



Bruce Biermann

SEP 18, 1952 - SEP 30, 2020



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Bruce Biermann

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Bruce Biermann, who passed away on September 30, 2020, was the first son of schoolteachers Arnold and Jean Biermann. Raised in Bellevue, WA, he graduated from Newport High School and earned BS and MS degrees at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

He began his business career at Price Waterhouse. After shifting gears to become a successful stock broker, he was later invited to join the executive finance team at Microsoft. In 2000, Bruce went on to graduate from Seattle University School of Law, and later worked as a consultant, serving on multiple corporate boards.

Bruce's athletic pursuits ranged from competitive swimming to climbing Mt. Rainier several times to completing the three-day Ultraman race in Hawaii.

His wide-ranging interests led him to earn SCUBA and small-aircraft certifications, work as a CompuServe admin, participate in Toastmasters, travel, and become a ham radio operator. Bruce's competence in refereeing basketball games up and down the west coast earned him the honor of being inducted into the PNBOA Hall of Fame. His personal library contained more than 10,000 treasured books and a trove of jazz music. Cannon Beach was a favorite destination and with competitiveness as an inherited trait, many hours were spent enjoying ruthless games of pinochle with family.

Bruce's volunteer activities included several years as an Evergreen Boys' State staffer, plus a period as general manager of the Unlimited Lights Hydroplane Racing Association. He also served on the editorial board of the Federal Way Mirror, where he earned a reputation for pithy but fair commentary.

He found his greatest accomplishment and joy in raising sons Neil of Federal Way and Brad (Sherree) of Moore, OK, as well as stepson Kian Croston of Federal Way. Bruce also leaves behind his wife Lisa, brother Neil, and mother Jean.



Obituary

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His family would like to thank Catherine Taylor and her staff for their superb, loving care of Bruce during his illness as well as the numerous friends who have been a constant source of comfort and support.

Bruce's insight, humor and expertise impacted the lives of many -- young and old, near and far. He was a lifelong adventurer who never stopped learning.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Pacific NW Basketball Officials Association, Washington Youth Academy Foundation or the King County Library System Foundation.

A virtual celebration of Bruce's life will be held soon. To request details and share memories or photos, email RefInMemoriam@gmail.com.



Tribute Wall

Bruce Biermann

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BR

Brad shared a photo to the **tribute wall** album.



January 26 at 1:42 PM

BR

Brad posted:

I am late in seeing this about Bruce but wanted to say how thankful I was to Bruce (and Neil) for coaching me in swimming at TamOShanter in 1973. I was 12 years old back then and very impressionable for which Bruce would take time to talk with me on the pool deck about intellectual and some spiritual things in life. He encouraged me and I appreciated the opportunity to become a better swimmer that continued through college and also then as a young kid. These memories of him left a lasting impact that I will remember for my lifetime. Brad Smith, M.D.

January 26 at 1:39 PM

SJ

Simon Jude posted:

I will always treasure the many intellectual conversations with Bruce at the Tam O'Shanter swimming pool, where we were life guards, to be truthful only his side of the conversation was intellectual. He introduced me to economist Milton (Uncle Milt) Friedman and helped foster my Capitalist ways. One summer Bruce brought scuba gear to the pool and sent me to the bottom with an air tank on my back, he often encouraged me to try something new. I am so glad I had the opportunity to catch up with Bruce more recently at one of Neil and Jane's Christmas gatherings. My condolences to Lisa and Bruce's family. Simon Jude

November 3 at 12:11 PM

MR

Michelle Rauback posted:

My heart goes out to Brad, Lisa, and the rest of Bruce's family. Of all the years I have worked at the Washington Youth Academy Bruce has always kindly reached out to me since Brad's time there and would send me inspiration in times I needed it the most. A lot of inspiration always comes from students so his was a mentorship that meant so much to me. I will miss that. He was very proud of Brad, he loved sharing his accomplishments with me. He loved his family and I was fortunate enough to have his support over the years at the Washington Youth Academy.----Michelle Rauback

October 13 at 4:34 AM



Tribute Wall

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JA

John Anthony posted:

I was so sorry to hear of Bruce's passing. I, too, knew him through basketball officiating back in the '70's and '80's. He was a great guy to work and be with, someone you could always count on. I laughed when I read Steve Cottnair's tribute. The Police Chief he referred to was Pat Fitzimons, himself a small college basketball official, and one to quickly let you know when you screwed up a call. John Anthony

