



## Jeffry M. Behm

June 18, 1956 - November 16, 2023

Jeffry Michael Behm passed peacefully at home November 16, 2023.

On Monday, November 27, 2023, Confession will be held at 4-8:00 p.m. and the Chaplet of St. Michael the Archangel will be held at 4:15 p.m. followed by Visitation until 8:00 p.m. at the church. Parish Vigil service will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the church. On Tuesday, November 28, 2023, Confession will begin at 9:00 a.m. and a Rosary will take place at 9:45 a.m. followed by Funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. all at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake. Burial will follow the service in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, Jeff requested that donations be sent to one of two organizations. Compete for a Cure, Inc. helps other families with a loved one diagnosed with Glioblastoma by giving them financial assistance. You may reach them at [competeforacure1@gmail.com](mailto:competeforacure1@gmail.com) or send checks to 1102 Ridge Road, Denison, Iowa 51442. Jeff was also grateful for the St. Joseph Education Society of the Diocese of Sioux City for supporting Fr. Patrick in his priestly formation. This society supports education for seminarians, permanent deacons, and priests in the diocese. Gifts can be sent to Diocese of Sioux City; Box 3379; Sioux City, IA 51102-3379 or online at [www.scdiocese.org/giving](http://www.scdiocese.org/giving).

Jeffry Michael Behm was born June 18, 1956, the third child of Donald and Jean (McCrickard) Behm and baptized at St. Patrick's parish, Missouri Valley, IA. Jeff grew up in Storm Lake, graduating from St. Mary's High School in 1974 where he excelled at baseball and was a successful pitcher on the varsity baseball team.

On December 20, 1980, Jeff married Julia Kitson from Janesville, WI. God blessed them with two sons, Patrick Michael and Thomas Jeffry, whom they faithfully raised to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Jeff loved spending time with his family and sought ways to protect, provide and serve them. Holiday gatherings with family were always a highlight for Jeff, who was always jovial and laughing, warm and welcoming, quick with a quip or joke.

Jeff spent most of his working years as a department manager with Hy-Vee Food Stores in Fort Dodge, IA; Harlan, IA; Columbus, NE before finally returning to Storm Lake in 1989.

In 2009 Jeff was awarded Hy-Vee's Legendary Customer Service Award, the highest honor Hy-Vee bestows on an employee. He demonstrated the midwest hard work ethic and took Hy-Vee's motto of a "helpful smile in every aisle" quite literally, always striving to be friendly and courteous to all. He was a listening ear to customers, giving hugs and encouragement to so many that he referred to as, "My friend," because you were his friend. To many youth experiencing their first job, Jeff taught hard work, honesty, responsibility, the importance of completing the task at hand, and commitment to the employer.

Jeff was an avid fan of the Oklahoma Sooners and would frequently try to structure his fall Saturdays around their football games. Among his favorite Sooner memories were the 1971 Thanksgiving Day "Game of the Century" where Nebraska beat their archrival Oklahoma in the final moments of the game, the team's national championship in the year 2000, and traveling to

Norman for the 50th Anniversary of Oklahoma-Nebraska Game of the Century in 2021 with Julie and Pat.

Jeff cherished the quiet time he could spend at home with Julie, Pat, and Tom. Whether it was playing catch in the backyard with the boys, taking the dogs for a walk, or just sitting on the deck enjoying a cold Pepsi, Jeff was happy and content at home. In a world that prides itself on being ever busier, Jeff found comfort in the simple things of life—a bike ride, going for a walk, humming a silly song, keeping his yard tidy or simply watching the sun rise as he gazed across the backyard.

Jeff will be remembered as a friendly, hard-working Hy-Vee employee, as an Oklahoma fan, as a family man, and everyone's friend. But most importantly, over and above everything else, Jeff's family hopes he will be remembered as a man of God, a disciple of our Lord. He was committed to daily prayer, often praying as he knelt to stock shelves at Hy-Vee. Sunday Mass was central to his life and he never missed a Sunday or Holy Day, even while traveling. He was especially devoted to the Rosary, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, and the Chaplet of St. Michael the Archangel. Jeff frequently told everyone he met that he "just wanted to make it to heaven."

