



## Bruce Purtle

February 13, 1955 - December 17, 2023

### BRUCE PURTLE

Bruce Dean Purtle was a Christian, a family man, a firefighter, and a friend to many. He died December 17, 2023 at the age of 68, surrounded by family at his home in Barnett, Missouri. Bruce and his twin-brother, Bryan were born February 13, 1955, in Kansas City, Missouri, the youngest children of Glenn and Dorothy Purtle.

He became a follower of Jesus as a boy and was kept in persevering faith until his last day.

At age 16, Bruce met Robin Alonzo, who became the love of his life, and in 1974 they were married.

In 1973, he graduated from Westport High School. Their first son, Daniel, was born in 1977 and their second son, Bryan, was born in 1979.

He was hired as a firefighter and first responder with the Kansas City Missouri Fire Department in 1977. He loved firefighting and flourished in the job for over 32 years, retiring as Captain of Pumper 17 in 2009. He was “the kind of guy you were always glad to have on the scene,” as many of his co-workers said. Testimonies from KCFD firefighters abound regarding Bruce’s work ethic, job smarts, and consistent kindness to fellow firefighters and citizens. He was a fine example of how to do the job and how to treat others while doing it.

Through the years, he also served the church in various capacities - as a faithful church member, a deacon (doing building maintenance), and a youth leader and father-figure to many young people.

Countless neighbors, relatives, and acquaintances have shared with the family the many ways in which he helped or cared for them in times of need. By the grace that God gave him, he left an imprint on many people that was both positive and noteworthy. He looked selflessly to the interests of others in thousands of ways over the course of his life. He was a patient man who could often be found caring for those who were otherwise overlooked; a quality listener who showed compassion to many.

Bruce enjoyed getting out in the woods, hunting, relaxing with friends, singing old hymns and listening to classic rock, having good barbecue and cold sweet tea, among many other things. He had a good sense of humor and enjoyed laughing, and when he really got to laughing, others got to laughing with him.

As much as he loved work and enjoyed life, he loved his God and his family most, especially Robin, his best friend and bride of 49 years.

Bruce Purtle was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend, leader— a kind and humble man of God. Over the last few years, he said many times, “I am ready to see the Lord,” and though we mourn his death, we rejoice to know that he is still quite alive in the presence of Christ. His joy is now full and unfading, and the promise of the resurrection ensures us that we will see him again in the age to come. For these reasons we have hope amidst grief. We are “sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.”

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents, Glenn and Dorothy Purtle; and more recently, his twin brother, Bryan.

He is survived by his wife, Robin; their two sons, Daniel (and wife Maria) and Bryan (and wife Audrey); his brother, Albert Purtle (and wife Rose); sister, Joyce Taylor; sister-in-law, Patty Purtle; sister-in-law, Winona Bustos (and husband Tony); brother-in-law, David Alonzo; grandchildren, Isabella (and husband Alex), Moyenna (and husband Clayton), India, Simeon, Havilah, and Jonah; great-grandchildren, Moses, Luca, and Solomon and Liliya Ruth (forthcoming); numerous nieces and nephews, and many other beloved family members whom he loved, and by whom he will be missed.

A visitation will be held from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., Friday, January 12, 2024 at Crown Pointe Church, 5950 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, Missouri. A celebration of life will begin at 4:00 pm., at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to be made to: Crown Pointe Church or Bellicose Church.

Online condolences may be left at [www.kidwellgarber.com](http://www.kidwellgarber.com).

Cremation arrangements are under the care and direction of the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home of Versailles.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 12. 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Crown Pointe Church  
5950 NE Lakewood Way  
Lee's Summit, MO 64064

## Celebration of Life

JAN 12. 4:00 PM (CT)

Crown Pointe Church  
5950 NE Lakewood Way  
Lee's Summit, MO 64064

# Tribute Wall

NA

“ I was considering being a firefighter after high school and Bruce immediately said yes when I asked him if he'd show me around the firehouse. He went above and beyond, showing me the bunk area, telling me about all the jobs and even inviting me to eat with all the guys.

