



## Benjamin Ray Bish

June 16, 1978 - February 20, 2014

Benjamin Ray Bish, age 35, a resident of Americus, Kansas and formerly of Longton, Kansas died Thursday, February 20, 2014. He was the miracle baby and most precious gift from God, born on June 16, 1978 in Independence, Kansas to Darrel Ray and Irma Joy (Hull) Bish.

Ben was a graduate of Elk Valley High School in Longton and a graduate of Pittsburg State University. On July 9, 2005 he was united in marriage to Kathleen Ann Miller in Howard, Kansas.

Ben loved life, music, sports, animals and insects of all kinds. He was our Gentle Ben who had a deep internal strength that we all came to rely on and will be sorely missed as we struggle to find a way to go on in his absence. Those happy memories of endless summer days, long drives through the countryside, playing basketball with his friends, singing and living out loud will be the things we hold onto.

He loved his family more than anything in this world; his wife, Kathleen and their two children Kelton David age 6 and Kaylyn Joy age 4. They made a marvelous and unstoppable foursome and shared countless memories, lots of singing and joyous laughter together. Benjamin is also survived by his much-loved parents Darrel and Irma Bish, his devoted brother David Jay Burns and his adoring sisters Gail Burns Aho, April Lynn Burns and Deanna Burns Truitt.

Ben has a large extended family and most everyone he met became a close friend. The world and all God's creatures lost a truly beautiful person, but God needed someone to belt out a tune and make the angel's laugh and so chose our dear Ben.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at the Elk Valley High School Gymnasium in Longton with Pastor Joe Voss officiating. Friends may stop and sign the register on Tuesday at the funeral home. Interment will be at Longton Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to Kelton and Kaylyn Bish Educational Fund and may be left with the funeral home. Online condolences may be left at [www.countrysidefh.com](http://www.countrysidefh.com). Arrangements are under the direction of Countryside Funeral Home in Howard.

# Cemetery Details

## Longton Cemetery

Longton, KS 67352

# Previous Events

## Service

FEB **26**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Elk Valley High School Gymnasium  
702 Delaware  
Longton, KS 67352

# Tribute Wall

JG

“ *Darrel Bish and family,*

*I didn't have the pleasure of knowing Ben, but I know his Dad Darrel. I was saddened to hear of the loss of your son and loved one. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Darrel hope to see you at Tuesday Morning Prayer Breakfast in Sedan sometime. We lifted you and your family up in prayer this last Tuesday and will continue to do so. Blessings from John Germann and family of Sedan*

-----  
**John Germann** - February 27, 2014 at 10:25 AM

SW

“ *Our hearts will forever be broken.*

-----  
**Susan Watt, Sister of David Wasylk** - February 26, 2014 at 11:02 PM

PT

“ *Darrel & Irma, I'm so sorry to hear about Ben's passing. He truly was an awesome individual! Many memories of him growing up alongside of my two sons, Jeff and Jamie, during our stay in Independence, KS at the First Assembly of God. Irma, you were always such an inspiration in God's service and Women's aglow. Our prayers are going up for you and your family during this season of loss. Blessings, Patti Ann (Nichols) Thompson.*

-----  
**Patti Ann (Nichols) Thompson** - February 26, 2014 at 05:02 PM

MR

“ *Im sorry to hear about ben. Even though I havent seen him since Jr high. He was a great friend and always happy. May god be with his family and friends through this hard time.*

-----  
**Michelle Beougher Roberts** - February 26, 2014 at 01:09 PM

JS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of Ben's family and friends during this most difficult time. It's with fond memories that I think back and remember Ben and his classmates in my 5th grade classroom and watching them grow and graduate from EV. Ben was always smiling and a friend to everyone. My prayers are with all of you that God may comfort and guide you.

---

**Jenny Spillman** - February 26, 2014 at 10:15 AM

BG

“ Ruth Ann and I will never forget our time in the "Valley of the Lion." The young people were special and the faculty and staff always devoted their very best on behalf of the students. I must confess that my favorite time was when I had the privilege to coach those who choose to play basketball. "Benny the Bish" was such a special young guy. His smile was infectious and he always believed that we could get to the top of the mountain. Benny ran downhill to the offensive end as fast as any young Lion that I coached. He also thought that any shot he attempted should result in a basket. His sophomore year was difficult, but his junior and senior seasons he took more ownership and responsibility. He was a terrific teammate and mentor to our young guys. He achieved the 1000 point scoring mark, but more importantly he was a mature reflection of a wonderful family. Benny once told me to "Let go and let God." And so, now we must honor Benny's request and give this tragic loss to our Heavenly Father. For our friend, Ben is gone but never forgotten.

