



Bruce Stephen Pelynio

DEC 12, 1953 - DEC 20, 2018



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Bruce Stephen Pelynio is being celebrated for all that a wonderful person can possibly epitomize and represent. Bruce unexpectedly passed away on December 20, 2018 in a private plane crash near Atlanta, GA, at the age of 65. Bruce was President and CEO of Heli Americas, with past experience as VP of National Accounts at Yale Material Handling and Regional Sales Manager at Toyota Material Handling. Bruce was a leading force and visionary at Heli and achieved numerous accomplishments for the company and its employees. Bruce loved life and was at his best when he was with people. He had more friends than anyone could hope for in one's life. He was a genuine, generous, compassionate man and had a sharp intellect and quick wit. His humor and intelligence were the hallmark of his character. He was the smartest & funniest man his wife Laurie ever met. He held his family in the highest regard, with respect, love and dedication to being the best son, brother, and husband to his beloved wife Laurie and father to his cherished twin daughters. Bruce lived life to the fullest through his love of cars and had a passion for driving his Aston Martin whenever possible. He was an avid car enthusiast and would frequent his favorite hangout, Cars and Coffee, once a month on Saturdays. Bruce was also a boat enthusiast, with a penchant for speed and having fun. Bruce received a B.S. in Accounting from Penn State University. Bruce was an active member in the British Car Club and was also a Penn State Alumni and lifelong Nittany Lion fan. WE ARE! His community service was commendable, participating in the Wreaths Across America program, and ringing the bell for the Salvation Army for 20 years with his family. Bruce is survived by his wife, Laurie Lawler Pelynio, twin daughters Shannon Pelynio and her boyfriend Matthew Brady of Memphis, TN and Kelsey Pelynio Stiles, and husband Seth Stiles of Windham ME; his sister Dr. Jan K. Richardson, and brother-in-law Robert W. Richardson of Durham, NC; nephew Ryan S. Richardson, and wife Elizabeth Anne and twins Brooks Robert and Lucy Anne of



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Kernersville, NC; and niece Kara J. Richardson of San Francisco, CA. He is preceded in death by his mother and father Delores and Stephen Pelynio, of Lower Burrell, PA. He will be forever in our hearts and will always be a driving force to inspire us to be better people. A celebration of Bruce's phenomenal life will be held at 6 p.m., Saturday, January 12 at Owen Brennan's, Memphis TN. Further details regarding time and hotel information will follow. For those who wish to place a donation in his memory; The Salvation Army and Tunnel2Towers.org. are suggested. Arrangements have been entrusted to Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5668 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38119 (901) 767-8930. "Celebrating Life... Behind the Stone Wall".



Tribute Wall

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DC

Dirk & Kari Gardner (Collierville Tn) posted:

I was heartbroken to hear of Bruce's passing. Kari and I have been neighbors to Bruce and Laurie for 9 years in Collierville and they have been wonderful. Bruce was always washing his cars on Saturdays/Sundays and during the Summer mowing his lawn. Bruce was friendly to all and he made the neighborhood a better place with his yard decorations during the holidays and his warm smile and personality. He will be missed. Laurie, please let us know if you need anything.

January 11 at 6:05 AM

BC

Bill Wardle (Charlottesville, Va) posted:

I have such fond memories of Bruce and Jan from our neighborhood in Lower Burrell and from high school. That was a few years ago, but there is something about that time in our lives that stays with us. I am so sorry for your loss.

January 7 at 5:22 AM

DJ

David And Pat Jarr posted:

Bruce's sudden and accidental passing is certainly a loss that is difficult to describe. His infectious smile, positive outlook on life, and willingness to lend a helping hand will be truly missed for many years to come. To all who were able to have him as a part of their life there is no question he was either a great friend, husband, relative, or father -- a great person all the way around that left us far too early. God bless you BigMan!

January 2 at 2:11 PM

CC

Christopher Chmiel posted:

I am beside myself about Bruce's passing. He was one of the most passionate people I have ever met and I am glad to have known him. Although I have never worked for Bruce, He gave me some of the best advice and guidance I have ever received. Sitting with him and my boss watching a video on Jay leno's turbine car was one of the most hilarious things I have ever seen. two men with such passion over cars, its not something you see a lot, when they are from 2 different worlds. Thank you for the introduction to Corky's. I hope I can be 1/4 as successful in life that you were. I will miss you.

January 2 at 5:47 AM



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PM

Phyllis Michael posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with the Family and Friends of Mr. Pelynio. May God surround you with love during this time.

December 31 at 4:46 AM

TS

Tom And Janis Saputo posted:

Bruce was a wonderful man who will be dearly missed. He was warm and sincere. He had a quick wit. Bruce knew how to laugh and how to help others laugh, too. May you find solace in remembering the happy times.

December 29 at 2:21 PM

JL

Jon Levine posted:

I had the fortune to meet and work with Bruce when he joined Yale as the VP of National Accounts. Bruce was a great guy and he and I shared a number of interests including cars and boats. We also shared the role of fathers to twin daughters. If you knew Bruce you knew that he loved his wife and his daughters. After we both left Yale for other opportunities Bruce reached out to me on a number of occasions over the years just to say hi and catch up. I always enjoyed catching up with him and I consider myself very fortunate to have had him as a friend. I was so upset to get the news about the airplane accident that took him from us way too soon. My heart goes out to Laurie, Shannon and Kelsey for their loss. I wish I had something to say other than I am so sorry and have been thinking of you and Bruce through this holiday season. He was a wonderful person that will be sorely missed.

