



## Dr. Abron Adrian Grandia

December 28, 1926 - June 25, 2017

Dateline: Edwardsville

Abron Adrian Grandia was born on December 28, 1926 and subsequently raised on a small farm in rural Iowa which typified the life of this gentle, compassionate man who lived a life filled with passion, tempered by humility and leadership by example.

He went through the public school system in Pella Iowa and the summer of his junior year of high school he was horseback riding and was kicked by another horse, fracturing his left femur. Due to the rehabilitation time of that injury in that era he missed his senior year of high school and was subsequently drafted into the army, serving in Japan in WW II. His military service saw the close of the war at which time he returned to the family farm with all intentions of engaging the honorable occupation of farming for his life's career.

Enter Bernice Vansteenien, who he fondly referred to as Bea, who, over the course of time, became his loving, able and willing partner for just shy of 64 years of marriage. Along with Bea's encouragement he decided to pursue medicine and eventually Orthopedic surgery. Following completion of his Orthopedic training at the University of Iowa, he relocated Bea and his three children Ronn, Lon and Shawn to Alton Illinois in 1961 where he began his Orthopedic practice. He became a gifted surgeon and an immeasurable asset to the profession. He truly loved what he did and was completely immersed in the profession. With skilled hands and use of plates, screws, wires and rods countless useless limbs were restored to full function

Although his profession was that of a surgeon, he retained, in equal measure, his love of farming. He purchased a small farm in Alton shortly after beginning his Orthopedic practice in Alton and soon set about building terraces, addressing washouts, improving the quality of the soil. He built ponds and instituted a wild life program. In the early 70's he acquired some additional ground and was introduced to Mr. Herb Moore and Mr. Charles Schoeneman, local farmers who, following a hand shake agreement, entered a farming partnership that evolved into life long friendships whose whole was truly greater than the sum of its parts. They continued to make improvements on these farms and in 1977 was awarded conservation farmer of the year in Madison county.

Busy as he was, he always managed to find time to spend with the family. Much of this was spent on the Mississippi river, skiing from sunup to sundown as well as spending time on his farm.

On June 25, 2017 we lost a rare individual who possessed such class and grace, the model by which he lived his life and touched all those around him. Thank you, you will be missed

His family invites you to share in remembering his life at Gent Funeral Home from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Friday, June 30, 2017. Graveside services will be held at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, July 1, 2017 at the Porter Grove Cemetery in Leighton, Iowa. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 30. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

## Graveside Service

JUL 1. 3:00 PM (CT)

Porter Grove Cemetery  
Leighton, IA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Abron Adrian Grandia*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Dr. Abron Adrian Grandia*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *My thoughts are with the family and wish them God's comfort and peace at this time. I'm remembering how kind the Grandia family was to my daughter, Linda, after her father's sudden death. Also I appreciated the time he loaded a huge pile of pine branches from our yard to use for fill at their farm. A mutual benefit. Aline Pfeifer Ficken*

**Aline Pfeifer Ficken** - July 03, 2017 at 03:48 PM



“ *I am grateful I had the privilege of knowing your family. Your fathers kind and loving smile in the photo brings back many happy memories, he was a blessing. Sending you sympathy and prayers.*

*Jenny Zipprich*

**Jenny Zipprich** - July 03, 2017 at 07:39 AM

BS

*“ I am so sorry for your loss. I had the privilege of working for Dr. Grandia from 1989 until he retired. He was such a caring, kind person. He loved and adored Bernice and his children. I know there is a special place in heaven for this wonderful man.*



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**Barbara Sloan** - July 01, 2017 at 11:45 AM

JM

*“ I was a patient of Dr. Grandia as a child. He was very kind and made me feel very comfortable even during unpleasant procedures. It was because of him and his staff that I was influenced in such a positive manor. I became a nurse and worked post-op orthopedics. He was a wonderful doctor and will be greatly missed. May you rest in peace Dr. Grandia. Judy Allred Main*

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**Judy Main** - June 30, 2017 at 03:57 PM



*“ Our most sincere condolences to your family. I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Grandia at AOC and it was a real pleasure. There are not enough words to describe what a wonderful person he always was. We all loved him!! May God bless each one if you during this time of sorrow. Take care of yourself Bernice. From: Dottie Fillback and family*

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**Dottie Reynolds-Fillback** - June 30, 2017 at 03:28 PM


LD

“ Dr. Grandia restored full mobility to our son's arm, after a bad accident when he was 16, using 13 screws, skill, and caring. It was a Saturday and a long surgery, but he was calm and patient. We are very grateful, Our sincere condolences to your family,

*George and Lynda Dixon*

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**Lynda Dixon** - June 30, 2017 at 11:33 AM

 Sarah  
McCreary

“ Shawn, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Your Dad was an amazing friend (since I was 12). He was my doctor when my Dad's airplane ran over my foot and broke it in the growth line. He never forgot me (or my foot) and would always make me laugh. I've always wondered what your wonderful Dad was up to. I have only fond memories of you and your Sweet Dad.

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**Sarah McCreary** - June 30, 2017 at 03:01 AM

FF

“ Frank and Barb Webster family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Abron Adrian Grandia.



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**Frank and Barb Webster family** - June 29, 2017 at 07:45 PM

CL

“ Dr. and Mrs. Grandia, along w/their family of 3 young men, were our neighbors many, many years ago on 16th Street in Alton. My parents enjoyed being neighbors of the Grandia family. In later years, the kind, warm, compassionate Dr. Grandia took care of my two children as newborns with orthopedic needs. He eventually referred us to the Shriners Hospital. He was the milk of human kindness, and this is truly a great loss for our community. So sorry for your loss Grandia family.

