



## Bernie Mettler

September 3, 1963 - April 13, 2024

Bernie Mettler, 60 year old resident of Long Prairie, MN, passed away on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at his residence. A Funeral Service will be held at 1 PM on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at Living Hope Assembly of God Church in Little Falls, MN. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 PM on Friday at Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, and from 12 noon to 1 PM Saturday at the church. Caring for Bernie and his family is the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN.

To view Bernie's funeral via livestream, please click link and you will be directed. <https://my.gather.app/remember/bernie-mettler>

Bernard Thomas Mettler was born on September 3, 1963 in Wessington Springs, South Dakota, to Thomas and Margaret (Simmons) Mettler. He moved with his family to Swanville, Minnesota at the age of two. Bernie spent his formative years attending Swanville School and working at the Circle R Ranch, where he met his future wife, Cindy. After the birth of his third child, Bernie endeavored to receive his Associates Degree in Law Enforcement from Brainerd Community College. This led to a career serving his community in Staples, Minnesota, Madison, Minnesota, and later St. Louis County. Bernie's character and drive to help people defined his 25-year career with the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office. Whether guiding moose off a busy road or donating pork to his church, Bernie acted always as a steward to those in

need. Bernie spent his retirement years, caring for his family and friends, and sharing his love of the outdoors with those he loved. If you wanted to find Bernie, he'd be on the lake with a rod, in the field with a rifle, or hauling a load of firewood to a friend.

Bernie is survived by his parents, Tom and Margaret Mettler; his siblings, Randy (Marge) Mettler, Bob (Cindy) Mettler, Bill (Kristi) Mettler, Joni (Bryan) Nelson, and Richard Mettler; survived also by his three children, Josh (Lori) Mettler, Jeremy (Hollie) Mettler, and Danielle (Dave Hanson) Mettler; former wife, Cindy Mettler; stepchildren, Bryce Sampson-Bernstrom, Brenden Donner, and Kayle Donner; grandchildren, Wyatt Mettler, Connor Mettler and Brayden Donner; and many, many beloved nieces and nephews.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 19. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

LeMieur Funeral Home of Little Falls  
214 2nd Street SE  
Little Falls, MN

## Visitation

APR 20. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Living Hope Assembly Of God  
17389 Haven Road  
Little Falls, MN

## Funeral Service

APR 20. 1:00 PM (CT)

Living Hope Assembly Of God  
17389 Haven Road  
Little Falls, MN

# Tribute Wall

SC

“ I've known Bernie for many a decades, personal and professionally. I cannot find anything bad to say about him in any way shape or form. On and off duty he was one great guy. Rest In Peace my friend.... Scott Christopherson, FF/EMT Retired.

scott christopherson - April 20, 2024 at 02:24 PM

DM



Danielle Mettler - April 22, 2024 at 01:52 PM

DB

“ Bernie was a great mentor and friend when I started in L.E. He will be greatly missed friend, 😞

doug bolander - April 20, 2024 at 01:59 PM

DM



Danielle Mettler - April 22, 2024 at 01:52 PM

TM

“ This was my Uncle. When I was growing up I was always scared of him because of how intimidating and gruff he was. Then I joined the military, and left, and experienced a LOT of life. Then I started to realize who he was the few times I was able to see him. Finally this last Easter I was able to spend a very valuable bit of alone him, just talking to him, and it was amazing listening to him and hearing his stories and wisdom, including sharing a glass of his treasured bourbon. In that moment he told me, in classic Bernie fashion "You're still young, you still do this for effect, not for taste. If you gulp this down, Ill knock ya!" That hit me for alot more than just enjoying good bourbon. He basically just said the key to enjoying life, Ill let those who read to figure that on their own.

Uncle Bernie, Im sorry I will not be able to keep my promise of coming and helping you on the farm this summer. Thank you for the wisdom you gave all of us... I love you, and you will always be remembered and missed. Keep an eye on us will you? We can always use a Under the Eyebrow look and a punch on the arm whenever we do something stupid. Again, I love you. Enjoy your rest, you more than earned it.

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**Thomas Mettler** - April 20, 2024 at 01:52 PM

TO

“ Tom lit a candle in memory of Bernie Mettler



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**Tom** - April 20, 2024 at 01:28 PM

AM

“ You’re going to be missed by so many. This one hurts . I’m so glad you were a part of my life growing up. So glad we caught up in July. I’ll miss ya buddy see ya on the other side. 💙



**Ammie Manning** - April 20, 2024 at 12:34 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Bernie Mettler.



April 19, 2024 at 02:42 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bernie Mettler.



April 19, 2024 at 11:51 AM

SO

“ St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bernie Mettler.



**St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office** - April 19, 2024 at 08:56 AM

KG

“ *Kathryn Gessell lit a candle in memory of Bernie Mettler*



Kathryn Gessell - April 18, 2024 at 05:05 PM

JS

“ *Jolene Sutton lit a candle in memory of Bernie Mettler*



Jolene Sutton - April 18, 2024 at 04:08 PM

JT

“ *Gone but not never forgotten. Rest peace my friend, till we meet again. J.P. Thomas*

john thomas - April 18, 2024 at 09:38 AM

DM



Danielle Mettler - April 18, 2024 at 08:42 PM

TW

“ *The Wolfley's purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Bernie Mettler.*



The Wolfley's - April 17, 2024 at 09:18 PM

TW

“ The Wolfley's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernie Mettler.

The Wolfley's - April 17, 2024 at 09:18 PM

ES

“ Erik Peterson and Alyssa Schlichting purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Bernie Mettler.