*Our love and prayers go out to Kathleen and their children, Darrel and Irma and Ben's entire family.*

*Ruth Ann and Bin Graefe*

---

**Bin Graefe** - February 26, 2014 at 08:39 AM

RD

“ *Ron & Carmell Davis lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Ray Bish*



---

**Ron & Carmell Davis** - February 26, 2014 at 08:25 AM

ZG

“ *1 file added to the album Ben*



---

**Zach Gardner** - February 26, 2014 at 07:53 AM

JD

“ As a classmate of Ben, I have many fun memories of Ben growing up. Even when all the girls were forced to build our homecoming float by ourselves and with Irma's help while Ben led the guys in hours of basketball in his barn, or when we had to set up prom around him shooting baskets and cracking jokes about us, we couldn't stay mad at him for long- he brought too much fun to our school days. He was our entertaining comedian, inspiring athlete, smooth talker ( still appreciate all the assignments we got out of by him striking up stories with Mr. Fielder or getting Ms. Currier flustered with his jokes and incomplete sentences), sound effects artist, jingle and one- liner writer, singer, and most importantly, our good friend.

Although, my favorite memories of Ben are as adults after getting married and having children of our own. When he came to visit Kyler or work on our houses these last few years, I enjoyed how his storytelling became more refined and full of wisdom and maturity. The majority of his stories were about his kids and wife, always positive, always proud. It was obvious that his world revolved around his beloved family. He shared with us how Kathleen is the mother and wife of the century and that his kids are the best thing he has ever accomplished. A very happy man. At the end of the work day, he refused to take our money for his labor, but was insistent to settle for a shared meal, watching some basketball, and Kyler's promise to visit his house next. We are most grateful to have had such a devoted and giving friend.

He will be missed, but never forgotten.

---

**Julie Dowell** - February 26, 2014 at 05:34 AM

TF

“ *The Kocsak Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Benjamin Ray Bish.*



---

**The Kocsak Family** - February 25, 2014 at 10:31 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Ben*



---

**Julie Vestal Dowell** - February 25, 2014 at 02:58 PM

CB

“ For almost ten months Ben was like a brother to me. We jointly graduated from High School in 1996. That means I helped him out in math, he helped me with English and I guess it was Darrel who read the Newsweek and answered the questions for the homework of "American History" as usual.



I could not fulfill the great expectations he must have had when selecting me as his guest brother with a height of 6'6" but I loved watching him playing great basketball. And at home he studied the NBA basketball games on TV for getting even better.

Thank you for the great time we had together!

The deepest condolences from the Bayer family in Germany. We will pray for him and for Kathleen with children, family and friends.

---

**Chris Bayer** - February 25, 2014 at 02:50 PM

RR

“ Rhonda and Rick purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Benjamin Ray Bish.



---

**Rhonda and Rick** - February 25, 2014 at 10:17 AM

Amy  
Kimberlin

“ My Deepest sympathies to Kathleen, his children, family and friends. I haven't seen Ben since High School but I remember he always had a positive attitude, and beautiful smile and good disposition about him. And always ready for a game of basket ball. I pray that God comforts you all in this time of need. He will be missed . Amy Kimberlin



Amy Kimberlin - February 24, 2014 at 10:00 PM

SH

“ Kathleen, we have been praying for you and the kid's and for Ben's folks, we are so sorry for your loss. We love you all so much and our hearts are hurting for you. I pray that you can find peace in all the turmoil, trust Jesus, He'll carry you when you think you can't go on.

We love you!  
Uncle Steven & Aunt Kitty

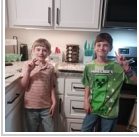
Steven Herzberg - February 24, 2014 at 09:54 PM



“ He will be missed. I can still picture him wearing his Elvis Wig and sunglasses. Oh, and the singing, I don't think there was a day when we were roommates in college and he didn't make me laugh.