Jeff is survived by his wife of nearly 43 years, Julia (Kitson) Behm; sons: Fr. Patrick Behm of Carroll; Thomas (Marcia) Behm of Centennial, CO; siblings: Pam Sutton (Ted Hessleguesser) of Omaha, NE; Rod (Judy) Behm of Carroll; Tracy (Ed) Bredvick of Storm Lake; Mike (Norma) Behm of Storm Lake; father-in-law: Raymond Kitson; brother-in-law: Stan (Robyn) Kitson; brother-in-law: Doug (Phoebe) Kitson; sister-in-law: Marjie (Dave) Trummel; brother-in-law: Don (Marte) Kitson; as well as numerous nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Donald and Jean Behm; mother-in-law: Jeanne Anne Kitson; brother-in-law: Randy Sutton; and sister-in-law: Janet Kitson.

The family extends appreciation for the support, loving care and attention given by Cherokee Regional Medical Center Home Health and Hospice.

“God bless you, my friend!”

# Cemetery Details

## St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

1238 600th St.  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Previous Events

## Confession

NOV 27. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery  
1238 600th St.  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

## Visitation

NOV 27. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake  
320 Seneca Street  
Storm Lake, IA

## Chaplet of St. Michael the Archangel

NOV 27. 4:15 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake  
320 Seneca Street  
Storm Lake, IA

## **Vigil Service**

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NOV **27**. 7:30 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake  
320 Seneca Street  
Storm Lake, IA

## **Confession**

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NOV **28**. 9:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake  
320 Seneca Street  
Storm Lake, IA

## **Rosary**

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NOV **28**. 9:45 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake  
320 Seneca Street  
Storm Lake, IA

## **Funeral Mass**

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NOV **28**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake  
320 Seneca Street  
Storm Lake, IA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jeffry M. Behm*



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**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - November 27, 2023 at 12:30 PM



“ *Steph/Sharon Mickelson lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm*

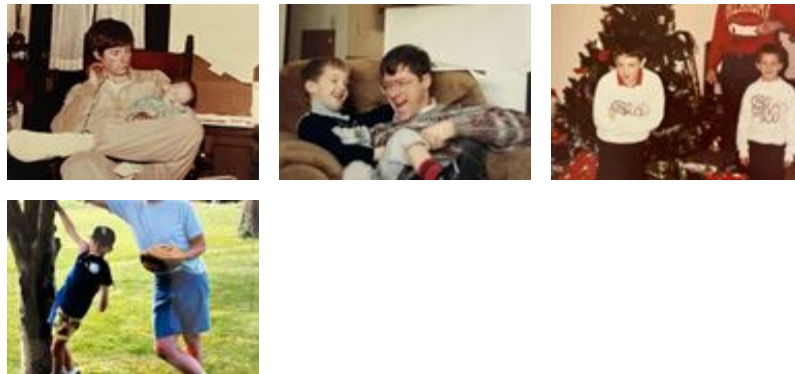


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**Steph/Sharon Mickelson** - November 30, 2023 at 06:00 PM



“ *4 files added to the album LifeTributes*



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**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - November 29, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Service Recording



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - November 28, 2023 at 05:28 PM



“ Julia - so sorry to learn of Jeff's death. I didn't know him well but absolutely every encounter with him included a friendly smile - he was one of a kind. Sending caring thoughts to you and your family.  
Ann Mackrill Kelly

Ann E Kelly - November 28, 2023 at 11:50 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jensen Funeral Homes - November 28, 2023 at 10:04 AM



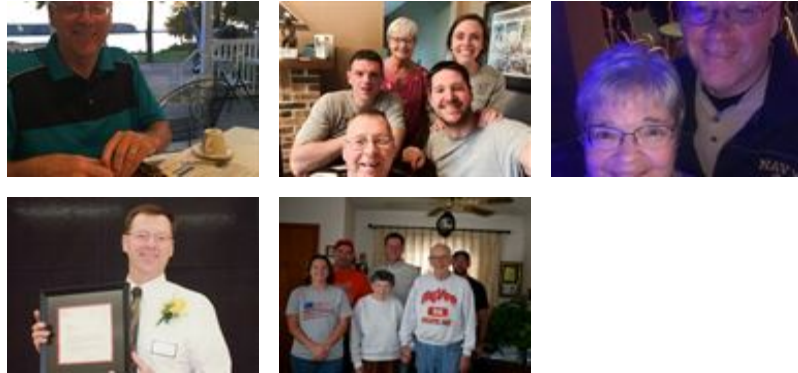
“ Pat Bjorkgren lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm



