



W. Alistair Bernard

May 22, 1996–August 9, 2026

William Alistair Bernard, 30, of Leesburg, Florida, formerly of Oak Park, died August 9, 2026, due to a tragic motorcycle accident. Alistair was raised in Oak Park, later moving to Tennessee, and eventually central Florida.

Alistair had a keen sense of adventure and curiosity from a very young age, and possessed an extraordinary ability to put things together. At the age of 8, he replaced the water filter in his grandmother's kitchen, with no assistance. He was active in Boy Scouts and loved monthly camping trips. Much to his family's dismay, the Boys Scouts gave his fertile mind more ideas to get into mischief and blow things up. As a teenager, Alistair could be found in his clubhouse, working for hours on his motorized bicycle, fixing a lawnmower or making a potato gun. There was more than one accidental fire in that clubhouse, but always being prepared, the fire extinguisher was handy. He largely taught himself how to weld metal in the back yard.

Known for his quick wit and sense of fun, Alistair lived life with enthusiasm. He was an avid gun collector, enjoying target practice, karaoke, fishing, and derived great satisfaction in tinkering with anything mechanical, especially cars and motorcycles. His remarkable ability to diagnose and fix complex mechanical problems, a trait shared by his father and step-father, was admired by many.

Alistair attended both Oak Park and River Forest High School, and East Leyden High School, graduating in 2014. A natural for working with his hands, he embarked on a welding career for ten years. More recently, he used his skills and passion for craftsmanship towards kitchen remodeling.

Beyond his professional life, Alistair had a deep Christian faith, sparked by Young Life in High School. He was active in Absolution Anglican Church of Leesburg, Florida, where he found a community that shared his beliefs and values. Alistair enjoyed political debate, sometimes annoying those on opposite sides, but all was eventually forgiven.

Survivors include his parents, Thomas (Krys) Bernard of Tennessee, Amy (Michael) Hasegawa of Oak Park; siblings R. Spencer Bernard, J. Clayton (Jaime) Bernard, and Clara

Bernard; grandparents George and Shelly Uslenghi, Frances Spencer of Hawaii; as well as aunts, uncles and cousins.

Memorial services will be held at GraceWay Presbyterian Church in Leesburg, FL, on Saturday, August 22, at 11:30 am ET, and at First Presbyterian Church of River Forest in IL, on Saturday, October 24, at 11:00 am CT. A reception will follow the service at First Presbyterian Church of River Forest.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to [Young Life Oak Park-River Forest](#), and [Absolution Anglican Church of Leesburg, Florida](#).