Dustin Pyle (Pudge)

Dustin Pyle - February 24, 2014 at 07:39 PM



“ To the Bish and Miller families:

*I unfortunately didn't know Ben very well, maybe shared a word or two in passing. I heard him sing karaoke a few times at Brad's, and wow, what a voice! However I've known the Bish family, especially Irma, since we moved here. My heart has been breaking for you all: Irma and Darrel, I am so sorry for the loss of your precious son. To the rest of Ben's family and friends, I know that his passing has left a hole in your hearts, and I'm also sorry for your loss. I have been, and will continue to pray for peace and for God's love to surround you all. And most of all to Kathleen and Kelton and Kaylyn....my most heartfelt sympathies go out...my family understands your sorrow and knows the path you are now traveling. It is a journey I would not wish on anyone. Kathleen, I am praying that God gives you the strength you need in the times ahead, that He holds you in His arms and comforts you and that the deep love that you and Ben shared fills your soul in the times that you need it most. Thankfully Ben left two beautiful, lasting gifts in Kelton and Kaylyn, may having them close also help you and give you strength and comfort as well. I am so deeply sorry for your loss. I have been and will continue to be praying for you. I know that there are not really any words that can take away your pain, but stay close to God, He will carry you through the darkest hours and help to guide you when you feel lost. Ben will never be far, he will be with you always: In your heart and in the blessings of your children. And you will be together again in God's time.*

*If I can be of any help at all - please do not hesitate to call on me.*

---

**Jolie Gerding** - February 24, 2014 at 05:58 PM

NI

“ *Ben had the most easy going disposition to be around and great smile to go along with it. I enjoyed seeing him grow up at Elk Valley and I loved watching him play basketball with Coach Graefe and the Lion team. My deepest sympathy and a heartfelt HUG to ALL the family. ....Nikki Cody*

---

**Nikki** - February 24, 2014 at 04:36 PM

NC

“ *Nancy Crum lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Ray Bish*



---

**Nancy Crum** - February 24, 2014 at 02:02 PM

MC

“ *1 file added to the album Ben*



---

**Mollie Connors** - February 24, 2014 at 01:49 PM

MF

“ *Thoughts & prayers to you and yours,*

---

**Meisch family** - February 24, 2014 at 01:41 PM

 Jamie  
Goodwin

“ *Ben truly had a beautiful, loving personality! His happiness was contagious to all around him. I only went to school with him for 1 year but felt like he was my friend since Kindergarten. He gave me some funny nicknames in high school. I remember so many of his one-liners! Kathleen, my deepest sympathy for you, your beautiful children, and Ben's family. He was the basketball star... BENNY THE BISH*

---

**Jamie Goodwin** - February 24, 2014 at 12:25 PM

ZG

“ Kathleen, I have been praying for you and your family constantly, and I have been thinking about my time with Ben. I have a lot of good memories of him, especially his one-liners and funny stories. He was a very intelligent person, and I don't remember seeing him display ill-will towards others, he was just always easy going. Sports tied us all together back then, it seems that is all there was to do in a small town, he made it all fun. I miss those days of summer playing 21 on his lowered basketball rim in the out building, just playing for hours. I feel bad that I didn't get to know him better after high school and I am deeply saddened by his passing, and we will pray for you often.

One of my favorite stories from Ben was when explained his excitement for his senior year playing basketball. He told me before I arrived, his junior season, he was skinny, had longer hair and could jump out of the gym. He said he was excited for his senior year because Donk wouldn't be handling the ball, he would get more touches, and the fact that he was looking forward to getting in the weight room to work on squats etc. in order to improve his jumping ability, and "as usual" his senior year he found that he couldn't jump any better, he actually felt like his jumping ability got worse. However, as we all witnessed, he was an awesome basketball player anyway.

Just the way he had with words and his ability to tell stories, he was an awesome person-

Miss him.

