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## The Family Chain

If love could have saved you – you would not have died.

If tears could bring you back you'd be by our side.

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone;

For part of us went with you the day God called you home.

God takes us one by one and breaks the family chain,

But somewhere in a better land our chain will link again.

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For those I love, for those Who Love Me,

When I am gone, release me; let me go . . .

I have so many things to see and do.

You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears.

Be happy that we had so many years. I gave you my love.

You can only guess how much you gave me in happiness.

I thank you for the love you each have shown,

But now it's time I traveled on alone!

So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must.

Then let your grief be comforted by trust.

It's only for a while we must part.

So bless the memories that lie within your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on.

So, if you need me, call and I will come.

Though you can't see me or touch me,

I'll be near, and if you listen with your heart,

You'll hear all of my love around you soft and clear.

And then, when you must come this way alone . . .

I'll greet you with a smile and "welcome you home"

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Goodbyes hurt  
the most  
when the story  
wasn't finished...



**John “Ernie” Prudente Jr.**, 36, Mandan, passed away on February 8, 2020 at Sanford Health in Bismarck.

John was born May 8, 1983 to John Sr. and Sandy (Anhorn) Prudente in Bismarck. He grew up in Mandan attending Mandan High School. When Ernie was younger, he was always out riding BMX bike around Mandan, which some will remember him for as well as his famous greeting of a middle finger. He also took part in four-wheeler races during the monster truck rally at the Civic Center and played hockey. Ernie enjoyed playing in the water and watering everything outside.

His dad would always have to buy two sets of tools because Ernie would take his first set as his own. His attention to detail was so great that when detailing cars, he would go through things with a fine-toothed comb and even used toothbrushes to clean! His prized possession was his Ford Bronco and it meant a lot to him. Ernie would not let anyone else drive that vehicle, especially his sister, whom he is still sending signs to stay away from his Bronco. He enjoyed collecting numerous different trinkets, many of which he got from his sister’s house and somehow tying them all together. The smallest gifts he received from his mom, Sandy, would bring him so much joy. Ernie was always on the lookout for more trinkets to add to his collection. He also had a collection of over 4,000 hot wheels cars. Ernie always had a special bond and love for his dogs.

Ernie is survived by his father, John Prudente Sr.; his mother, Sandy Prudente; sister, Cody Prudente; numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins; and his dog, Scooter.

Ernie was preceded in death by his grandparents, Mike and Edna Prudente and Ray and Mildred Anhorn; godparents, Bob and Ruth Senn; and his dogs, Party and JR.

*Please go to [www.BuehlerLarson.com](http://www.BuehlerLarson.com) to share memories of Ernie.*

SERVICES PROVIDED BY BUEHLER-LARSON FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICE

Scott Huffman, Director · Nathan Grubb, Director · Jessie Hilfer, Office Manager

1701 Sunset Drive, Mandan, North Dakota 58554 · Phone: (701) 663-9630

**Memorial Service**

Saturday, February 15, 2020; 11:00 AM  
Mandan Eagles Club  
1400 Collins Avenue  
Mandan, North Dakota

**Officiant**

Pastor Gene Anderson

**Readers**

Ivy Greff & Tiffany Boehm

**Honorary Casketbearers**

All of Ernie’s Friends

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN “ERNIE” PRUDENTE JR.

Opening Song “Tears In Heaven”

Gathering

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Music “I Can Only Imagine”

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Reading of the Obituary

Readings John 16:20-24

John 14:1-4

Funeral Message

Music “Hallelujah”

Tribute by Courtney Fergel

Memories & Sharing

Apostle’s Creed

Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

Commendation

Music “When I Get Where I’m Going”

*The family invites you to stay for lunch and fellowship*

*immediately following the service.*