



William "Bill" E. Gearhart

April 14, 1928 - February 7, 2020

William E. "Bill" Gearhart, 91, of Akron, Indiana left to be with his Lord on Friday, Feb. 7, 2020.

Being 1 of 18 children, Bill understood what it meant to be a family. Growing up together in a big household, Bill and his siblings have many stories to share of mischief, laughter, and lots of love. Still carrying on the Gearhart legacy are his sisters, Dorothy, Ruth, Sharon, and Joan, and his brothers, Larry and Roger.

In February of 1951, Bill married Phyllis Gearhart, whom he loved dearly. They planted roots in Akron where they shared their life and love with 3 wonderful daughters, Lynne (Larry) Kline, Janice (James) Saner, and Patti (Robert) Newman, whom all still live close by.

Of all the things he had done, he was most proud of his daughters and their families. He was faithful at stopping by for a quick visit, showing up on every family birthday, and listening to or watching various sporting events while cheering on his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Helping to carry on those traditions are grandchildren Bridget (Chuck) Bussard, Melissa (David) Belcher, Keith (Dacy) Newman, Tara Ott, Andrew Parker, Kristen (Tracy) Horrell, Jayme (Ashton) Patterson-Booher, Amy Craig, Kayla (Kris) Hughes, and Alex (Breanna) Newman, along with 20 great-grandchildren and 3 great-

great grandchildren.

Bill served in the US Army during the Korean War. He was proud of his duty and service to the country. Upon returning home, he began working on the Erie Lackawanna railroad and fondly recalled his days of hard work. He was proud to be such a part of history.

After his days on the railroad, Bill took up construction. He began building many houses in Akron, all which still look beautiful today and are a reminder to family and friends of his craftsmanship and legacy.

In his later years, Bill also shared his life with his partner, Sue Daine, where he raised large gardens of vegetables and fruit to share with others, much like his parents did when he was growing up.

He loved in such quiet ways, unless it was rooting on his faithful Cubbies or Indiana Hoosiers. You never talked to Bill or stopped by for a visit without a sports game being heard loudly throughout the house. Bill also had a fondness for taking his chances at scratch-off tickets and the casino.

Bill was a master gardener. He was known for his many rows of vegetables that he not only ate himself, but gave away to family and friends. Most people would find a pint or two of tomatoes or a couple dozen ears of sweet corn sitting on their front porch steps and they knew that Bill had been there.

Bill was a giver. He helped his friends, his neighbors, and his family. Whether it was showering his family with an abundant amount of gifts for Christmas when the grandchildren were little, or showering anyone with vegetables, or conversation, or a game of cards, or the simple candy dish that sat on his side table, he showed his love best when he gave to others.

Family and friends may stop by and share their love and memories of Bill on

Sunday, February 16 from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Akron Community Center 815 Rural Street Akron, Indiana. A Memorial Service will follow at 3:00 pm with military honors performed by the Fulton County Honor Guard. Memorials may be made in Bill's memory to Tippecanoe Valley Middle School Viking Vittles Program.

Arrangements are entrusted to Hartzler Funeral Home 305 West Rochester Street Akron, Indiana.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

FEB **16**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Akron Community Center
815 Rural St
Akron, IN 46910

Memorial Service

FEB **16**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Akron Community Center
815 Rural St
Akron, IN 46910

Tribute Wall



“ Hartzler Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Bill" E. Gearhart



Hartzler Funeral Services - February 12, 2020 at 05:43 PM

RM

My sweet Uncle Bill, always kidding and a loving person. Loved all of us nephews and nieces and his three daughters. Always willing to help if he could and a smile for everyone. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family. Love to all. Becky Ann

Rebecca Mason - February 15, 2020 at 09:53 PM

CO

“ Remember Bill years ago coming in the drug store for coffee. Sue my heart feels your pain. I lost my husband in January. My sympathy to all of Bills family. He was a great guy. Cindy Benzing Oneal

Cindy Oneal - March 31, 2020 at 10:45 AM

BR

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Bill was a delight to visit with.

Bill & Miriam Ruppel - February 14, 2020 at 05:37 AM

SG

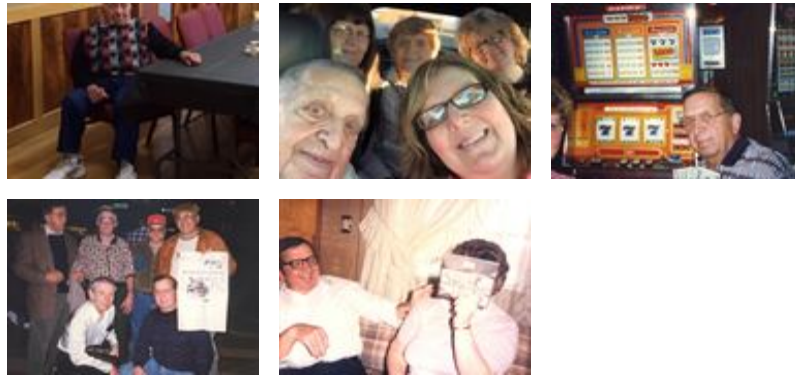
“ *Bill was a classmate, My sympathy and prayers for the family.*



Shirley Gray - February 13, 2020 at 05:02 PM



“ *62 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Hartzler Funeral Services - February 12, 2020 at 05:43 PM

LR

“ *My parents, Verl and Mary Irene Rager, were recipients of Bill's vegetables. They enjoyed the visit that came with them. He was a very kind and generous man.*

laura reese - February 11, 2020 at 09:05 AM

BF

“ Our hearts are saddened by your loss and our thoughts and prayers are with you.



Barbara (Stratton) Fuchs - February 11, 2020 at 08:21 AM

DG

“ Uncle Bill was a great guy.. He will be missed



Diane Gearhart - February 10, 2020 at 07:48 PM

CG

“ Lynne, Jan, Patti (and families): Your father was one of a kind. He lived a long life and I know his kind smile and joyous laughter is being heard all over heaven right now. You three had an awesome father and I sure he was an awesome grandfather as well. To me, he will forever be "My" Uncle Bill. Rest in Peace Uncle Bill. Hugs and Loves. Christina (Chris) Gilpin.

Christina Gilpin - February 09, 2020 at 02:42 PM

RB

“ My thoughts and prayers go out the family. Bill was one of a kind resident.❤️ I feel truly blessed that I got a chance to meet such a sweet, caring, and funny man!
I'll miss you !!!

robin ballard - February 09, 2020 at 12:53 PM

DS

“ Sorry for your loss !! Sure will miss him!
Sending prayers to you all❤️



Destinee Solomon - February 08, 2020 at 11:15 PM

MM

“ Lynn and Family, So Very Sorry to hear of the
Passing of your Dad. We are In Our Thoughts
and Prayers. R.I.P. Bill.



Mike and Vick Meyer - February 08, 2020 at 11:37 AM

RB

“ Sorry to hear of your loss. Praying for God's
comfort on your family.



Rose Berger - February 08, 2020 at 09:25 AM

JB

“ Jim And Shirley Bickel lit a candle in memory
of William "Bill" E. Gearhart



Jim and Shirley Bickel - February 08, 2020 at 06:50 AM

JW

“ *Judy Walgamuth lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" E. Gearhart*



Judy Walgamuth - February 07, 2020 at 07:10 PM