*So generous and kind anytime I spent the night with Bryan in high school as well.*

*Last anecdote: I was riding with Bruce downtown somewhere and we were in a potentially dangerous area. He taught me to always stay a car length away from cars in front of you in case you need to get out of there fast and can go around them quickly. I thought that was so wise and do it to this day. Thanks for teaching me situational awareness, generosity and kindness in the few great experiences I got to share with you Bruce.*

*Rest peacefully in the grace of God's love my friend!*

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**Nick Anderson** - December 22, 2023 at 10:23 AM

BT

“ I can very vividly remember picking Bruce up from his home at the age of about 18 months old, putting him in the car where he would stand against my shoulder (before carseats) and take him to church, knowing his family were going also. He was always very kind and always thought the best of everyone. He came from a great family who instilled the love of God in his life, which he and Robin passed down to their children. He will be missed, but we will see him at the dinner table. Love you Bruce Dean.

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**Beverly Taylor** - December 19, 2023 at 09:33 PM

RP

*Love this Bev!*

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**Robin Purtle** - December 19, 2023 at 10:48 PM

PW

*Robin and family,*

*This is a bittersweet time for you, your family, and everyone that loved Bruce. He had a quiet, gentle, and fun-loving spirit. He leaves behind a beautiful legacy: a loving wife, an amazing family, and countless friends. And, we all take comfort in knowing that God has welcomed him home, and that Bruce will be there to welcome his loved ones.*

*Goodbye, dear Bruce, until we meet again.*

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**Pat Williams** - December 20, 2023 at 02:04 AM



*To: Robin, Daniel, Bryan, and all of Bruce's family and friends: I am certain that you already know of the admiration people have for your husband, father, brother, and friend. Bruce touched my life in so many positive ways from my very early days on KCFD at 17's. Bruce was such a good man who never said a bad word about anyone, and people only spoke with reverence about him. He was an excellent fire fighter who worked with many legends of KCFD and shined among them. Bruce was a constant source of strength, knowledge, and wisdom. He was a guiding light and mentor to many, especially young fire fighters. He was an expert and "the" example of how to do the job with compassion in the darkest of times. I was fortunate enough to have had the pleasure of talking with Bruce and Robin at the Osage Beach FPD fish fry a couple of years ago and reminiscing. While I knew Bruce as a firefighter's firefighter, anyone who knew Bruce, know he loved his family.*

*Rest in peace, friend!*

*Paul Berardi*

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**Paul Berardi** - January 12, 2024 at 10:51 AM

BR

*To Robin and the rest of the family, my sincere condolences to all of you. Bruce was an outstanding human being and never met a stranger. He was always happy to see you and had a smile on his face. Robin and Bruce lived across the street from me and my Mom & Dad for years on Charlotte Street and we just thought the world of both of them and was very sad when they moved. Robin, I know with your faith and family support you will continue on, it will not be the same but he will always be with you and smiling down on you. God Bless you all.*

*Becky Tavernaro Robinson*

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**Becky Tavernaro Robinson** - January 12, 2024 at 03:22 PM

JF

*Thinking about each of you who loved, and will always love such a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather! Bruce is always in your hearts and those of his friend's hearts- it is so sad because nothing hurts like losing one who is loved so deeply! Praying for each of you in these days, weeks, and months ahead, that you will feel the Lord's Holy Spirit comforting you in a very special, and real way!!!! Sending infinite love !!!*

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**Jeannie Russell Frank** - January 12, 2024 at 03:48 PM

LH

*To the Purtle family: Bruce was the captain at P17/A when I was 106/A. I greatly admired his poise and unflinching character. He set a great example for others in our battalion. I knew him to be a man of compassion, strength, and believer in his faith. I was honored to know this "good man."*

*"Close your eyes, my friend, and let Gods calm waters take you home"*

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**Lew Hendricks** - January 18, 2024 at 04:43 PM