



## Bernard Erwin Teuber

August 20, 1942 - May 29, 2023

B. Erwin Teuber 1942-2023 B. Erwin Teuber, a man of integrity, kindness, and a deep commitment to service and helping the most vulnerable in our society, passed away on May 28. Ern, as he was known to family and friends, grew up in tiny Rockville, MN with his hard-working parents and three siblings...a happy childhood with friends and siblings, enjoying, sports, and adventures exploring the nearby woods and river. Early lessons of hard work and perseverance were formative, as his parents powered through often difficult times in providing for their family with their general store and grain storage businesses...and hard-working young Ern learning life lessons on his newspaper route. In addition to academics, Ern had a wide range of interests in high school, playing trumpet in the high school concert, marching, and pep bands, basketball, track and field, and serving as President of the Student Council. He made an easy transition to nearby St Cloud State College, graduating in 1964. Familiar with rural poverty growing up, Ern had a life-long interest addressing inequality and social justice, reinforced by his working with the marginalized populations in the inner city of Columbus, OH, as Director of Economic Development and Employment for the Urban League of Ohio, while earning MA and Ph.D. degrees in Sociology at Ohio State University. After a year of teaching at Miami of Ohio University, Ern confronted the great inequalities in access to healthcare from a policy level as Director of Health Planning for the Ohio Department of Health. This commitment to improving access to healthcare for underserved communities took Ern to Nampa,

Idaho, in 1986 as Administrator of Community Health Clinics, Inc. (later named Terry Reilly Health Services), a non-profit providing primary care to all, especially underserved populations. After a brief (9 month!!) retirement, Ern's commitment to service still burned bright, and he served as Executive Director of the Oregon Health Services University Primary Care Clinic, Richmond, in Portland, with a mission of serving a similar population in a more urban setting. In each work setting, Ern brought a rare combination of deep commitment to the underserved, the highest ethical standards, with vision, optimism, and tenacity... uniquely paired with his organizational leadership, management, and people skills that could lead and inspire others to accomplish great things in working together. He was a creative problem solver, and often the catalyst in bringing innovative ideas to better serve patients and the community, as in his idea to combat the lack of public transportation as a barrier to patients getting to clinics, hospitals, and health department services, by deploying underutilized HeadStart buses as an initial solution... growing into what is today, 32 years later, a 10 county transportation system. Ern brought the same values of integrity, kindness, and service to his friendships... always generous, dependable, quick to offer help moving, or whatever was asked or needed. When dear friend, TRHS Medical Director and bike rider Bob Lebow passed away, Ern (also a bike rider) scouted the picturesque rural routes connecting TRHS clinics, designed the course for fun riders and century riders, and created the annual Bob Lebow Bike Tour, in Bob's honor... enthusiastically supported by bike riders and the community, with proceeds going to the Zero Pay Fund for low-income patients.

Ern was not only builder of community programs, he greatly enjoyed taking on building/renovation projects at home. From building a new garage, to serious renovation of a barn and farmhouse, no project was too big, as he was confident that they "could figure anything out" that might arise in the process... a lesson for both renovation-helper sons in their early years. Work wood was another passion for Ern, culminating with his dream wood working shop, "Ern's wood chapel" in his backyard. With each move, Ern and

Kate quickly made every house a lovely home of warmth, welcome, and good cheer...every garden colorful and bountiful...every gathering of friends a fun, memorable occasion, with Ern's seasonal grilling skills often displayed, complemented by the loving presence of family dogs and cats circulating among the guests, creating joyful memories for all. Ern was a fun-loving guy, and friends will fondly remember many restaurant and brew pub excursions together over the years, as well as: century bike rides in Ohio; the Melba 4th of July parade; countless country/mountain road motorcycle adventures (including a ride to Sturgis); bicycle trail rides and Airstream camping on Lake Coeur d' Alene; beach house gatherings on the Oregon Coast; a villa in Italy; a cruise to Alaska; and so many more special moments. As health challenges emerged, Ern retired in 2016. Retirement v.2 meant daily e-bike rides and coffee with friends; working wood in "Ern's wood chapel" with his lovely 4-legged assistant, Bella; reading books that met his life-long-learning criteria, like "Caste"; another go at learning to play the piano; and keeping up with friends near and far. After a full life of service, love, and friendship, a confluence of health issues ended Ern's life on May 28, 2023. As a good friend put it, Ern was "a force for good" ...with the lives of thousands who did not know Ern, touched by that goodness, and those who knew him best, touched by our memories of that goodness. Ern is survived by wife Kate; son Aron (Ann), granddaughter Thi; and son Jed (Noelle), grandsons Truman and Bowen; siblings John, Louise, and Kathie; and special dog buddy Bella. A Celebration of Ern's Life will be held at the home of Ern and Kate on July 1.

# Tribute Wall



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**Evergreen Memorial Gardens** - July 03, 2025 at 04:32 PM



“ *Bernard Erwin Teuber*

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**Pat & Chuck Haley** - July 11, 2023 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ *Ern was our brother-in-law. No nicer nor kinder man have we ever known. No matter what, there was always a smile on his face.*

*Ern always took everything in stride. When he interviewed for the job in Idaho, the clothing he intended to wear was missing along with his luggage lost by the airline. He went on with the interview wearing the clothing he traveled in. His calm demeanor helped him to get the job. Nothing seemed to upset him. No matter what, he was always ready to handle problems and move on.*

*Ern had a talent for music. I remember him playing the harmonica during our visit with Him and Kate in Idaho. He was interested in my trumpet playing. As it turned out, he was a fellow trumpet player. He once gave me a pair of socks with G clefs on them. He said that he always liked to wear whimsical socks. He also loved and enjoyed the outdoors. From camping, biking, canoeing, your name it, Ern was all in. Ern really loved life.*

*Ern also could relate well with just about anyone. He never met a stranger. He could strike up a conversation with anyone because he genuinely liked people and took an instant interest in them.*

*Ern was truly a good man and will be sorely missed.*

*Pat & Chuck Haley*

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**Pat & Chuck Haley** - July 10, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory*

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for Bernard Erwin Teuber** - June 10, 2023 at 12:00 AM