



## Benedict "Ben" Wassinger

November 20, 1942 - June 7, 2024

Benedict "Ben" P. Wassinger age 81 of Grand Island passed away Friday June 7, 2024.

Visitation will take place at All Faiths Funeral Home Wednesday June 12, 2024 from 4-7 P.M.

with a rosary service at 7:00 P.M. The Mass of Christian burial will take place at St. Leo's

Catholic Church Thursday June 13, 2024 at 11:00 A.M.

Ben was born in Grand Island, Nebraska. He was the son of Benedict and Lola (Life)

Wassinger. He attended Grand Island Central Catholic High School and graduated from the

University of Nebraska College of Pharmacy in 1967. Ben met the love of his life at the A&W in

Grand Island and married Arlene "Willy" Williams on 12-28-1965. Together they set the highest

bar for a loving, selfless, and lasting union for everyone who was blessed to know them. A true

match made at the Heavenly A&W.

His professional career began as a pharmacist at Nicholas Rexall Drug in downtown Grand

Island. He subsequently acquired the business and it operated as Bens Drug Store until 1997.

He received the 1983 Bowl of Hygeia award for the State of Nebraska which is given to a pharmacist annually for outstanding community service. He served as a preceptor for pharmacy interns for UNMC for 25 years. In 1997 Ben established Ben's LTC Pharmacy, providing medication and pharmacy services to nursing homes in the area. From 2007 until last week he ran his own pharmacy consulting service for area nursing homes. He was elected to the Board of Directors of Equitable Building and Loan in 1985, and served the Board in various capacities until his death. Ben also found time to write and publish two novels. He was instrumental in starting the parish of St. Leo's Catholic Church and was very involved in the parish community. One of Ben's strong beliefs was Community Service. Some of the organizations he served on were the GI Chamber of Commerce, Goodwill, Central Catholic High School, St. Leo's Parish Council, Third City Community Clinic, Downtown Development Association, Nebraska Pharmacists Association, Friends of Grand Island Parks, and many others. Ben had many hobbies and enjoyed many adventures with family and friends. He loved to fly fish and hunt. He made many lifelong friends in his pursuits of fun and new experiences. His love of life was infectious, as was his smile. Ben enjoyed playing guitar and listening to music. He loved woodworking, making furniture and doing construction projects at home.

Ben was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Mike. He is survived by his wife Arlene, his brother Richard and his sister Diane (Buhrman). He will be missed by his children, Stephen (Sheila) of Leawood, KS, Tom (Jodi) of Bella Vista, AR, and Amy (Trent) Hill of Grand Island. Papa Ben is dearly beloved by his grandchildren: Jordan, Sam, Sean, and Kelly, Skyler, Meagan, Hope and Thaddeus, and Madeline and Molly (Hill). Memorials in Ben's name are suggested to The Friends of Grand Island Parks or Grand Island Central Catholic.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **12**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

All Faiths Funeral Home  
2929 S Locust St  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
(308) 398-2929  
allfaiths@giallfaiths.com  
<https://www.giallfaiths.com/>

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUN **13**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Leo's Catholic Church  
2410 S Blaine St  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
(308) 382-4753

# Tribute Wall

SH

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Ben Wassinger. Ben gave me my first job working in a pharmacy. I worked with Ben at his long-term care pharmacy. There so many good memories and great things I learned from him. He was an important mentor on my path to become a pharmacist. He will be missed dearly. May the sadness you are feeling be replaced by the happy memories of Ben.  
Sincerely, Stacy (Pelican) Hellwege

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**Stacy Hellwege** - June 21, 2024 at 02:19 PM

GJ

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I enjoyed visiting with Ben when he came to our facility. He always had an interesting piece of information to share. Gwen Jacobitz Homestead Director

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**Gwen Jacobitz** - June 18, 2024 at 10:25 PM

BM

“ When I was in grade school, my family lived next to the Wassinger family. I lost track of him until the mid-80s when he was on the board of Equitable Bank. (My father was Chairman of the Board.) Ben and I had a couple of nice visits, and he was a very respected person.

*My sympathies to all of Ben's family, and my thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I'm certain you have great memories, and may these help sustain you during this difficult period.*

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**Bruce McKeag** - June 13, 2024 at 04:34 PM

SB

“ So sorry to here of the death of Ben. He was a friend and professional colleague. He will be missed by all who knew him. May God give you strength to move forward. Steve and Janet Boshart

Steve Boshart - June 12, 2024 at 02:12 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Benedict "Ben" Wassinger.



June 12, 2024 at 02:10 PM

DB

“ Darrin and Melissa Buhrman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benedict "Ben" Wassinger.

Darrin and Melissa Buhrman - June 12, 2024 at 02:10 PM

RB

*“ I had the exteme pleasure knowing Ben through our connection at Tiffany Square. He was so compassionate and professional in his service to our residents providing the very best quality with their pharmaceutical needs. His happy and contagious smile with warm greetings will always be remembered. So friendly in the aspect to always knowing on a personal bases who he was working with. Ben's loss is not just a personal loss, but a community loss as his service to this community will be remembered by many. Sending prayers to Arlene and family as we remember Ben with you.*



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**Ronda Bigger** - June 12, 2024 at 01:04 PM

AC

*“ I went to St Mary's grade school with Ben. I left Grand Island in the 7th grade, but I still remember him. I knew his dad had a pharmacy and could not understand why all Catholics in Grand Island did not use that pharmacy! I remember him as a very polite, nice kid. From other comments made in this section, he carried these traits into adulthood! May his soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace Amen.*

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**Annette (de Milt) Mc Cants** - June 12, 2024 at 12:19 AM