Pat Bjorkgren - November 27, 2023 at 06:29 PM



“ 163 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - November 27, 2023 at 12:26 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Jeffry M. Behm.*



November 27, 2023 at 11:21 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers continue for Julia and all of Jeff's family*

**Karmen Hodgdon** - November 27, 2023 at 09:54 AM

AV

“ So sorry for you loss Julia and family. When I think of Jeff, for me, he is the model of a family man and a devoted employee and friend. I will pray for his intercession and help as I have experienced intercessions from departed loved ones before.

*In 2006, Teresa Pishek Vonnahme and I were driving to Sioux City for chemo and after praying our customary three Hail Mary's I could tell she was really nervous and anxious. I asked her what was wrong and she would not answer. After a while I asked her what she was afraid of because if we can't beat this you know where you will end up and you will be doing great!*

*She said, "I just want to be able to hold my grandbabies". This made both of us very sad and I finally said "Teresa, you will be able to hold those babies and help them in ways I can't begin to imagine! You may be even able to look into their soul! " She did not disagree but this did not seem to comfort her.*

*Fast forward twelve years and Becca Klein (our youngest) was having her first baby in Clarion, Iowa and Becca and the baby were in trouble. Finally, a decision was made for an emergency c-section was performed and Nora was born not breathing. She had an Apgar score of 1 (I am told a score of 0 is the baby is dead or near death). After a frantic period of seemingly everyone in this small wonderful hospital rushing to Becca and Nora's aid, somehow Nora begins to breath and eventually Nora is rushed to the University of Iowa Neonatal Unit where aunt Molly Vonnahme Bauer and a slew of wonderful medical professionals slowly bring Nora to stable condition.*

*After all of this was over and Becca was describing this ordeal, it occurred to me Nora was born 12 years to the exact day and even the hour of her grandmother's Teresa death which sent tingles down my spine. I recalled the conversation Teresa and I had on our way to Sioux City on how she could help our grandbabies in ways I can't imagine. Now I can imagine. Both Becca and I have little doubt Nora*

*was aided by Teresa's intercessory prayer. As a former OB/labor and delivery nurse, I have little doubt she was helping the nurses and doctors (yelling a lot and giving orders, LOL) working on Becca and Nora.*

*While Teresa's intervention can't be proven, my heart says it is real and I believe our departed love ones do intercede for us through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. I have no doubt Jeff will be doing the same. God bless and take care, Al Vonnahme*

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**Alan Vonnahme** - November 26, 2023 at 04:49 PM

PW

“ *Heaven gained a new Saint. Jeff was the nicest person anyone could be Blessed to know. Rest in peace Jeff and help all brain tumor survivors. Patti & Rick*



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**Patricia Ann Wolff** - November 26, 2023 at 02:12 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jeffry M. Behm.*



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November 24, 2023 at 09:41 AM

DW

“ *Darvin Will lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm*



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**Darvin Will** - November 23, 2023 at 07:19 AM

JD

“ *John/Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm*



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**John/Connie Demers** - November 22, 2023 at 02:51 PM

DC

“ *Don Crouch lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm*



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**Don Crouch** - November 22, 2023 at 01:39 PM

BB

“ *Bob Baschke lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm*



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**Bob Baschke** - November 22, 2023 at 11:39 AM

JM

“ Peace and comfort to the Behm family. This has been a long journey-one definitely not planned, but your family saw the positives and brought everyone closer together through it. To know Jeff was to love him and your entire family.  
Prayers and hugs to each of you as you move forward in your lives.  
Kevin & Julie McKinney

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**Julie McKinney** - November 21, 2023 at 05:45 PM

