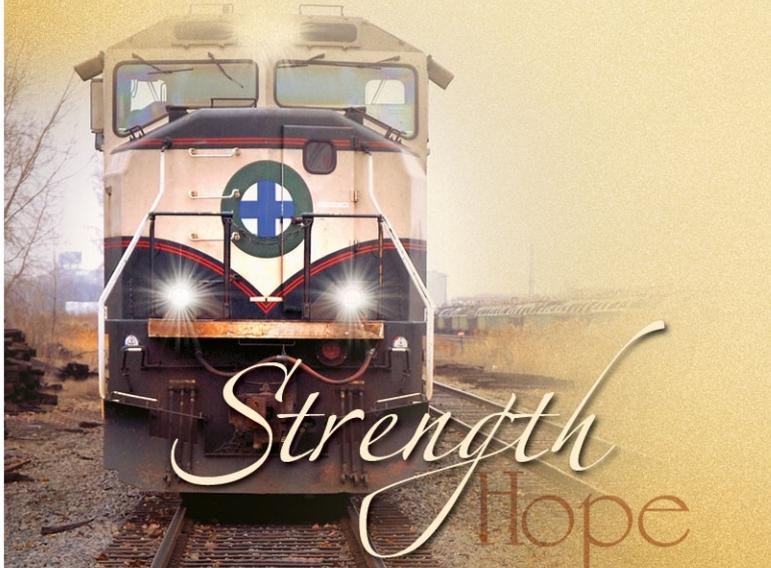




Appreciation & Reception

Russell's family wishes to express their sincere appreciation for all your prayers and kindness, evidenced in thought and deed, and for your presence at this service.

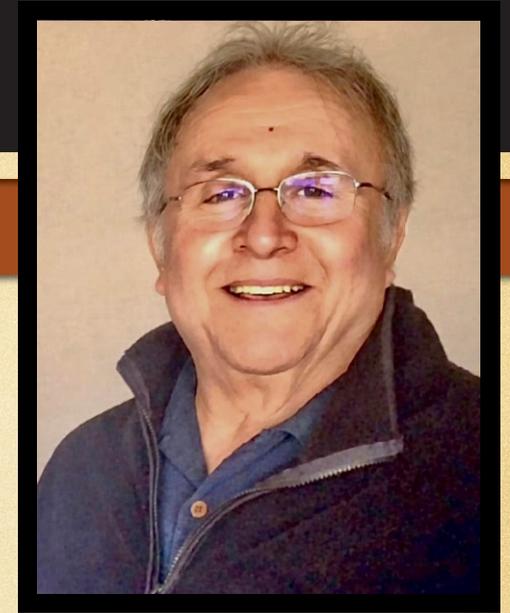
Following the memorial service, the family invites all to join them for a reception at the Windom Senior Center.



And Windom air so fresh and fair,
And with joy that is almost pain
My heart goes back to wander there,
And among the dreams of days that were,
I find my lost youth again.
And the strange and beautiful song,
The Windom winds are repeating it still:
"A boy's will is the wind's will,
And the thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts. "

Rest well.

Image & poem created by Chabrun Bernd



In Loving Memory
Russell Francis Bernd
January 28, 1946 - December 10, 2025





Russell Francis Bernd

Russell Francis Bernd, 79, of Windom, KS, passed away on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, surrounded by family at Via Christi-St. Francis Regional Medical Center, Wichita.

Russell was born on January 28, 1946, in Claflin, KS, the son of Leo Eugene and Velma "Grace" (Werner) Bernd. He grew up in McPherson, where he attended St. Joseph Catholic School and McPherson High School. At the age of 19, Russell proudly joined the United States Navy and served on the USS Independence until he was honorably discharged in 1968. Later that year on November 9, 1968, Russell was united in marriage to Janis Norene Gibbens.

He retired from the ATSF Railroad where he was a trackman and truck driver for 35 years.

Memories

Known for his easy smile and gift for storytelling, Russell made friends wherever he went. He delighted in sharing his favorite memories, often more than once, ensuring they lived on in the hearts of those around him. When not reminiscing, he could often be found enjoying classic westerns, especially those starring John Wayne. His playful ornery streak was part of his charm, a quality that made him unforgettable to all who knew him.

He leaves behind his devoted wife of 57 years, Janis; his children, Lorie Howe, Chabrun (Lyndsey) Bernd, Chelsea Bernd, and Christina Bernd; his grandchildren, James "Dylan" Howe (Justyna), Austin Howe, Hayleigh Bernd, Taylor Bernd, and Karsyn Bernd; his great-grandson, Henry "Cooper" Howe; and many extended relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Lucinda Dyck.

If you had the privilege of knowing Russell, you knew there was always more than met the eye. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy of love, laughter, and resilience will never be forgotten. The family warmly invites you to share your memories of Russell, as they would greatly appreciate the comfort of your stories during this time.

Honor Loving Memory

Memorial Service
Stockham Family Funeral Home
McPherson, Kansas
Friday, January 30, 2026, at 2:00 PM

Officiant
Minister Kenny Graham

Service Music
"Ave Maria"
"Be Not Afraid"

Final Resting Place
Windom Cemetery
(at a later date)

Memorial Donations
Memorial donations can be payable to Janis Bernd to help with funeral expenses in care of Stockham Family Funeral Home, 205 North Chestnut, McPherson, KS 67460.

Stockham Family Funeral Home