

Bernard "Bernie" Cornelius

May 10, 1958 - April 26, 2026

Bernard "Bernie" Cornelius, 67, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by love. His loss is deeply felt by his devoted wife, family, dear friends, and the many people whose lives he touched throughout the years.

Born and raised in Mount Vernon, Ohio, Bernie built an extraordinary life through hard work, determination, and heart. A proud Ohio State University Buckeye, he pursued studies that supported the career path he would go on to master. Bernie began working in the construction industry at a young age and devoted his life to the profession he loved. In 2000, he joined Summit Contracting Group as a Project Manager and rose to become Executive Vice President. He was widely respected for his guidance, high standards, and commitment to excellence. Many have shared that they would not be where they are today without Bernie's mentorship and belief in them. He lived by the motto "Whatever it takes," words that reflected how he approached both work and life. Outside of work, Bernie embraced life fully. He loved deep sea fishing and the thrill of reeling in the big ones. One of his proudest catches was a 620-pound marlin that now hangs on the family back porch. He treasured fishing trips with friends throughout the Caribbean islands, where laughter, camaraderie, cold beers, celebratory tequila, and Kid Rock playing in the background became part of the tradition.

Bernie and Tamara also created the special Casa Cornelius Marlin Club, where necklaces were awarded to

anyone who caught their first marlin while fishing with them. These treasured celebrations were often marked with special dinners and unforgettable memories. Bernie loved celebrating the people he cared about and often orchestrated wonderful birthday and anniversary gatherings with close family and friends at Sanctuary Cap Cana in the Dominican Republic, creating memories that will be treasured for years to come.

At home, Bernie's favorite place was his corner in the pool, where he could relax, watch television, and enjoy life year-round-even if it meant turning the heater up to 90 degrees. Those who visited knew exactly where to find him. He loved welcoming family and close friends into the home and sharing good times together.

Bernie also loved hosting unforgettable Fourth of July celebrations, complete with fireworks, music, great food, and a bartender to make sure everyone had a good time.

More than all of his accomplishments, Bernie was a loving husband and devoted partner. Together, he and his wife built a beautiful life filled with love, laughter, travel, and cherished memories. Their love story was so special they were married three times, including in their dream destination of Bora Bora. Those who knew Bernie will remember his generous spirit, genuine heart, welcoming nature, and unforgettable dry sense of humor.

Bernie leaves behind a legacy of strength, laughter, generosity, leadership, and love. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Velma Cornelius.

He is survived by his loving wife, Tamara Cornelius; his sisters, Frances Allendar and Margaret Hunter; his

brother-in-law, Phil Hunter; many nieces and nephews; and many dear friends, family members, and colleagues.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Community Hospice & Palliative Care of Jacksonville for the

compassion, comfort, and care shown to Bernie and his loved ones.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.

Tribute Wall

CT

“ *Bernie will surely be missed.*

Bernie and his wife visited my beautiful island a few years ago, and I was assigned to take them out on our boat for lunch. That day was the beginning of a friendship that quickly became family. We stayed in touch ever since.

Bernie was one of the sweetest people I have ever known. Everyone who met him loved him. Hearing of his passing today has truly saddened me. I am going to miss you, my brother, but your memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew you.

Thank you for being the wonderful person you were and for the friendship we shared. Love you, brother.

Rest easy, Bernie. Gone but never forgotten. ❤️🙏🕊️



Captain Ted - June 04 at 02:34 PM

PS

“ *I have worked with Bernie for many years as his travel agent and booked many trips for him and Tamara and others as he would provide travel for family members & friends. Bernie was always so kind and generous and fun. He will be forever missed and always in my heart. Rest in peace Bernie! Penny Smith*

Penny Smith - May 21 at 10:18 AM

CT

You sure did, Penny. Captain Ted from Saint Lucia. You arranged trips for me twice, and I still have your email. Bernie will surely be missed.

Captain Ted - June 04 at 02:22 PM

WA

“ *Bernie,
The memories we got to share will be cherished for years. You will missed so much. Dance with those Marlins, and everything beautiful in heaven. Thank you for letting us be apart of your life. Till we meet again 🙏*



Wayna Arenado - April 29 at 06:34 PM

DM

“ *Bernie and SCG were one of my first and favorite clients when I started my recruiting career. We instantly became friends. I will always remember Bernie as he was one of a kind. My deepest condolences and sympathy go out to his family and friends.*

Dave Moore - April 29 at 03:59 PM

KC

“ Dear, Ms. Tamara & family- our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with you & your dear family while you navigate this tremendous loss. Fred & I were so sad to hear of Bernie’s passing. He was truly a larger than life character despite his small stature. I always enjoyed seeing him every Christmas! He’d seek me out and ask if I needed anything & then he’d make me promise to please reach out directly if I ever did. Truly a thoughtful, caring, human being. Fred was always so grateful to Mr. Bernie for bringing him aboard to Summit; he believed in him wholeheartedly & gave him a chance of a lifetime.

Please know, you’ll always be family to us.

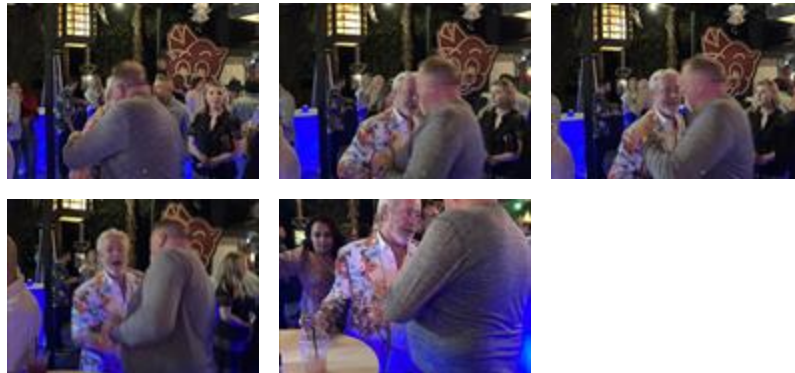
We hope to see you again and give you a big hug.

I know Bernie is smiling down from the best view in the house, perhaps with a tad of Johnny Walker Blue on the side. 😊

We pray our Heavenly Father continues to wrap his loving arms around you and your family.

Much love & best wishes from Utah,

Fred & Kala Cooley



Kala Clifton-Cooley - April 29 at 09:51 AM