



Bennett Hugh Bordone Merley

May 1, 2016 - July 6, 2021

MERLEY, Bennett Hugh Bordone, 5, of Cresskill (formerly of NY, NY) passed away on July 6, 2021. Memorial Visitation will be held at Barrett Leber Funeral Home 148 Dean Dr., Tenafly, NJ 07670 on Saturday, July 17, 2021 from 12PM-130PM with words of remembrance to follow at 130PM. In lieu of flowers or food, the best way to remember Bennett would be to please donate to The Bennett Merley Fund <https://one.rutgers.edu/campaigns/bennett-merley-fund>

Bennett is survived by his loving parents Michael Merley and Lindsey Bordone, sister Summer and brother Carter, grandparents Arlene & Wayne Bordone, Kim & Vicki Merley—and, as a five-year-old, too many other friends and family to list.

Bennett taught us that attention and service to one another is the true currency of love.

For example, if you came to visit and met Bennett, he would take you by the hand. He would make you hold hands with someone else. He would look at you both; his look, his firm and powerful touch, and the sounds he uttered combined to convey his imperative command: you must be friends with the person he chose for you, whether you liked it or not. He was a Matchmaker who required that you hold hands and pay attention to one another. Bennett's 3q29 Deletion Syndrome led to daily struggles, despite that he managed to have fun. He loved the movie Ferdinand, and picking flowers after school (just like the main character in that movie, an overly large Bull). He loved his brother and sister. He loved the school bus, school, his friends, and his teachers. More than anything else he craved attention—he craved a friend, like his brother, sister, mom, dad, grandparent, aunt, uncle, friend or anyone else who would play with him.

Bennett's persistence and capacity for joy, despite many challenges, lit up our lives. We will do our best to keep that light on for him.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUL 17. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home

148 Dean Dr

Tenafly, NJ 07670

(201) 568-8043

<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Words of Remembrance

JUL 17. 1:30 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ Barrett Leber Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Bennett Hugh Bordone Merley



Barrett Funeral Home - July 15, 2021 at 11:25 AM

CK

“ To Lindsey, Mike, Arlene, & Wayne:

Bennett was a truly remarkable and special little boy!

Arlene and I often shared stories about our wonderful grandchildren. Bennett was so deeply loved and cherished, bringing so many moments of happiness to all! We are so sorry that we did not have an opportunity to personally meet Bennett, but we did have the good fortune to share a few precious virtual moments with this darling little guy.

We will always remember his beautiful face and warm and friendly smile, as he poked his little head to the screen. He was so very eager be part of our video visit and we are so grateful that we had that time together. Our thoughts and hearts have been constantly with you, Summer, Carter, and Mike's parents over these very trying weeks.

Carole & Ron Kolber July 20, 2021



Carole Kolber - July 20, 2021 at 03:14 PM

DF

“ Bennett was a student in our class at Conover Road Primary School for just a few months but he left a lasting impression on all that had the privilege of getting to know him. He was fun, loving and so playful. We all loved watching him play with his dinosaurs, animals and cars. His smile lit up the classroom and warmed all of our hearts. We will cherish our memories of Bennett always... Our thoughts and prayers are with you all

dawn fittipaldi - July 16, 2021 at 07:33 AM

PC

“ We want to share our sadness that we never got to meet Bennett. We know what a hole his passing has left in your lives. Please accept our love and prayers for Bennett and the entire family.

Paul (PJ) & Irene Cummins - July 14, 2021 at 07:48 PM

TF

“ The Lindstrom Family lit a candle in memory of Bennett
Hugh Bordone Merley



The Lindstrom Family - July 13, 2021 at 05:41 PM

TR

“ Last summer we had great fun with Bennett, Summer, Cotter, Lindsey and Mike and Wayne and Arlene in our backyard. We will always remember Bennet's joy for life, his delight in making ice cream sundaes, and his fun with our dog when they came trick or treating this past Halloween.
Our memories of Bennett will always be filled with his beautiful smiles.
Michael, Cindy and Jake Rubin



The Rubins - July 10, 2021 at 09:09 PM