



William J. "Bill" Curtis

August 14, 1931 - December 28, 2023

William J. "Bill" Curtis, 92, of Kankakee, passed away on Thursday, December 28, 2023, at Riverside Medical Center.

Bill was born on August 14, 1931, in Mount Vernon, IL, the son of James and Lena (Hamilton) Curtis. Bill married Lola Eldridge on December 25, 1954 in Mount Vernon. He proudly served our country in the Marine Corps. during the Korean Conflict. Bill worked for many years as the auto mechanics teacher at Kankakee Area Career Center until he retired, and was able to enjoy a long retirement of 31 years. Bill enjoyed all types of music and was an avid collector of records and guitars; he enjoyed shopping and searching garage sales for the next piece of his collection.

Bill is survived by his loving wife of 69 years Lola, his children Brad Curtis of Bradley, and Sheila (David) Hessler of Raleigh, NC, his grandchildren Jeremy Curtis, Tara (Jeff) Tutt, Zach (Brittany) Curtis, Chris (Vikki) Curtis, Jenna (Steve) Kotesa, Alex Curtis, Jared (Kaitlin) Walters, and Shelby Hessler, 10 great-grandchildren, 4 great-great grandchildren, a sister Mary Dye of Ballwin, MO, a brother David (Bonnie) Curtis of Mattoon, IL, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, a son Brent Curtis, and a sister Sylvia,

The family will receive guests at the Schreffler Funeral Home in Kankakee on Wednesday, January 3, from 4 pm until the time of funeral at 6 pm. Burial will take place at Bethel Memorial Cemetery in Mt. Vernon, IL on Thursday, January 4, at 12 noon.

Those who wish may leave memorials in Bill's name to the charity of the donor's choice.

Please visit Bill's online obituary at www.schrefflerfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 3. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

JAN 3. 6:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Graveside Service

JAN 4. 12:00 PM (CT)

Bethel Memorial Cemetery
2839 Benton Rd
Mt Vernon , IL 62864

Tribute Wall

VR

“ Our prayers to the Curtis families for your loss. Our Aunt Maryann & Uncle Dude were his neighbors. We always stopped by to see Bill , Lola, & kids when we went to visit. Sympathies to all. Vicki and Chuck Richey

Vicki Richey - January 04, 2024 at 07:00 PM

KG

“ Soooo sorry I never knew Mr.Curtis in person but did see him at Kankakee Area Career Center back in 1979 when I went to Broadway Beauty School & we saw him in parking lot saying good bye to some students!!!R.I.P & condolences to his remaining family!!!!

kay graham - January 04, 2024 at 12:33 PM

CR

“ It was my sincere pleasure to get to know and care for Bill over the last 2 years. May you find peace and comfort during this time of good bye's. He was truly a wonderful man.
Sincerely,
Cheryl Rogers, NP

Cheryl Rogers - January 03, 2024 at 05:33 PM

MM

“ MR MRS sent a virtual gift in memory of William J. "Bill" Curtis



MR MRS - January 01, 2024 at 09:51 AM

JE

“ I've known Bill since I was 16 years old.....Took Bill's Auto classes at the Kankakee Area Career Center. Very kind teacher and knew cars real well. Years later I would coteach his class in his old room, and teach Beginning Auto in my room. Bill thought that was pretty cool with a former student doing that. I was always glad to see him at auctions and garage sales. And I would stop by his home and visit. It was always a nice time. Went to school with Brent and Brad. Seems like yesterday we were all young and things were more or less carefree. Love to the family....

Jim Enz - December 31, 2023 at 02:31 PM

JW

“ Thinking of you at the passing of your dear loved one. May he Rest In Peace. Sincerely, Jane Westerhoff

Jane Westerhoff - December 31, 2023 at 12:28 PM