NF

“ I always looked forward to visiting with Jeff at Hy-Vee. He had a smile and greeting for everyone. And, if you were looking for something and couldn't find it, he'd know where it was!! Hy-Vee wasn't the same after he retired :( Our sympathy to Julia and all his family. May the memories you hold in your hearts give you comfort in the coming days and months.  
Nancy & Craig Fratzke

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**nancy Fratzke** - November 21, 2023 at 08:23 AM

KP

“ karla pickhinke lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm



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**karla pickhinke** - November 21, 2023 at 12:42 AM



“ Peg Anderson lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm



Peg Anderson - November 20, 2023 at 07:48 PM



“ Dave Cheryl DeMan lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm



Dave and Cheryl DeMan - November 20, 2023 at 04:53 PM



“ Your Friends at BVRMC Rehab planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffry M. Behm.

Your Friends at BVRMC Rehab - November 20, 2023 at 04:49 PM



“ Cheeseboard Gourmet Gift was purchased for the family of Jeffry M. Behm.



November 20, 2023 at 04:49 PM

LZ

“ *One of the nicest men ever. Always so polite and friendly. Great family.* ”



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**Larry and Sue Zwemke** - November 20, 2023 at 02:19 PM



“ *Sally Rassler lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm* ”



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**Sally Rassler** - November 20, 2023 at 01:24 PM

TC

“ *If he ever had a bad day you would never know it...his name and his family are his legacy.* ”

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**Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh** - November 20, 2023 at 07:32 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy* ”



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**Mona Mason** - November 20, 2023 at 01:10 AM

GN

“ Grace Neuroth-Casson lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm



Grace Neuroth-Casson - November 19, 2023 at 11:09 PM

KM

“ Julia and family- my sympathy to you all.  
Love, Kay Snyder Marvin



Kay Marvin - November 19, 2023 at 10:45 PM

TB

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Behm family.



Terry and Cheryl Bruns - November 19, 2023 at 01:09 PM

AS

“ A red candle to show his love for the Sooners!  
Jeff was a true gem of a person, that we are  
so thankful to have known!



AMY SHERLOCK - November 19, 2023 at 12:15 PM

PF

“ Peg Flynn lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm



Peg Flynn - November 19, 2023 at 11:20 AM

AC

“ Al & Linda Carlsen lit this red candle in honor of our friend Jeff, may peace & comfort come to the family.



Al Linda Carlsen - November 19, 2023 at 10:30 AM

MT

“ Dear Behm family,  
What a true blessing it was to have been able to share Jeff's journey with you. Thank you so much. Much love and many prayers  
🙏❤️❤️🙏

Mary Timko - November 19, 2023 at 07:03 AM

SS

“ Scott Kathy Schwaller lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm



Scott & Kathy Schwaller - November 18, 2023 at 05:29 PM

NM

“ So sorry to the Behm family for their loss.

Nancy (Neuroth) Miller - November 18, 2023 at 10:01 AM

DJ

“ Debra Jesse sent a virtual gift in memory of Jeffry Behm



Debra Jesse - November 17, 2023 at 11:07 PM

RM

“ Randy Mona Mason lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm



Randy & Mona Mason - November 17, 2023 at 11:07 PM

PH

“ I am so very sorry for the loss of Jeff. He fought the fight and now he is in God's hands with no pain and a better eternal everlasting life. Many hugs and prayers to all of you.

*Pam Henderson*

Pam Henderson - November 17, 2023 at 08:56 PM

PH

“ Pam Henderson lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm



Pam Henderson - November 17, 2023 at 08:50 PM

BS

“ Brad Maureen Strader lit a candle in memory of Jeffry Behm



Brad and Maureen Strader - November 17, 2023 at 08:39 PM

MG

“ Jeff was an exceptional human being, who always had a smile for everyone, a very strong faith, and love of God and his family. My sincere sympathies to his family, he will be missed.

Mary Graves

Mary Graves - November 17, 2023 at 06:51 PM

JC

“ Jeff/Jean Chindlund sent a virtual gift in memory of Jeffry Behm



Jeff/Jean Chindlund - November 17, 2023 at 06:14 PM