



Francis S. Bodine

August 3, 1920 - August 14, 2016

Lt. Col. Francis S. Bodine (Ret. USAF), 96 year old resident of Minnetonka, MN, formerly of Edina, MN, passed away on Sunday, August 14, 2016 at his residence. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 AM on Friday, Aug. 19th at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Minnetonka, MN, with Fr. David Ostrowski officiating. Burial will be at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 PM on Thursday, and from 9:30 to 10:30 AM Friday, both at the church.

Francis Stephen Bodine was born at home on August 3, 1920, the third child of Francis Patrick and Elizabeth Louise (Grossman) Bodine in Voltaire, ND. Francis was the eldest son of eighteen children.

Francis received his Associates Degree in Engineering from Minot State College in 1940, where he learned to fly with the Civil Air Patrol. He joined the Army Air Corps in March 1941. After flight training and acting as a flight instructor, he was deployed to Halesworth, England as the pilot of a B-24 Liberator with the 489th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, 2nd Air Division. Francis was the lead crew pilot and flew twenty-three combat missions. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for a mission over France. After WWII he was integrated into the newly formed Air Force and was sent to the University of Minnesota to complete his Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering. Francis met Virginia at the University of Minnesota and they married on August 27, 1949.

Francis served in the Pacific Theatre of Operations and was assigned to the 18th Fighter Bomber Group in Korea, flying the P51 Mustang. He completed 67 combat missions in Korea. After several other assignments, including a stint at the Pentagon, in the Air Staff Planning Office for the USAF, he was sent to Harvard University to complete his Masters Degree in Business Administration.

Francis retired from the Air Force in 1966 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 4 Bronze Stars, Korean Service Medal with 3 Bronze Stars, two Presidential Unit Citations, and eight Campaign and Service ribbons during his career.

After retiring from the military, Francis joined General Mills where he worked for 17 years before retiring in 1983. Francis enjoyed fishing, golfing, bowling, and gardening. He was a very devout member of the Catholic Church and his deep faith inspired his friends and family.

Francis is survived by his wife, Virginia Mary (Kletzin) Bodine; children, Sarah (Kirk) Ward and their children, Geoffrey, Meghan and Lauren, Francis Patrick Bodine and his children, Alyssa and Francis Jedidiah, James (Joan Krikava) Bodine and their children, Eleanor and Peter, Stephen (Patty) Bodine and their children, S. Ross and Caitlin (Jason) Kelley, Thomas Bodine and his children, Jack, Anne and Margaret, and Therese Bodine; sisters, Jenette Warlick, Monica Goetze, and Audrey (Tom) McLaughlin; brothers, Paul Bodine, Mark Bodine, John (Betty) Bodine, Robert (Barbara) Bodine, Ronald (Carol) Bodine, Jerry (Peggy) Bodine, Dale (Sandy) Bodine, Bill (Kim) Bodine; brother's in law, Bob Bernards and Pat Effertz.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Luella (Emanuel) Fix, Viola (Phil) Prescott, Delores Bernards, Loretta Effertz, Sr. Bernadette Bodine OSB; brother Charles Bodine; sister's in law, Debbie Bodine, Donna Bodine, and Kay Bodine; brother's in law, Wesley Warlick and Floyd Goetz; and his grandchild William Francis Bodine (Billy).

Memorial donations to Sharing and Caring Hands, Minneapolis MN and

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Minnetonka, MN.