MH

*“ Dear Arlene and children, you shared Ben's life with so many friends and family. He was loved and admired by many, and he will be missed, Hugs. Mary & Gerry Henn*

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**Mary K Henn** - June 11, 2024 at 09:48 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Benedict "Ben" Wassinger.*



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June 11, 2024 at 07:42 PM



“ *Remembering Ben... I knew Ben at UNL many years ago and when we moved to Grand Island, I was so glad to find him at "Ben's Rexall"! A marvelous and caring man and a very sweet family. I am thinking of all of you! Dori Bush*

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**Dori Bush** - June 11, 2024 at 11:50 AM



“ *Ben was a wonderful man!!! We loved to see him walk through the door here at Rose Lane and Ravenna Good Samaritan Society! He was so kind to everyone he met! He brought us a caterpillar to care for and watch as it grew and eventually turned into a beautiful Monarch Butterfly! That was BEN!! He will forever be in our hearts. Our sincere condolences to all of his family.*

*Diane Panowicz and Karen Russell*

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**Karen L Russell** - June 11, 2024 at 11:36 AM

LS

*Indeed Ben was a wonderful man ,Grandfather to our beloved Jordan he made sure he was present in Jordan's special celebrations of his milestones. Thank our dear Ben ! Your grandson and we will forever cherish your love!*

*We love you Ben .May God bless you ,may you rest in peace and enjoy God's heavenly kingdom!*

*Our prayers and love to the Wassinger family 🙏*

*The Jesus and Lea Suero family*

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**Lea Calleja Suero** - June 12, 2024 at 10:59 AM

SS

*“ Ben was one of the kindest people I have ever met. He treated everyone with kindness. Brilliant pharmacist. So sorry for your loss. May your wonderful memories give you some comfort.*

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**Susan sandoval** - June 11, 2024 at 10:57 AM

MW

*“ Arlene and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.Ben and I go back many years serving the pharmacy needs of the people of GI. We took pride in being the last of the corner drug store.Ben, thanks for the many happy memories. May you rest in peace.Job well done. Mike Wanek*

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**Mike Wanek** - June 11, 2024 at 09:14 AM

TE

*“ My name is Terri and I work for Vetter Senior Living. I've known Ben for years. I really enjoyed working with him and and he had a vast amount of knowledge. Know that several of us from Vetter's worked with him and he will be missed. Prayers for friends and family.*

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**Terri Ernesti** - June 10, 2024 at 11:41 PM

ST

“ Sincerely, Rick, Deb and Urogyn Team.  
purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of  
Benedict "Ben" Wassinger.



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Sincerely, Rick, Deb and Urogyn Team. - June 10, 2024 at  
04:46 PM

ST

“ Sincerely, Rick, Deb and Urogyn Team. planted a <a  
[href="/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518"](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518)>Memorial Tree</a> in  
honor of Benedict "Ben" Wassinger.

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Sincerely, Rick, Deb and Urogyn Team. - June 10, 2024 at 04:46 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the  
family of Benedict "Ben" Wassinger.



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June 10, 2024 at 02:12 PM

CB

“ I worked some with Ben when I was director of social work at Tiffany square. He was by far one of the most gentlemanly men I have ever known, and oh so dapper. To know him was to love him. When he came in, he would review resident charts. When I'd see him, I'd greet him with, "How you been Ben"? and he'd look up and chuckle. He truly had the resident's quality of life in mind, and worked closely with the interdisciplinary team to assure their pharmaceutical needs were met. It was a pleasure working with him, and an honor to know him. God bless his loved ones.

Cindy Bennett - June 10, 2024 at 01:28 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Benedict "Ben" Wassinger.



June 10, 2024 at 12:55 PM

CK

“ Cherlyn K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benedict "Ben" Wassinger.

Cherlyn K. - June 10, 2024 at 12:25 PM

Mary  
Howard

“ Dear Arlene and family,  
We were so sorry to read of Ben's passing. He and all of you were so important to Central Catholic! Bless him in Heaven, and may you feel him close by! I know he will find all sorts of ways to let you know how near he is.  
Our sympathy and love,  
John and Cathy Howard

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**Mary Howard** - June 09, 2024 at 02:22 AM

RR

“ I am saddened to learn of Ben's passing. Great memories of Ben from our days as pharmacists and members of the Hall County Pharmacist Association and the Nebraska Pharmacists Association. Ben was an innovator and a wonderful businessman. I had the pleasure of working relief for him a few times. Russ Rathjen Kearney

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**Russell Rathjen** - June 08, 2024 at 02:35 PM

TB

“ We first met Ben and Arlene in 1976 after having moved to Grand Island. They became very special friends and we shared many good times together along with several other families. We often got together to celebrate holidays, but mainly just to enjoy each others company. One of my favorite memories of Ben is when we were playing a game like trivial pursuit and the question arose as what we would do if we won the lottery. Most of us were quite altruistic in saying we would give the money to charities or whatever - not Ben, he said he'd use his to buy all new friends! Ben - I know you are enjoying new and old friends and family in your new home.  
Tom Beswick

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**Thomas Beswick** - June 08, 2024 at 01:59 PM

FB

“ *Fiona & Benedict purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Benedict "Ben" Wassinger.*



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**Fiona & Benedict** - June 08, 2024 at 01:03 PM

GF

“ *George and Daine Wassinger and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Benedict "Ben" Wassinger.*



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**George and Daine Wassinger and Family** - June 07, 2024 at 08:59 PM

GF

“ *George and Daine Wassinger and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benedict "Ben" Wassinger.*

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**George and Daine Wassinger and Family** - June 07, 2024 at 08:59 PM