December 28 at 11:27 AM

RM

Rochelle Mcdonald posted:

I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Bruce Pelynio at Sunshine Enterprise upon his early connection to Sunshine w/Heli Americas and he was a wonderful, very approachable and joyous person. He was a great encourager that just wouldn't take "cant" as an answer. I worked in logistics there and he sought my advice on many occasions and respected my knowledge. I loved his energy and he would always say, "kiddo we got this"! I will always remember his astute candor and very positive and upbeat personality. My deepest sympathy to Mrs. Pelynio whom he just adored and his girls to which he talked about all the time and his entire family.

December 27 at 9:27 AM



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TF

Tim Finnell posted:

Bruce was the most upbeat guy that I ever met. Always with a kind word and a smile. A true gentleman. We laughed about the size and number of our TVs! My deepest condolences

December 27 at 6:55 AM

BH

Brian Harris posted:

I knew Bruce through our industry. He was a man well respected and well loved by all. I truly believe God gifted Bruce with kindness and wisdom and he was quick to share those gifts in his life. He will be missed as the world was a kinder place with him in it.

December 27 at 3:02 AM

JU

Joe Underwood posted:

Laurie i wanted to send to you my warmest and sincere condolences to you and your family. We had great times talking cars at events and at the dealership. Please let me know if i can be of any help whatsoever to you or your family. Sincerely, Joe Underwood Fmr partner at Collierville auto center. 99vettejoe@comcast.net 731.697.2211

December 26 at 11:20 AM

RS

Rod & Nancy Stem posted:

Nancy and I met Bruce when he lived in our community of Cypress Landing here in eastern N.C. We loved being in his company, along with wife Laurie, as his quick wit and wonderful sense of humor was contagious. When he left our community in 2006 we kept up with both Bruce and Laurie via social media. We spent a weekend in May of 2017 as their house guests, where they were such gracious hosts and took us all around Memphis. I always enjoyed his posts on FaceBook, and kept up with his travels and family time. He was so full of life. Nancy and I are still in a state of shock as to his untimely death in the plane crash. Our hearts and prayers go out to Laurie, Shannon and Kelsey and the rest of his family and friends. He will always be remembered with fondness and love by us, and the world is a little darker since his passing.

December 25 at 8:27 AM



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MM

Mike Moody posted:

Laurie and family our condolences for your loss. We have only known you guys for a short time, but will remember Bruce forever. He was a kind, gentle man full of life, always with a smile on his face. May he Rest In Peace.

December 25 at 5:45 AM

JS

Jeffrey S Smith posted:

To the family of Bruce ,I only knew Bruce for these last couple of years, being we just became a HELI Dealer in Dayton, Ohio. I was just down to Memphis Dec 10 & 11 and talked to Bruce and brought him a Christmas present, he took the fan in his office and put this gift in its place. As always he was full of energy and always eager to help you out. He had a passion for the lifttruck industry as they always say if you get the bug you never leave it. I wish we could have had many more opportunities to talk, because a fun fact he would of liked to know is my mother and father was from Lowell Burrell as well. I only know God has a plan for all of us and he must of needed Bruce at this time. I hope God will give you his family comfort in these coming days. If you ever need anything please don't hesitate to call. May God Bless and hold you in the palms of his hands! Sincerely Jeffrey S Smith President/CFO and the entire team at Integrity Industrial Equipment Inc.

December 24 at 3:19 PM

DH

Deb Holbrook posted:

Bruce was a light in a dense world of fog. His wit, love for life and his Laurie and daughters shone so bright! He is no candle in the wind but a beacon for us to follow. You are at peace in our Father's world, but oh what a void in ours. We love you Brucester!

December 24 at 1:53 PM

TH

Todd Holbrook posted:

Kelsey, Shannon and Laurie, Bruce was an extraordinary guy – but that's something you've known forever. He was intelligent, caring, and witty. He was one of the best all-around people I ever met. He will be truly missed not only by you and his extended family, but literally hundreds of others. He was irreverent but you always knew that he cared about you. Please take comfort in the fact that he is now at peace with his maker, and we will all meet him again at the proper time. Love to you all, Todd

December 23 at 11:34 AM



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TI

Tim Jamal - Jamco Inc. posted:

Laurie Condolences to you and the family; We at Jamco are deeply saddened to hear the terrible news. Bruce has always been a well respected man throughout the forklift industry, an honorable person who always had a smile and will truly be missed. May GOD rest his soul and give you, your family along with everyone at Heli Americas the strength at this most difficult time.

December 22 at 4:03 PM

MK

Mike Kennedy posted:

Laurie, Kelsey and Shannon, Words simply can not express how sorry I am for your loss of a father, husband and friend. I share in the pain you feel, dazed and confused wondering in a fog questioning why... Bruce was a mentor to me... A friend and just a truly wonderful person. Bruce was dedicated in everything he did and to all those that he was close to. He will be dearly missed by all of us, but he will never be forgotten.

December 22 at 9:00 AM

LJ

Laverne D Jones posted:

My heart goes out to your family. I am sorry for your loss. Look to God for comfort. He will hear your prayers because he cares about you. Psalm 65:2; 1 Peter 5:7

December 22 at 4:23 AM

FB

Fred Brown Jr. posted:

Bruce was a wonderful man and will be missed by many of us in the forklift industry. I am sincerely sorry for your loss and hope you can take comfort in how many people were positively affected by Bruce. Love from Illinois.

December 21 at 4:08 PM

LV

Layla Vaughn posted:

Laurie. I'm so sorry to hear of Bruce's passing. May God comfort you and Bruce's family during this difficult time.

December 21 at 2:42 PM



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Vernon posted:

So very sorry for your loss.its never easy losing a loved one, but the Bible gives us a hope that we can see our loved ones again. And at that time death will be no more. This is a promise from Jehovah God.. Revelation 21:3-5, and John 5:28,29. I hope these scriptures help the family.

December 21 at 10:38 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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