Cemetery Details

Fort Snelling National Cemetery

7601 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 18. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church
13505 Excelsior Road
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Visitation

AUG 19. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church
13505 Excelsior Road
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Service

AUG 19. 10:30 AM (CT)

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church
13505 Excelsior Road
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Francis S. Bodine*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - August 17, 2016 at 10:34 AM

MJ

Wonderful memories

Mary Jo - August 17, 2016 at 12:19 PM



“ *Francis S. Bodine*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM

ES

“ *Elizabeth (Bodine) Sheldon lit a candle in memory of Francis S. Bodine*



Elizabeth (Bodine) Sheldon - August 19, 2016 at 11:26 AM

ES

My heart is breaking that I am not there in person celebrating the life and death of my wonderful uncle, Francis. My heart and prayers are there with you all. Love, Beth

Elizabeth (Bodine) Sheldon - August 19, 2016 at 11:29 AM

DB

“ *Donna and Bryan Bodine purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Francis S. Bodine.*



Donna and Bryan Bodine - August 18, 2016 at 07:49 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Francis S. Bodine.*



August 17, 2016 at 05:02 PM

JB

“ When I was born into the family of Frank and Elizabeth Bodine I already had 5 older sisters and 3 older brothers to company me and be my mentors. When Francis was born, he had only 2 older sisters and no brothers. As I grew older, I could not imagine what it would be like for Francis, just him and Pop, with all those chores -- and what did he do in his free time. As I grew older (9 or 10), Francis and Paul would organize a football or baseball game on our farm driveway, Francis (oldest) and me, John (youngest) versus Paul (next oldest) and Chuck (next youngest). That was always the teams. Well, playing on that gravel driveway, if you took a tumble, you ended up with bloody elbows and knees. Well, the games did get a little rough at times, and being the youngest, I would get roughed up a bit by Paul and Chuck, resulting in a few scrapes and tears. However, when that happened, Francis would always come to my rescue and take Paul and Chuck to task for being overly rough -- he was my protector and mentor for those few short years we were together on the family farm. It would be years later, after his retirement from the Air Force, that we had the opportunity to spend some time together. Betty and I were married in Minneapolis and lived there for 10 years, and during this time I got to spend time with Francis, golfing, Vikings football, family get-togethers, etc. and Francis carried the same philosophy in life as he did those young years on the farm -- look out for the "little guy", be a protector. His faith was always rock-solid, and I do thank him for all the "faith-oriented" messages he made available for all. Rest in peace Francis, know that you will be always in my prayers, as we will be in yours. May God be with you.
Your younger brother John.

John Bodine - August 17, 2016 at 03:10 PM



“ 73 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - August 17, 2016 at 10:14 AM

FB

“ One of my favorite stories of Grampa took place on the day that I was born, August 3rd 1989, which happened to be his birthday. My mom had just gone through a difficult labor and delivery, she was laying in the hospital bed, exhausted. Grampa was sitting in the room with her, not saying too much, just keeping her company. She let him know that he didn't have to wait around with her, but he said he was happy just to sit there.

He knew that my mom and dad had planned on naming me “Wesley Jedidiah Bodine” but Grampa had other plans. He told her, “You know Gail, it's my birthday today, and it sure would be a great birthday present if you named my new grandson Francis.” She had already decided on my name and there was an outside chance she was going to change it last minute.

Grampa stayed in the room waiting and pleading his case, at the disinclination of my mom, until it came time to sign the birth certificate. I am forever grateful that he gave me his name and allowed me to carry the torch for the Francis Bodine's.

I am so unbelievably sad that I could not make it to be there with him on his way out, and I will regret not being able to attend his funeral this week. But I am happy that I got to see him a month ago before I left the country. He was staying strong and he didn't let his ailing body slow him down.

I have so many great memories spending time with him and Gramma at their different homes. Grampa was always very stoic and not one for flowery language. But as I got older I got to know him more, and find out about him and his story. He lived such an extraordinary life at an extraordinary time in history.

My grandma and grandpa have done so much for me and my family. I am so grateful for both of them. It's hard to think that when I come home to Minnesota he won't be there anymore. My grandparents have been a constant in my life and have shaped the person that I am. All I can do is be appreciative of the time I got to spend with Grampa, and be incredibly proud of what he accomplished and the kind of man he was.

Love you so much Grampa, glad you made it home.

