



SECTION B

Sculpting a life: Hartland artist Bryan Berenson took circuitous route to find his calling

By Chris Bennett Special to The Freeman

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HARTLAND — If you didn't have a favorite sculptor, you do now. Bryan Berenson can be defined as a renaissance man in the truest sense of the word.

Berenson, who is based in Hartland, recently spent time in Nevada, where he carved his father's tombstone.

"It was good to have sun," Berenson said. "Carving his condition grew progresyour parents' tombstone — sively worse. it's nice to give back to He left the military, was happy to give back."

His mother is still alive and his body, and he moved on. lives in Nevada.

Carving seems exceptional for those bone of Berenson's life.

It wasn't always that way. thing. His route to sculpting and a

Berenson graduated from from a military family and wanted to follow." enlisted in the Army following high school.

son as a diesel mechanic, apprenticeship said he wonders if that's Tyrol in western Austria. where his passion for According to his website He does not intend to quit

with reactive arthritis, and hour-long examination in "Until I no longer can."

"The biggest thrill is when the client receives what they asked me to sculpt for them and I see their face or hear a reaction."

> Bryan Berenson, master sculptor

them. It's a gift I have, and I returned to Wisconsin and worked locally as a diesel Berenson said his father mechanic. Eventually, the passed on a few years ago. work became too much for est satisfaction."

a headstone 'The light bulb went on'

who lack the gift of think- werealways in his blood ing of art in three dimen- dating back to his time in execution forms the back- trip overseas with his wife, enjoys marble, and his work Jennifer, to change every- is done with mallet and

"I didn't know for sure and also as a diesel mechan- two weeks, and I took a machining. course.

Waukesha North High course, the light bulb went same since Michelangelo." School in 1982. He came on. This was the career I

The Army trained Beren- He served a five-year-long restore statues, and also son as a diesel mechanic, apprenticeship at the through private commis-and he served in Germany. Geisler-Moroder Woodcarv- sions. He toured castles and cathe- ing School in Elbigenalp, drals while overseas, and Austria, in the state of

sculpting got its first spark. — http://btbsculptor.com — Berenson's body betrayed Berenson became certified him during his time in the as a wood and stone sculp-Army. He was diagnosed tor upon passing an eight- die, if I can," Berenson said.

Berenson took master examination preparation courses at the Geisler Moroder Woodcarving School in 2013 and 2014 and, in 2015, passed the rigorous master sculptor's examination and earned the title of master sculptor. The certified title is honored throughout Europe.

"I have a passion for what I am doing," Berenson said. "I love the whole process. The biggest thrill is when the client receives what they asked me to sculpt for them and I see their face or hear a reaction.

"That gives me the great-

Berenson said he loves the smell of both wood and stone as he carves. He also Carving and artistry enjoys the process of coming up with a design.

> He said his favorite medichisel.

"The process hasn't life in art was both obvious until my wife and I went changed too much over the and circuitous. His route to overseas and visited that years," Berenson said. "I becoming a master sculptor school in Austria," Beren-don't do anything mass-proincluded time in the Army, son said. "We went over for duced. I don't use CNC

> "Other than that, the pro-"When I was in that cess has pretty been the

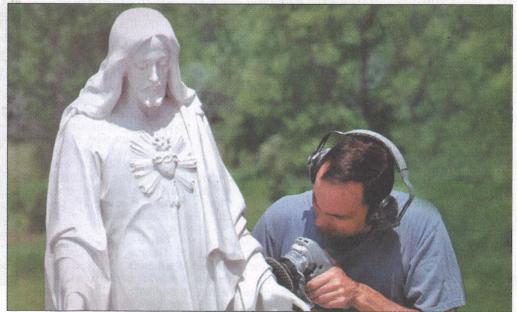
Berenson said he derives his livelihood from doing Berenson and his wife work for a church supply ventured overseas in 1999. company that hires him to

> It took Berenson several years and a different career before he found his calling. what he is doing anytime

"I'll do this until the day I



sions. Such thinking and high school — but it took a um is wood, but he also Master Sculptor Bryan Berenson is at home working with both stone and wood.



Bryan Berenson works with a church supply company to restore statues, as well as on private commissions.