



## Dr. Bernard P. Kemker Sr

December 19, 1932 - February 22, 2024

Dr. Bernard P. Kemker Sr., age 91, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at Northwood Good Samaritan Retirement Community in Jasper.

Bernard was born in Nashville, Tennessee, on December 19, 1932, to John Edward and Kate Lorraine (Perkins) Kemker. He married Ellen Stark on November 28, 1957, at St. James Catholic Church in Louisville, Kentucky. She preceded him in death on July 24, 2012. He married Carolyn Sue Schepers on May 23, 2015, in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jasper.

Bernard graduated from Western Kentucky State College in 1955, and the University of Louisville Medical School in 1959. He did his internship at St. Joseph Infirmary in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1961, Bernard opened a family practice for four years in Tell City, Indiana. Later, he served in the United States Army Medical Corps for two years with the rank of Major. He completed his residency in General Surgery at the University of Iowa in 1970, and opened his medical-surgery practice in Jasper until he retired 27 years later.

He was a member of the Diplomate of the American Boards of Surgery, American College of Surgeons, Society of the American Gastro-Intestinal Endoscopic Surgeons, Diocesan member of the Bishops Pastoral Council, American Legion Post #147, and a Eucharist Minister of St. Joseph Catholic

Church.

He was former president of the Dubois County Medical Society, the Indiana-Kentucky Medical Review Organization, and the Jasper Community Arts Commission.

Bernard enjoyed sitting on the front porch and watching the birds. Every morning, he ate breakfast at Denny's. He enjoyed watching movies, walking on the Jasper River Walk and reading mystery and science fiction novels. In his younger years, he was a reluctant bridge card player. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, nature and being outside. He loved his work as being a physician. He had a passion for helping and healing others.

He is survived by his wife; Carolyn Sue Kemker, Jasper, Indiana, two daughters; Dr. Susan Kemker (Dr. Alvin Pam), White Plains, New York, Kate Kemker (Kaaren Fox), Chicago, Illinois, five sons; Dr. Bernard (Janice) Kemker Jr, Rocky Mount, North Carolina, David (Diane) Kemker, Los Angeles, California, Dr. Stephen (Dr. Kalen Carty) Kemker, Salem, Indiana, Ken (Audrey) Kemker, Hillham, Indiana, daughter-in-law; Denise Kemker, Huntingburg, Indiana, four step-daughters; Diane (Richard) Denk, Jasper, Indiana, Patricia Welp, Jasper, Indiana, Rebecca Schepers, Jasper, Indiana, Jennifer Schepers, Bloomington, Indiana, 13 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Bernard is preceded in death by one son; Michael Kemker, two brothers; John E. Kemker and Dr. Francis J. Kemker.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Dr. Bernard P. Kemker Sr., will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at St. Joseph Catholic Church with burial to follow in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper. The American Legion Post #147 will conduct military graveside rites.

A visitation will be held from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at the Becher Kluesner Downtown Chapel.

The family would like to thank the staff at Northwood Good Samaritan Retirement Community and Heart-to-Heart Hospice for their loving care and compassion during his final days.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church, the Stephen Ministry of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center, or Northwood Good Samaritan Retirement Community.

Online condolences may be made at [www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

1020 Kundek Street  
Jasper, IN 47546

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 27. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Becher & Kluesner Funeral Home - Downtown  
214 East 7th Street  
Jasper, IN 47546  
(812) 482-4141  
[email@becherkluesner.com](mailto:email@becherkluesner.com)

## Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 28. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
1029 Kundek Street  
Jasper, IN