October 11 at 2:05 PM

SM

Steve Murphy posted:

Bruce was a great friend and mentor for me from junior high school on. We kept in touch all those years. We were on different life paths, often intersecting. He recruited me to several of his adventures, both work and pleasure. Notable here are the Enchantments, Intetec and Red Robin. My condolences to Lisa and all the family. RIP Steve Murphy

October 10 at 4:54 AM

SC

Steve Cottnair posted:

In 25 years of officiating, the oddest, weirdest, funniest thing that ever happened, I shared with Bruce. We're working a game at O'Dea, and taking very rude and profane language from two gents at one end of gym. After a while, we approached (charged) the two with every intention of throwing them out of gym. We were both furious. Things changed a bit we realized one was principal of O'Dea, a the other Seattle Police Chief!! I'm not quite sure how we wiggled out of that, and finished game with much fear that squad cars might be waiting for us outside. After finding our way to our cars, and seeing no badges we began laughing outrageously, and have ever since. I also spent some time with Bruce at Harborview after that horrific Xmas Eve. Courage, strength, humor and nothing but positive thoughts came from this guy with more wires and tubes in and around him you could count. Haven't seen Bruce a lot in recent years. Often heard rumors of poor health. Will always carry fond memories of the O'Dea affair, but most meaningful to me was our friendship over the years. He was indeed "good people", and a "cut above" Us normal, crazy referees. Thank you for sending me this information. Steve Cottnair

October 6 at 2:06 PM

RE

Robin Elenga posted:

I am very sad to hear about Bruce's passing. I was luck enough to meet Bruce and serve on the board of a startup with him. I learned a lot from him and feel a large debt of gratitude.

October 6 at 12:02 PM



Tribute Wall

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Chris Whitney posted:

I am deeply saddened by Bruce's passing. We connected often over the years with the most recent/last time being in person when he visited me on Whidbey Island to share in our mutual love of wine. His intelligence, knowledge, and sense of humor were impressive. I wished I had known him better during our time in junior and high school but alas he said he was too shy to "approach a cheerleader". We shared many stories about our careers at Microsoft. I am so very sorry for your loss. Chris Whitney (Culjat). RIP Bruce.

October 5 at 4:25 PM



Donna Johnson posted:

I didn't know Bruce personally, but heard many wonderful stories of him from the Cameron Clan. Mrs Biermann was my first grade teacher. My condolences to the family.

October 5 at 2:47 AM



Heather Nealy posted:

I knew Bruce from elementary through high school. Lived next door in eastgate for a short time. Though we weren't in too many of the same classes at Newport, I still remember his presence and generous nature. My sincere condolences on his loss. Prayers for his family and friends. Heather Nealy

October 4 at 5:01 AM



Carol Rowe posted:

I am sad to hear of Bruce's passing and want give my condolences to his family. I knew him only in high school at Newport we graduated in the same class of 1971. Again my deepest sympathy to his family. Carol (Hansen) Rowe

October 3 at 6:26 PM



Howard Shaw lit a candle in honor of Bruce.

Rest in peace my friend your life was filled with many memories by friend and your never ending willingness to volunteer and help when asked for many groups. God speed the good lord needs a talent like yours and I'm sure he will make good use of your talents and true friendship thanks for being a friend. Howard & Jan Shaw



October 3 at 10:43 AM



Tribute Wall

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William Zachmann posted:

So sad! Bruce was a wonderful long-time friend! I will miss him!

October 3 at 9:57 AM



Anonymous sent a Condolence Snacks to the Biermann family.



October 3 at 9:07 AM



JF

John Forsen posted:

So sorry to hear about this. Bruce and his brother Neil really supported me as a young man while they were Swim guards and coaches of the water polo team at Tam O'Shanter in the early 70's. We climbed Mt. Baker together a couple of times. He introduced me the the enchantments where hiking and camping were so beautiful. He has stayed in touch with me over the years, we last had lunch a couple of years ago, and he seemed very happy with his family and life. Not sure what happened to him, but I hope he passed peacefully and with family. He will be missed. John Forsen

October 3 at 8:50 AM



Wayne Wager January 24 at 1:32 PM

I just learned of Bruce's passing. I was stunned to hear this news. Bruce and Neil were my big brothers early in life. We had a great gang on SE 37th St. in Eastgate. Bruce was a great role model (Neil, not so much ;)) and my wardrobe was mainly hand-me-downs from "The Biermann Boys." I have fond memories of our awesome swim team at Edgebrook and other adventures. I regret I lost touch with Bruce over the past decade. I'll miss him.



