



Benjamin M. Bishop

February 12, 1932 - June 3, 2026

Benjamin Many Bishop lived a long and wonderful life, passing away peacefully at his home in Florida on June 3, 2026, at the age of 94, surrounded by his loving family and friends.

The devoted husband of Elaine Rowland Bishop for 63 years, Benny was the loving father of Benjamin Many Bishop Jr. (Cindy), Christy Bishop DeJohn (David), Michael Robert Bishop (Eileen), Connie Bishop Williams (Ned), and Daniel Joseph Bishop (Sue). He took immense pride in his 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, and to his many nieces and nephews he was simply the beloved "Uncle Benny." He cherished organizing family reunions, parties, and gatherings

Born and raised in Clayton, he was the son of George & Helen Bishop, he had siblings Robert Bishop, George N Bishop Jr, and sister Barbara Claiborne Vogt. He is also lovingly remembered alongside his cherished Mother and Father-in-law, Ray & Connie Rowland, Eddie & Pauline Rowland, and Bob & Eleanor Strain (Elaine's twin), all of whom preceded him in death.

Benny graduated from John Burroughs School in 1949, where he lettered in tennis, basketball, and football and met the love of his life, Elaine Rowland. He went on to Colgate University, where he won the Eastern Intercollegiate Tennis doubles title in 1952 and served as team captain in 1953. His success at Colgate earned him a spot in the prestigious draw at the National Tennis Championships - the modern-day U.S. Open.

A proud American, Ben served as a decorated officer in the United States

Navy during the Korean War. Following his honorable discharge, he returned to St. Louis and began his career in the family business where he worked for over 50 years.

Introduced to the game by his father on the clay courts of the historic Triple A in Forest Park, Benny became the first Armory-trained St. Louisan to rank high nationally after WWII. He was ranked U.S. #9 in boys' 15s singles in 1946, and U.S. Junior #11 in 1949. A finalist in the National Junior Indoor Championships, he played for two years on the Junior Davis Cup team first ever from St. Louis. Back home, he won the 1953 District singles and doubles titles, the Missouri Valley sectional doubles, and numerous club championships throughout his playing career. In 2007, he was inducted into the St. Louis Tennis Hall of Fame, honoring a lifetime of remarkable achievement on the court.

Off the court, Ben devoted himself with equal passion to the family business. Western Specialty Contractors was part of his family's heritage-founded more than 110 years ago by his father George Bishop Sr and partner Benjamin Many. Benny rose through the ranks to become President, CEO, and ultimately Chairman Emeritus, transforming the company from a small waterproofing contractor into a nationally recognized restoration firm with more than 30 offices across the country - a legacy built with the same determination he brought to everything in life.

Ben was a friend to all and never met a stranger. His booming voice and bright blue eyes put people instantly at ease, and he had a rare gift for making everyone around him feel truly welcomed. He formed lasting friendships in many places, including Palisades Park, Michigan, where he spent a lifetime of summers, and Lost Tree Village in Singer Island, Florida. He was a 70-year member of the Missouri Athletic Club and a lifetime member of Belleive Country Club, the St. Louis Club, the Silver Duck Club, and Rotary International.

He will be remembered for his remarkable leadership, his lifelong competitive fire, and his deep love of family and friends. He loved ski trips to Steamboat

Springs, a good cigar in a duck blind, and traveling the world with family and friends. He was never happier than when tending the barbecue with the Cardinals game on, cheering at a Rams game, not to say 100's of hockey games, or gathered together with the people he loved most always with a cold Budweiser or light rum and tonic in hand. He lived every single day on his own terms - he did it his way.

A special thanks to all who cared for him in his later years especially Jamie Barrientos, Ellyn Camacho and Juan Correa and my father's personal administration assistant for over 50 years Linda Hudson.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made to the charity of your choice in Benny's memory.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Ladue Chapel on Thursday, July 9, at 1:30 p.m.

Arrangements are being conducted by Valhalla Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Valhalla Cemetery

7600 St Charles Rock Road
St Louis, MO 63133

Upcoming Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 9. 1:30 PM (CT)

Ladue Chapel
9450 Clayton Road
St. Louis, MO 63124

Tribute Wall

BC

“ Unfortunately, we are unable to attend Ben’s services. Just the same, we thought that the least that we could do was let everyone know how much we thought of Ben. He was one of the most outstanding gentlemen we have ever known. He set a high bar with the example he set and showed in the way that he lived his life and everything that he did. There was nobody that we enjoyed losing to more in tennis than Ben. He always made us feel good.

Ben took an interest in everyone. Not just his peers, but their children and grandchildren. He made it very personal as he always remembered their names and asked how it was going with things that he knew about them.

As we spend much of our lives trying to achieve things and Ben certainly achieved a lot with his business, tennis, family and other things, it is the relationships that we build that give us so much more happiness. Ben had a lot of friends and family members. More important than the numbers were the personal relationships that not only connected him with so many, but made all of them happier, much happier.

When we close our eyes and think of Ben, we will always see his infectious smile. He was a genuinely happy person whose memory continues to make so many of us even happier.

God rest his soul. God bless his friends and family, many of whom we have had the pleasure and honor to know. Heaven is blessed to have gained this great gentleman. His presence made this a better, happier world, something that will continue as Ben will always remain in our memories.

*With love,
Barbara and Tom Cleveland*

Barbara and Tom Cleveland - 6 hours ago

LH

“ Love Rebecca Henry purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Benjamin M. Bishop.



Love Rebecca Henry - June 11 at 10:14 AM

DA

“ He was an inspiration to so many- loving father who did know when it was time to be tougher to teach the right message to others- thoughts and prayers are with him and the entire family!!!



David Adams - June 08 at 01:22 PM