man with a wonderfully sly sense of humor, Brent was an inveterate student, always curious, fascinated by archaeology, astronomy, and so much more. The mainstays that really shaped his life were 50s music, particularly doo-wop, cars, and hockey. From his first 1947 Mercury Coupe, Brent was a car fanatic, and his favorite car was the Mustang. He owned several (all candy apple red) but it was his multiple award-winning 1999 Mustang GT “Stangri-la” that was his pride and joy. Through attending area cruises and car shows, he and Annette gained another circle of friends.

Hockey was in Brent’s blood from childhood, on and off the ice. An avid Detroit Red Wings fan all his life, he skated at Olympia Stadium on the same ice as his hero, Gordie Howe, and other Red Wings greats. He was in the building when the Wings won the 1955 Stanley Cup. When Brent’s playing days ended, he became actively involved in local junior hockey organizations, including the Great Lakes JHL (Paddock Pool Saints) and North American JHL (Compuware), in roles from to scorekeeping and statistician to general manager to director of players. In 1987, he became equipment manager for the University of Michigan-Dearborn Wolves and built the position into a valuable asset to the organization, but the hockey program was dropped in 1991. The crowning moment in Brent’s hockey life came as General Manager of the Gold medal-winning North Hockey Team at the 1987 U.S. Olympic Festival in North Carolina. Six of ‘his boys’ went on to the NHL, and Brent

always closely followed their careers.

Of all his passions and enthusiasms, family was Brent's greatest love, and his greatest gift to us. Remaining to celebrate his life and legacy are his loving, steadfast and beloved wife Annette; the adoring daughters he called his "four jewels," Carrie (Tom) Riedeman; Rebecca (Brice) Cobb; Julie Schildt (Glen Neel); Catherine 'Kate' (Joe) DePoole; his treasured grandchildren Allison and Joseph Bachman DePoole, and Claire and Emily Schildt; his brother Randall (Cyndi) Bachman, niece Amy (Matt) Hansen, nephew Jason (Melissa) Bachman and their families, along with extended family and friends all over the world.

To the end, Brent kept a fighting spirit, and had rallied through numerous health issues, with Annette fighting right at his side and caring for him through every challenge. He is at peace, with his beloved dogs Dax and Chammy, and all the ancestors he introduced us to. For everything, Dad – thank you. Love is eternal.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 11:00 am at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 9950 Ridge Hwy, Britton, MI 49229, (517) 451-8148, followed by a luncheon. Please email [TheBachmanGirls@gmail.com](mailto:TheBachmanGirls@gmail.com) for additional information. In lieu of flowers, please honor Brent with a donation to any of the following: National Kidney Foundation; Humane Society of Lenawee County; Hospice of Lenawee; or a worthy veterans, genealogical, or hockey related organization of your choice.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

NOV 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
9950 Ridge Hwy  
Britton,, MI 49229

# Tribute Wall



“ *Harold "Brent" Bachman*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *So sad to hear of Brent's passing. We knew him from his Compuware and U of M Dearborn hockey days. Our son, David, was a goaltender for the Dearborn Wolves and after the games in Dearborn we would have something to eat at the local Big Boy before we headed back to Flushing and Brent joined us on numerous occasions. He was such a great guy and we all became friends. We tried to stay in touch over the years. The last time we saw him was seven years ago. David, my husband, coached youth baseball and*

*when we had a tournament in Adrian we made it a point to look Brent up. Had a great visit with him and Annette. I know he will be greatly missed by Annette, his daughters and all those who called him friend.*

*David & Helen Church  
Flushing, Michigan*

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**Helen Church** - October 17, 2017 at 04:30 PM

DC

“ I met Brent in the 80s playing junior hockey. He was then on the staff at UM-Dearborn where I got to know him well. He loved being around the guys and all the banter in the room. He made it clear that his girls were off limits to us! I came to consider him a friend. In 2010, I had the opportunity to visit he and Annette one summer between my son's baseball games in Adrian. My son didn't want to visit someone he didn't know. Annette spoiled us with food while Brent shared story after story with my son about me, hockey games, fights on the ice, road trips, and locker room antics. On the way back to the ball field my son thanked me for taking him to meet Brent. He was a great guy. The world has lost a beautiful soul.

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**David Church** - October 17, 2017 at 03:39 PM

CM

“ My deepest sympathy to your family. He was a wonderful man and neighbor. I remember when he tried to get my son started in hockey with no cost to me. My son wasn't very out going but he tried hard. Such a pleasant man and wonderful neighbor, I'm very sad he's gone. Love to you girls.

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**cheryl maurer** - October 16, 2017 at 08:42 AM

JB

“Annette and Family, I'm so sorry for your loss. I enjoyed communicating with Brent over the past 4 or 5 years to share information on the Bussiere and Nadeau family trees. I am the first cousin once removed of Annette (or 2nd cousins). I met Annette's Mom (dad's Aunt Lily) in 1960. My Dad, Louis Bussiere, was an excellent dancer and he always gave his Aunt Lily credit for teaching him how to dance when he was young. Once Brent determined how I was related, his first words to me was "welcome to the family". Also, once he knew that I was a Navy veteran he sent me the most awesome photos of the Blue Angles and other military aircraft. His love of family and his country was apparent immediately upon first communications with him for sure. Being born and raised in Seattle, Washington and raising my own family in the same area didn't offer me a chance to know him or your Michigan area families better. I sure wish that I could have known you all better. He was a wonderful man who lived a very good life...

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**John Bussiere** - October 16, 2017 at 02:09 AM

LB

I was sorry to hear today of the death of Brent Bachman. Brent has been an enthusiastic member of the Britton International DNA project since May, 2014. While we never hear from some of our members after their tests have been processed, Brent wrote often, sharing his latest research and never failing to tell me how much he appreciated the reports I send to members several times each year. I will miss his friendship and his enthusiasm.

With sympathy to all of his family,

Lindsey Britton  
Britton DNA Project

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**L. Britton** - October 17, 2017 at 02:47 PM