



Gregory Martin Bechtold

June 25, 1957 - April 12, 2020

Gregory Martin Bechtold, 62, died on Easter Sunday night, April 12, 2020, on the Bechtold family farm in Rockville, Minnesota. He belonged to Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church in Rockville. He will be interred in the MN State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls, MN, and a memorial service will be held at a later date when his whole family can attend.

Gregory was born on June 25, 1957, in St. Cloud, Minnesota, to Jerry and LeMay Wagner Bechtold. He attended St. Boniface Grade School, Rocori Junior High, St. John's Prep School, and St. John's University. Later, he attended St. Cloud State University, where he earned a BS in Local and Urban Affairs.

Gregory served in the Youth Conservation Corps for two years, planting trees in the north woods. He was a dedicated public servant who worked as an environmental specialist for Benton County for four years and for Stearns County for nearly 22 years, helping to steward the county land resources, especially wetlands and feedlots.

Gregory grew up and lived on the family farm in Rockville except for the four years he served in the United States Air Force. He helped with the farm work in many ways over the years, running errands for the farm, caring for the calves, and spoiling his beloved dogs. He enjoyed reading, playing cribbage and 500, following high school sports, and cheering for the Minnesota Twins.

He is survived by his mother LeMay, sisters Karen (Bernie Koltes), Brigid, Barbara (John Tomaro), Mary Ruth, and Joyce, his brothers Stephen (Helen), Mark, Roger, and Timothy (Karen Knudsen). He is survived by 19 nieces and nephews: Patrick, Brian, James, Shawn, Heidi, and Holly Koltes; Londi, Mark, Samuel, and Alicia Tomaro; Teresa, Thomas, Paul, and Joseph Bechtold; Shane, Cole, and Sage Christianson; and Stellan and Bente Bechtold.

He was preceded in death by his father in 2013 and his brother Michael in 1973.

He will be missed by his huge extended family, his loyal and wonderful friends and neighbors, and his long-time co-workers. Gregory felt deeply grateful for all the help and support from family and friends throughout his lifetime and especially from Bernie Koltes and Tony Generous during his last few years fighting cancer.

When asked what he wanted his Legacy to be, Gregory said he simply wanted "to be remembered as a 'GOOD GUY,' that's all." He was so much more.

Arrangements are with the Wenner Funeral Home, Cold Spring. "No flowers," Gregory said. Send your donations to your favorite charity.

Cemetery Details

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Minnesota 115
Little Falls, MN 56345

Tribute Wall



“ *Gregory Martin Bechtold*

January 29, 2023 at 09:26 AM



“ *Greg succeeded in being known as a good guy! He will be missed here at the county and by anyone who has ever met him. Prayers to the family & Rest in Peace Greg.
Lisa K.*

Lisa Krosko - April 20, 2020 at 03:08 PM



“ *In my early years at the county I remember Greg as kind, welcoming and candid. When running into him at the vet with our German shepherd I learned of his love for the breed. Please accept my heartfelt condolences and RIP Greg.*

Sharon Rennie Klein

Sharon Klein - April 17, 2020 at 09:20 PM



“ *LaMay, MaryRuth and family, I am so sorry to hear about Gregory, I am certain he was greeted with a big hug from Jerry and Auntie Margie. You are all in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time and always!!
Love to you all, Rest in Peace Gregory.
Kathi Simpkins*

kathi simpkins - April 17, 2020 at 10:49 AM

MH

“ I am sad to hear of Greg's death. Greg and I worked together in the Melrose Office when I first started working at Stearns County in 1998. I remember our Melrose group went golfing. Greg used a 7 iron and a putter the whole round. He could really move that ball with the 7 iron! Over the years I would see Greg either at the beginning or the end of the day as we both now worked at the Administration Center in St. Cloud and parked in the same lot. Greg always had a cheerful hello or wished a good night. He was a great guy. Calm, kind, loved to laugh. Rest in peace Greg. You will be missed by all that had the pleasure to know you.

Michael Heinen
Stearns County

Michael Heinen - April 17, 2020 at 10:24 AM

CB

“ I remember only really good things about Gregory from the Prep School. He was a kind and sensible man. I wish the family God's comfort and healing during this time of great sadness.

Charles Botz
SJP Class of '76

Charles Botz - April 17, 2020 at 10:15 AM

RB

“ I am sorry to hear of Greg's death. Although I did not work with him, we often passed each other in the office hallways and shared brief conversations. Yes, I shall remember Greg as a “good guy” and more.

Rob Berg - April 17, 2020 at 09:59 AM

KM

“ LeMay,

I am so saddened to hear of your loss. I will be pray for healing of your heart and for Greg's happy entrance to Heaven! If I were able to see you in person you would be getting a big hug, but since this is not able to happen please know I am sending you one in spirit. Please take care of yourself and know that I am thinking of you.

Karen Mapes (Hoffmann)

Karen Mapes - April 17, 2020 at 09:46 AM

TS

“ *My thoughts and prayers to the Bechtold family. So sorry to hears of Greg's passing. peace to your family*

Tom Schmanski

Tom Schmanski - April 16, 2020 at 07:12 PM

PE

“ *A “good guy”? A great guy! Kind, and thoughtful— one of Jim's 'last cousins'! 😊 He always felt himself a part of your family- you all contributed to make him feel so. They are together now, along with all other loved ones. What a joyous thing! My love to all of you.*

Pat Ebacher - April 15, 2020 at 11:34 PM

JC

“ We’ve lost a very good guy and my heart goes out to all who loved Gregory.