Zach Gardner

---

Zach Gardner - February 24, 2014 at 10:47 AM

ZD

“ *Very sad to hear of the passing of Ben. Ben was a very good friend in elementary school. Although I have not seen Ben in 20 years or so. The news of his passing weighs heavy on my heart. My deepest sympathy to his wife, children and parents.*

*Zack Dunham*

---

**Zack Dunham** - February 24, 2014 at 09:38 AM

KM

“ *Karen Mauk lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Ray Bish*



---

**Karen Mauk** - February 24, 2014 at 09:34 AM

VS

“ *Kathleen, The Schroeder family grieves with you and those precious babies. We are heart sick over this tremendous loss. Praying for peace and comfort in the difficult days ahead.*



---

**Vince and Martha Schroeder** - February 24, 2014 at 07:31 AM

TF

“ *The Schroeder Family lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Ray Bish*



---

**The Schroeder Family** - February 24, 2014 at 07:29 AM

KH

“ *Kathleen and family,  
We can only imagine your grief. With all our love and sympathy,  
Kaira, Butch & Mac Hayes*

---

**Kaira Hayes** - February 23, 2014 at 10:01 PM

SB

“ *Thinking of you all right now. I know no words I could say could  
make things better but just know that we are praying for you guys.*

*Matt & Shannon Bogle*

---

**Shannon Bogle** - February 23, 2014 at 09:57 PM

KD

“ *Lots of memories. he has been part of ours lives since justin and  
him were connected! he was another one of my kids. lots of laughs.  
loved his voice and one liners, that our family uses daily. I will miss  
you Ben the bish! more than you will know.*

---

**Kandy dowell** - February 23, 2014 at 09:32 PM

FJ

“ *No prayer or gift can make the pain of losing a child or husband go  
away but I do offer the gift of knowing he was loved and saved...  
and a prayer for you all that time heals your hearts... God gives the  
good ones to us for too short a time in this world... but it's because  
he knows we'll have them forever later on. Go with God Ben!*

---

**Frank Woodman Jr** - February 23, 2014 at 09:18 PM

CL

*“ KATHLEEN WANTED YOU TO KNOW YOU ARE IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS. I HAVE KNOW DARREL AND IRMA FOR YEARS SUCH A WONDERFUL FAMILY. CINDY, GREG, CODY, CASEY LEWIS*

---

**CINDY LEWIS** - February 23, 2014 at 08:35 PM



*“ Mark Miller lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Ray Bish*



---

**Mark Miller** - February 23, 2014 at 02:58 PM



*“ Kathleen, we are heartbroken over your loss. Our sympathy to you, Kelton and Kaylyn. You are in our thoughts. Love, Mark and Sharon*

---

**Mark Miller** - February 23, 2014 at 02:51 PM

RM

*“ Kathleen,  
You have a beautiful family. Ben is so handsome. I'm sorry we haven't kept in better touch, I miss you and I'm thinking of you. I will try to make it to the funeral, but if not will contact you at home and come see you. Ben loved you all very much, you could tell in the pictures. I am so sorry this has happened. Love, Rochelle*

---

**Rochelle McGee** - February 23, 2014 at 11:37 AM

RM

“ *Rochelle McGee lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Ray Bish*



---

**Rochelle McGee** - February 23, 2014 at 11:30 AM

JM

“ *Our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss Kathleen. You and your family are in our thoughts. With Love, Joel, Nicole and Ciara Miller.*

---

**Joel Miller** - February 23, 2014 at 11:26 AM

KC

“ *Kathleen and family,*

*So sorry for the loss of your loved one. You and your families are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Kathy Cummings and family*

---

**Kathy Cummings** - February 22, 2014 at 11:39 PM

BM

“ *Our sympathy goes to Irma and Darrell, and to Ben's wife and children. We are thinking of you, with love.*

*Bob & Bonnie Mustoe*

---

**Bonnie Mustoe** - February 22, 2014 at 09:18 PM



“ 11 files added to the album Ben



Julie Vestal Dowell - February 22, 2014 at 07:20 PM

KD

“ 11 files added to the album New Album Name



Kyler Dowell - February 22, 2014 at 07:05 PM

JD

“ sorry to hear about ben



jr davis - February 22, 2014 at 06:57 PM

TW

*Dearest Kathleen,*

*My heart broke the day I heard the news about Ben, I simply could not believe it.*

*Seems like yesterday I was watching him on the basketball court as a 16 and 17 year old playing in the old Longton gym. So handsome, athletic and always gave 100%. Such a great personality! He was so blessed to have married you.*

*Kathleen you are truly one of the kindest, most patient persons I have ever met! May God bless you and your children as you travel this road of uncharted pain and grief.*

*Brandie and I send our deepest condolences to you, your children and Ben's parents.*

*With love and hugs for all.*

*Therese Wilkinson, Brandie Westbrook's mom.*

---

**Therese Wilkinson** - February 24, 2014 at 09:28 PM