Erik Peterson and Alyssa Schlichting - April 17, 2024 at 08:10 PM

SG

“ Shirley Gessell lit a candle in memory of Bernie Mettler



Shirley Gessell - April 17, 2024 at 01:20 PM

DM



Danielle Mettler - April 18, 2024 at 08:42 PM

LS

“ Law Enforcement Labor Services purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Bernie Mettler.



Law Enforcement Labor Services - April 17, 2024 at 10:54 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Bernie Mettler.*



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April 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM



“ *Randall State Bank planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernie Mettler.*

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**Randall State Bank** - April 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM

“ Ahhhhh! Where to start with Bernie! I will keep it short! (Maybe)

*Bernie was always a rock, a go-to, a smile, a laugh, and 'it will be OK' guy!*

*Damn! We are all in shock over this and I cannot say enough how much this man has touched so many lives. I had the pleasure to work with him in Ely for many years. Good and Bad with what life brought, Bernie always had a way around the bad. He loved and adored his kids and always talked about them all. However, Danielle, he always worried about his 'little girl'. Not that he had reason to, but he always did.*

*The boys.....he always knew they would take care of themselves but, not to say he didn't worry about them too.*

*He was strong, vibrant, funny, witty, caring, hard working and worried about others more than himself. He is what EVERY human should be.*

*I am so very sorry for him and his family that someone needed him more than the rest of us and called him home.*

*My heart aches for all of you. Family and friends.*

*Contrary to what one might think, being a cop, he touched many a soul and changed peoples lives even when things were not good for them. (meaning folks he arrested)*

*Bernie always looked for the brighter side and tried to steer people the same way.*

*Bernie will have a piece of my heart and always will. Just because, he was BERNIE.*

*I will end this here, but know this man has touched countless lives.*

*Rest in peace my dear friend.*

*Cheryl (Anderson) Huber*

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**Cheryl Huber** - April 16, 2024 at 10:38 PM

DM



Danielle Mettler - April 17, 2024 at 10:02 AM

GJ

“ Gary J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernie Mettler.

Gary J. - April 16, 2024 at 10:02 PM



“ Bernie Mettler, best friend, partner, brother, quasi uncle to the kids, the Hawley's are blessed to have had the time we did with you in our life here on earth. A great cop, I could always count on you, we drank alot of coffee, wore out a few rounds on the PD cribbage board, told many tale, a role model and mentor, you had a way with people, we all learned from you Bea and I will cherish the times you shared with us at the lake, and you will stand as the Little Birch Lake Cribbage Champion. You are in our hearts, and your family in our prayers. Rest well brother we will all miss the smile you brought to each of our tables or camp fires. Bill and Bea Hawley



William Hawley - April 16, 2024 at 09:03 PM

CW



Cory & Tanaya Wills - April 16, 2024 at 09:59 PM

DM

Thank you, Bill

Danielle Mettler - April 17, 2024 at 10:03 AM

CW

“ Too many memories with Bernie to count. We were lucky to call Bernie our friend.

Cory & Tanaya Wills



Cory & Tanaya Wills - April 16, 2024 at 08:27 PM



True so so true

William Hawley - April 16, 2024 at 08:46 PM

DM



Danielle Mettler - April 17, 2024 at 10:04 AM

TL

“ Tanaya L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernie Mettler.

Tanaya L. - April 16, 2024 at 08:24 PM

JB

“ Jessica B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernie Mettler.

Jessica B. - April 16, 2024 at 07:04 PM

CL

“ Eternal rest grant unto him. O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen. May almighty God bless us with his peace and strength, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Bernie touched the lives of so many. Not only was he our friend, he was considered part of our family. Bernie would eat at our house 2-3 times a week and shared many holiday meals with us. He would show up with my favorite dessert, his homemade pecan pie made from a family recipe. Over the years I tried to get him to share that recipe with me but he would not. We had a lot of fish fries and ate a lot of road kill. Not only could he remove the back straps from a deer without getting his uniform dirty, he would cook them up on the same shift. When sitting around a campfire, Bernie preferred eating sliced apples with Carmel dip over s'more's. We had many great fishing trips on Basswood and Birch Lake. He would show up and watch the boys play baseball and basketball. We cut firewood, went 4-wheeling and raised cows together. He was truly a part of our family. Whether you need backup on a dangerous call or just a hand with something at home, Bernie was always a phone call away. Bernie always had big plans "the plan of the day" he used to say and accomplished most of them in quick fashion. It's comforting to know Bernie was also part of Gods plan and we were truly blessed to have had spent our time with him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. We will not be able to attend his funeral. Chad and Terri Loewen



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Chad & Terri Loewen - April 16, 2024 at 06:15 PM

DM



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Danielle Mettler - April 17, 2024 at 10:05 AM

SK

“ Family of Bernie, We're so sad to hear the news about Bernie. You're in our prayers and our deepest sympathy goes out to you. Sandie and Glenn Klimmek

Sandie Klimmek - April 16, 2024 at 05:42 PM

DM



Danielle Mettler - April 17, 2024 at 10:05 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bernie Mettler.



April 16, 2024 at 05:13 PM

PF

“ Paula S. & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernie Mettler.

Paula S. & Family - April 16, 2024 at 05:13 PM

EZ

“ Ed & Mary Zupancich purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Bernie Mettler.



Ed & Mary Zupancich - April 16, 2024 at 04:58 PM

JH

“ *Jerry & Julie Hollermann sent a virtual gift in memory of Bernie Mettler*



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**Jerry & Julie Hollermann** - April 16, 2024 at 04:18 PM