I have the fondest memories of his all-too-brief time in Alaska. Were you there Barbara when Fr. Trebtoski first met Gregory and exclaimed over how big his hands were? I love Karen Voz’s description of seeing Gregory with a baby in his arms. What a beautiful image of a beautiful man.

Judy Collison - April 15, 2020 at 10:38 PM

CB

“ My sincere condolences to all of Greg's family. I knew Greg as a classmate from St. Boniface grade school. My family moved out of state after our sixth grade year. In 2015, I attended our class reunion in Cold Spring. There, I was fortunate to talk with Greg for quite awhile. He had such a calm, gentle way about him and was so down to earth. I'm so glad we were able to visit and thankful that I have that lasting memory of him. He truly was a wonderful person all his life. Carol Dorgan Brown

Carol Brown - April 15, 2020 at 06:59 PM



“ Condolences to Greg's family. I didn't have the honor of knowing him, it sounds like he was a person well worth knowing. May the family know peace at this time of grief. I have worked with his brother Mark thru the dairy industry. My sincerest sympathy. Val Schumann, Minnesota DHIA

Val Schumann - April 15, 2020 at 05:06 PM

BW

“ My sincere condolences to all of Greg's family. I worked one year for Stearns County as a nurse in community services and Greg always knew who I was and would talk with me when we'd meet in passing. He always had a kind word and a smile for me. From your distant cousin.

Betsy Reker Westerhoff - April 15, 2020 at 04:51 PM

BW

Betsy (Reker)

Betsy Reker Westerhoff - April 15, 2020 at 04:52 PM

SL

I worked with Greg on many projects as a building contractor He was a straight shooter a friend and a loyal adversary We will miss you and may God take you straight to heaven

Sheldon Lang - April 16, 2020 at 11:53 AM

CF

“ Greg was certainly a "good guy".

Cecile Ferkul - April 15, 2020 at 01:52 PM

BK

“ OUR FAMILY WILL MISS HIM VERY MUCH
AND THE BEST " GREGORY" IN THE FAMILY(SAYS ABIGAIL
KOLTES)
I AND TONY WERE HONORED TO DRIVE YOU TO MANY OF
YOUR MAYO CLINIC APPOINTMENTS DURING YOUR FIGHT TO
CONQUER THE CANCER==YOU WERE A GREAT**
WARRIOR**==TRUE TO YOUR FAITH & FAMILY!!!
MAY YOU REST IN PEACE==
BERNIE & KAREN FAMILY

BERNIE KOLTES - April 15, 2020 at 01:46 PM

NB

“ I first met Greg as an intern at Benton County. George Minerich had offered me an internship for the summer. During that time, I recall George and I having good natured, "spirited" conversations about a variety of things. Greg would quietly sit on the sidelines, smiling and shaking his head and chuckling at us. He shook his head and chuckled at me a lot. :) I had the opportunity to get to know Greg better over the years during conferences, training, and meetings regarding wetlands. He was a kindred spirit. Once I became the DNR Area Hydrologist for Stearns County, we were able to "work together" once again. I loved being part of the Stearns County TEP (wetland review) team with Greg (and our other colleagues). Greg always made me feel safer when dealing with angry landowners who were in violation of State statutes regarding wetlands. He had a serious "no nonsense" way of approaching situations. I firmly believe his farming background helped him communicate with landowners in a way they could accept and move forward. They may not have liked Greg, but they respected him. Greg's passion for the environment was obvious to all. I remember being shocked and saddened to hear of his ocular cancer and even more so when we learned it had spread. I was hoping, as I'm sure many were, for more time. I would have liked the opportunity to talk with him again before he left, but I felt it was completely appropriate that he'd enter God's kingdom on Easter Sunday. My sincerest condolences go to all who loved Greg! He was a good friend and will be seriously missed. ~Nicki Blake-Bradley

Nicola Blake-Bradley - April 15, 2020 at 01:30 PM

PJ

“ Gregory was everything good! One of the finest men I've known.

Paul Jonas - April 15, 2020 at 01:25 PM

MK

“ Greg was truly a GOOD GUY, and that is how he will be fondly remembered by all who knew him. A very thoughtful gentle soul.
Mark Koehn

Mark Koehn - April 15, 2020 at 01:07 PM

KV

“ To Greg's family my sincere sympathy for your loss of Greg. This also goes to anyone who knew Greg, he will be missed by all of us. My sympathies to you!! Greg will always be remembered as a great guy, he was a very kind and gentle person with the biggest heart. I remember once watching Greg hold a tiny baby, the baby was so content, and not the least afraid of Greg. A site to see this big guy holding a tiny baby!!! He had a special way of making you feel calm in his presence. I loved Greg and will miss him dearly! May everyone hold dear their memories of Greg so he may live on in our hearts.

Karen Voz - April 15, 2020 at 01:05 PM

LH

“ Leonora. Hennen lit a candle in memory of Gregory Martin Bechtold



Leonora. Hennen - April 15, 2020 at 12:54 PM

JK

“ *My deepest condolences to Greg's family. Greg was a wonderful co-worker and friend, who will be dearly missed. His wealth of knowledge was a huge benefit to our department. I will miss his laugh and presence greatly. May his memory be blessed. God Bless.*

Jane Knott

Jane Knott - April 15, 2020 at 12:49 PM