-Francis "Jed" Bodine

Francis J. Bodine - August 17, 2016 at 08:35 AM

FB

I think you'll carry on your grandfathers legacy just fine Jed ... I'm very proud of you and know that you are with him and us in spirit

francis patrick bodine - August 17, 2016 at 10:29 AM

AB

Beautiful Jed , you'll be there in your mind and spirit just as grandpa will .

Ali Bodine - August 17, 2016 at 06:33 PM

DB

“ *Dave Berg lit a candle in memory of Francis S. Bodine*



Dave Berg - August 17, 2016 at 06:50 AM

JB

“ *Jackie Berg lit a candle in memory of Francis S. Bodine*



Jackie Berg - August 16, 2016 at 09:32 PM

TH

“ *Therese lit a candle in memory of Francis S. Bodine*



Therese - August 16, 2016 at 06:30 PM

D(

“ *David & Elizabeth Moore (Weaver) purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Francis S. Bodine.*



David & Elizabeth Moore (Weaver) - August 16, 2016 at 05:44 PM



“ *Truly Beloved Bouquet was purchased for the family of Francis S. Bodine.*



August 16, 2016 at 04:58 PM

GB

“ *Uncle Francis, I wanted to say you are such an important influence on the Bodine family and it's legacy, and I am proud to say I am a Bodine, also I thank you for what you did for everyone in this country and for your heroic service in the service. Much Love, Greg Bodine - Auburn California*

Greg Bodine - August 16, 2016 at 01:16 PM

DF

“ I remember Frank as a really nice guy. He sat directly behind me every morning in the chapel at daily mass at the Church of St. Patrick of Edina. Following mass, he would often lead a group of worshippers in saying the Rosary. I only saw him once more after he and Virginia moved to The Glen in Minnetonka. It was December 23, 2014. I was next door having lunch while waiting to pick up a friend from the eye doctor. The Glen is just a few steps from the restaurant so I decided to stop in for a visit. Virginia was still downstairs having lunch with friends but Frank had gone back to their apartment. I knocked on the door and he called out to come in. He was sitting at his big roll top desk working on some personal business. He was so proud of that desk and told me all about how he got it. He was doing well that day and I regret not stopping by again, always meaning to do so. But that is how it is, waiting until it is too late.

Dennis Fernkes, Edina

Dennis Fernkes - August 16, 2016 at 11:37 AM

JB

“ How many wonderful memories I have of Uncle Francis! He was a dependable fixture in our family tree. If you wander back in your memory to ANY family reunion- he was there. I picture him with a satisfied smile, looking around at his own kids playing with cousins and his brothers and sisters and their families and knowing that there was no place on earth that he would rather be. He was dependable too- if he said he would do something, he did. I just counted on him to be at every gathering we ever had. He once told me that he loved a party that I threw. It was a garage party and the only entertainment was kids running around the yard. The food was just the standard BBQ and pot luck- but it showed how he never left the simple pleasures of his childhood far behind for the fleeting treasures of the world. I traveled with him many times to Holy Love and he was very true to his faith. A very good witness wherever he went. A very good conversationalist. I learned a lot on those 13 hour drives (ONE WAY!) He told me the whole book of *The Poem of the Man God*- which was like a book on tape- only better! He always liked to go to Red Lobster when we traveled and it was really the only time I ever went to that restaurant and I will think of him any time I ever go there in the future. I guess because we lost Grandpa Bodine so young- I always kind of thought of him in a grandfatherly way. I believe that he loved us all unconditionally- and that he felt that his prayers would help us all find our way home to Heaven. As I was sitting with him the last night of his earthly life, my eyes fell on a Bible verse on the back of one of my books and I read it out loud to him, because it WAS him-

THE CANTICLE OF SIMEON

"Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled:

my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the Nations and the Glory of your people Israel. Glory Be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. AMEN."

Love Jackie (Bodine) Berg

Jackie Berg - August 15, 2016 at 09:28 PM