

Bradley Onarheim – BS 1984 Pharmacy

Bradley (Brad) Scott Onarheim, 64, of Zimmerman, Minnesota passed away peacefully early August 14, 2024, in his home. He was born May 9, 1960, in Bottineau, North Dakota to Einar and Dolores Onarheim. Brad was baptized and confirmed at the First Lutheran Church in Bottineau.

Brad was born to a first-generation Norwegian immigrant, and very proud of his Norwegian heritage. He graduated from Bottineau high school. Brad was the first of his family to get a college degree, spending his first years at Bottineau State University. He earned a two-year scholarship for academics and athletics (basketball) to the NDSU Bottineau branch (Dakota College). He completed his Bachelor of Pharmacy Degree at NDSU Fargo graduating in the fall of 1984. He was honored in 1988 at Dakota College Bottineau Hall of Fame for his basketball achievements.

Brad met the love of his life, Sara Cornell, from Medora, ND while they were students at NDSU. It was love at first sight. They were married on September 3, 1983, in Medora, ND. Following graduation from NDSU they moved to Glendale, Arizona, where he began his 36-year career in Pharmacy. He retired from Healthpartners in April of 2020. Brad and Sara were blessed with two sons Erik and Matthew. Brad was incredibly proud of his boys, and often voiced they were his greatest accomplishments. He and Sara were elated with the recent birth of their first grandchild Maeve Marie Onarheim on October 14, 2023.

Becoming a grandparent brought a whole new meaning to Brad's life. Brad found great joy in many hobbies. He spent a lot of time in his garden growing tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and munching on rhubarb. He subsequently became very accomplished at canning the fruits of his garden labor. His salsa was in particular, a favorite of the many friends who received it as gifts. Many of the flower arrangements you see here today are from Brad and Sara's flower gardens that he tended for the past 20 years.

Brad's love of travel took him to many places around the world. Brad shared with his family a dream trip to Oslo and Bergen, Norway, in June 2024, reconnecting with the Onarheim family. A highlight of the trip was enjoying a multi-generational dinner at the ancestral Onarheim farm in the village of Onarheim on the island of Tyrnes. Other favorites were houseboat trips with friends in Arizona and Nevada and he enjoyed his travel to San Diego, Nashville, Amtrak train trip to National Parks, Vancouver Island, and a Mediterranean Cruise through France, Spain, Monte Carlo, Italy and Tuscany. Brad's screened in porch was his favorite place to relax and enjoy his pastime of bird watching and feeding the many species of birds that enjoyed their backyard haven. Brad also had a passion for fishing! He was known to cast for hours on a dock, going through every piece of tackle in his box; hoping to land the "big one". His love for cooking and preparing elaborate meals for family and friends became a pastime in retirement. He and Sara would spend hours watching cooking shows, going through online cookbooks, trying new recipes, perfecting and personalizing them to their well-seasoned palates. He also became an expert at smoking meats, cheeses, and vegetables.

Sports were a large part of Brad's life from the time he was old enough to dribble a basketball or swing a golf club. His Junior college MVP awards capped off a remarkable basketball career in Bottineau. He was an Elk River youth basketball coach where he enjoyed teaching his son Erik about his love of basketball. Moving to Arizona after graduating from NDSU was the perfect place to launch a golf career and play it year-round. He was a superfan of the Minnesota Vikings and Timberwolves; and also enjoyed watching boxing.

Brad is survived by his wife Sara Onarheim of 41 years; children, Erik (Karin) Onarheim, and Matthew Onarheim; grandchild, Maeve Onarheim; brother, Steve Onarheim; sister, Maria Onarheim, sister-in-law Monica Onarheim and Lori Onarheim; nieces and nephews, Gabriel, Carley, Kye, Tyler, Dylan (Corrine), Austin (Jordan), Einar, Mark and Scott Onarheim.

He is reunited with his father and mother, Einar and Delores Onarheim; brothers, Mark and Neil Onarheim; sister, Shelly Rae Onarheim-Barnes; grandparents, Leo and Ella Moen & Engelina and Bjarne Onarheim; aunts, Greta Pettersen and Kitty Storevedt; uncles, Bjarne Onarheim, Merle Moen, and Dennis Moen.

Visitation will be held August 24, 2024, from 9:30-11:00 a.m., and a Celebration of Life Service from 11:00-Noon, at Dare's Funeral Home, 805 Main Street, Elk River, Minnesota 55330. The family invites all to a lunch after the service, to be held from 12:00-3:00 PM at the Otsego Prairie Center, 8899 Nashua Avenue, Otsego, MN 55301.