Paul Casey October 11 at 1:10 PM

Bruce was one of the most complex and fascinating individuals I have had the pleasure to spend time with. After high school, we went our separate ways. We always managed to circle back at various times during our lives. We all know that Bruce was a very smart and a capable guy. Nothing compared to the love he had for Lisa and his sons. He considered those relationships his greatest achievements. He talked frequently about his admiration for his brother Neil and what a gift it was to have such great parents. And to you John Forsen. Bruce told me about that basketball game. He always howled. I feel very fortunate to have known Bruce Biermann.



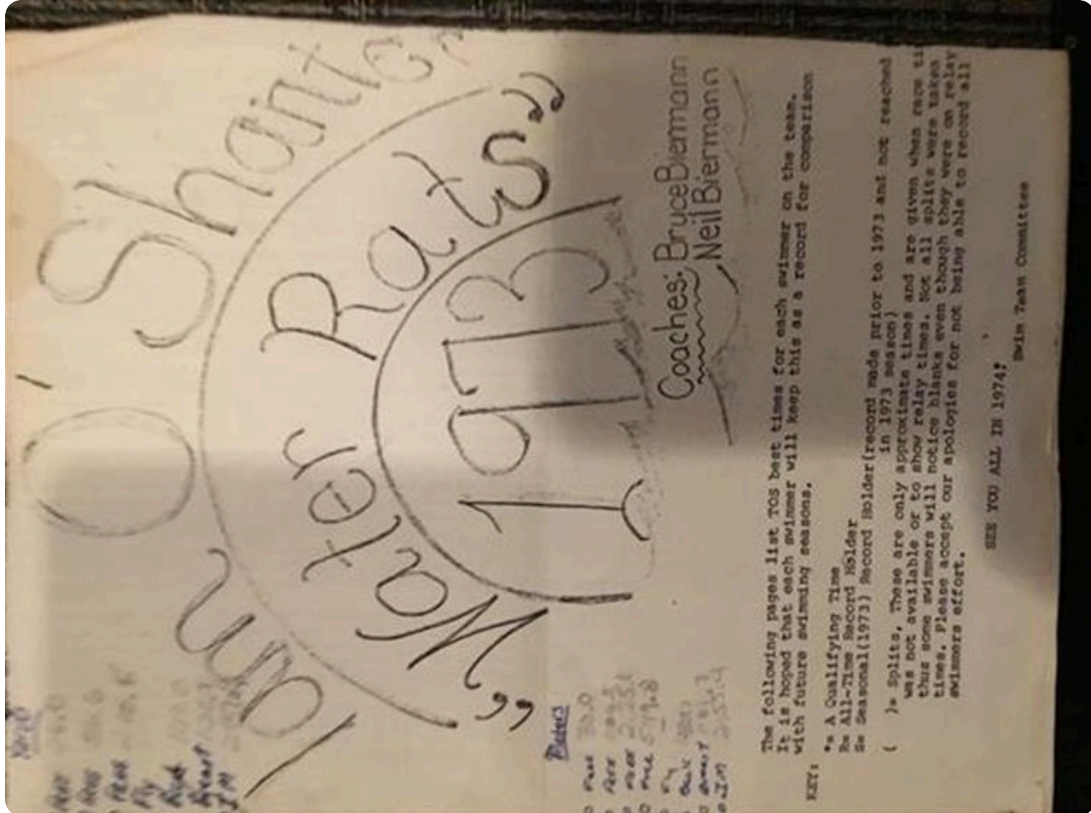
Kurt Schauer October 6 at 6:15 AM

Oh I am sad at Bruce's passing but grateful he no longer is struggling. My memories go back to swimming together at Newport HS, letters to each other (actual letters, not e-mail! while in college, me at WSU and he at U of Penn. Him skipping the early part of swim practice to check the market openings. Driving irresponsibly in his mustang on Newport Way- many fun times and serious discussions about everything. My prayers and thoughts go out to Lisa and the boys. Much to be grateful for.



Brad shared a photo to the **tribute wall** album.

January 26 at 1:42 PM



Tam O Shanter Awards Program 1973



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Bruce by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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