# Tribute Wall

CK

“ Cynthia & Todd Kempf lit a candle in memory of Dr. Bernard P. Kemker Sr

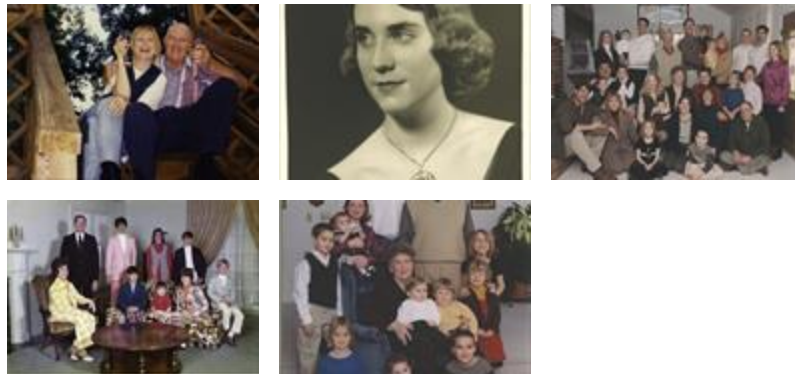


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**Cynthia & Todd Kempf** - March 16, 2024 at 10:21 AM

KA

“ 274 files added to the album Bernie and Ellen



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**Katie** - March 02, 2024 at 03:32 PM

MB

“ Our sympathy to all the family.  
I worked many years with Dr. Kemker Sr. and he always looked for opportunities to teach staff to assure their skills continued to grow. He was a skilled surgeon and shared his knowledge freely and was clear on his expectations. We were blessed to have him serve our community for so many years.  
Prayers for all family & friends.  
Steve & Marge (Gress) Buechler

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**Margaret F Buechler** - February 29, 2024 at 10:44 PM

LJ

“ *What a great surgeon and teacher. Learned so much from him. Took such good care of all his patients. Sending sympathy and prayers to all of his family.*  
*LeAnn and Stan Jochim*

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**LeAnn Jochim** - February 27, 2024 at 11:00 PM

CS

“ *What a wonderful man and surgeon. He was so great to work with in surgery. I learned a lot, especially how to hand an instrument to a left-handed surgeon! Lol. It was an honor to know him. Prayers to you all!*

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**CHARLOTTE STEPHENSON** - February 27, 2024 at 05:02 PM

PM

“ *Offering our sincere condolences to Ken, Audrey, and the entire Kemker family.*

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**Patrick and Nancy Mendel** - February 27, 2024 at 10:33 AM

DK

“ *Doc was the best father-in-law I could have been blessed with. He always had a hug and kiss on the cheek for me. I'm sure Mike was there to greet him and take him home.*



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**Denise Kemker** - February 26, 2024 at 11:58 PM

JO

“ *Julia O'Day lit a candle in memory of Dr. Bernard P. Kemker Sr*



Julia O'Day - February 26, 2024 at 07:56 PM

AM

“ *My deepest condolences to Dr. Stephen Kemker and family. Praying God will give you comfort and strength during this very difficult time. Sincerely, Angie Motsinger*

Angie Motsinger - February 26, 2024 at 09:45 AM

WT

“ *HE WAS THE BEST HE WILL BE MISSED BY ALL . HE TOOK SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME AND MY FAMILY WHEN WE WERE IN A BAD CAR WRECK .*



WINDELL AND BRENDA TOBY - February 24, 2024 at 08:54 AM

CH

“ *My sympathy and prayers to the Kemker family. My mother was a nurse at Drs. Ploetner and Beaven when Dr. Kemker moved to Jasper and joined their practice.*



Chris Bohnert Hinkle - February 24, 2024 at 07:48 AM

MP

“ Michelle Pratte lit a candle in memory of Dr. Bernard P. Kemker Sr



Michelle Pratte - February 23, 2024 at 10:48 PM

MP

I went to school with Mike and I took care of your family several times when you would come into Applebee's! I enjoyed all of the stories told and spending time with all of you. All of my love and prayers to your families. Doc and "Sue" you were always fun to take care of, God Bless.

Michelle Pratte - February 23, 2024 at 10:53 PM

RM

“ Mrs Kemper you were so devoted to your husband my mom was on the same floor Jane. It's so hard when they pass away. Keep many sweet memories in your heart. Rod and gwen

Rod and Gwen mcclintock - February 23, 2024 at 08:33 PM

DZ

“ Deborah Zehr lit a candle in memory of Dr. Bernard P. Kemker Sr



Deborah zehr - February 23, 2024 at 06:23 PM