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**Christine Laughlin** - June 29, 2017 at 05:00 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Abron Adrian Grandia.



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June 29, 2017 at 04:14 PM

KK

“ May Dr. Grandia's family find peace in the wonderful memories they all hold dear. Dr. Grandia was such a nice man. I was a patient of his from childhood to young adult. He was always so compassionate and kind. When my husband and I were transferred to Texas he took the time to call a colleague from his residency years and I was referred to another excellent doctor who took over the care of my bad knees. He will be missed by many. My sympathies to all his family. Kim Frazier Kunz

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**kim frazier kunz** - June 29, 2017 at 02:40 PM

OF

“ *Orthopaedic Specialists of Frederick purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Abron Adrian Grandia.*



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**Orthopaedic Specialists of Frederick** - June 29, 2017 at 12:41 PM

DK

“ *To Shawn. I don't know if you remember me but you were always a kind sweet friend during our school years. I'm sorry for your loss. I didn't know your dad but I know he was a wonderful man and doctor. Hope all is well with you.*  
*Dana ( Powers) King*

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**Dana King** - June 29, 2017 at 12:31 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Abron Adrian Grandia.*



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June 29, 2017 at 10:05 AM

LO

“ *So sorry to hear if this fine man and Doctor's passing He was a pleasure to work with and serve his patients when I worked at AMH a few years ago. He was profoundly pleasant and caring to all in his care and to staff. He will be greatly missed.*  
*Linda G. Olson, MOT, OTR/L, retired*

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**Linda G. Olson** - June 29, 2017 at 09:36 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Abron Adrian Grandia.*



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June 29, 2017 at 09:14 AM

RL

“ I was also a lifelong friend of Lonn's and was blessed to have spent so much time with their family. I can honestly say that I would not be the person I am today had it not been for the guidance and love that their family had shown to me growing up. But I was not unique, there were countless other people that benefited from their generosity and many that will never be revealed. Many years ago I found out that Dr. and Mrs. Grandia had provided educational grants to people who could not have funded an education on their own. They never told anyone they were doing this, they just felt compelled to do this as a way to give back to people who needed it. I can only wonder how many people's lives were positively impacted by their acts of generosity and love.

When my wife and I got married in 1986 I think they knew that we were just starting out and didn't have much money so they donated the use of their Tan-Tar-A condo for our honeymoon. We were absolutely thrilled and were so appreciative of them doing this for us. What a great way to start a life together!

But, one of my other favorite stories that I've told many people over the years, is about my Mom's car. When we were growing up in D'Adrian Gardens, a block away from Grandia's house, Lonn would let me help understand and build motors for the countless cars that they were always working on. One day he wanted to show me how a Volkswagen engine was put together and was showing me some key components when a bolt or pin dropped down the carburetor. We tried for hours to get it out but it went into the intake and was impossible to get. When I told my Mom about this she was so mad because that was our only car. We had the car towed to a mechanic shop on Godfrey Rd around 5pm that night and had to hope that they could get to it the next day so my Mom could go to work. The next morning the car was in our driveway and we were shocked so I walked up to Grandia's house and Lonn told me that he and his Dad went to the shop in the middle of the night, tore the engine apart, removed the pin, put the engine back together, and drove it home to our house. I was absolutely speechless and couldn't believe that

*there were people like this in the world.*

*There were many, many other stories like this but I remember this like it happened yesterday and I will always remember these acts of random kindness and love that the entire Grandia family showed me growing up. I wish that I had stayed in better contact with all of them later in life and I hope that someday I can repay them for everything they did for me.*

*Thank you Dr. Grandia for the love you gave to so many people over your lifetime. You made such a difference in people's lives and we all are better people because of you. I will never forget you and I will pass that love on to other people that I meet in my life so your love and generosity will go on forever.*

*Rob & Tammy Lewis  
8449 Stone Ledge Drive  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
563-340-1840*

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**Rob Lewis** - June 29, 2017 at 08:08 AM

KH

“*My best memory of Dr. Grandia was as a nursing student in 1978-- watched him do a hip replacement in the OR and what an experience for me then! He explained everything to me, let me see everything up close and was very patient and kind to everyone in the OR. My condolences to his family.*

*Kimberly Schelle Hand, RN*

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**Kimberly Hand** - June 29, 2017 at 06:38 AM

BT

“ As a lifelong friend of Lonn's, I was given the opportunity to spend considerable time with the Grandia family while growing up. I went on vacations with them and spent time with them on their Alton farm. Dr. Grandia set my arm when I broke it in 7th grade. I have never met a finer, more compassionate man than Abron in my entire life. He was always kind and considerate and would do anything to help those around him. I feel blessed that I was fortunate enough to have shared many wonderful times with Abron and his family. They treated me like one of their own, and Abron's passing leaves a huge hole in my heart. The world has lost one of its true saints, but heaven has surely gained one! May God's peace be with the Grandia family during this time of loss.

*Bruce Tipton*

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**Bruce Tipton** - June 29, 2017 at 05:59 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Abron Adrian Grandia.



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June 28, 2017 at 10:22 PM

CN

“ One of my favorite doctors. I worked with Dr. Grandia many years at AMH and had surgery by him. Always pleasant and concerned about his patients, a true gentleman.  
My sympathy to family and friends.  
*Carol Noble, R.N.*

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**Carol Noble** - June 28, 2017 at 08:58 PM

LF

“ *What a wonderful person & Doctor that helped many patients, my mother included. Our family has known Lonn for years and we send prayers and sympathy to him and his siblings.*

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**Larry & Barbara Burris & Family** - June 28, 2017 at 04:21 PM