



William Lee Martin

July 15, 1946 - October 18, 2021

Pekin - William Lee "Bill" "Moose" Martin, 75, of Pekin, passed away at 9:30 pm Monday, October 18, 2021 at the Danville VA Center in Danville.

He was born on July 15, 1946 in Peoria, a son of Harvey L. and Mary L. (Jones) Martin. He finally married the love of his life Ellen "Louise" Margetich Lykins on January 10, 2015, after spending over 25 years together. She preceded him in death on June 24, 2021.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; brother-in-law, Kenneth Mitzelfelt; and niece, Christy Mitzelfelt.

Bill is survived by his daughter, Kathy (Kevin) Saker of Monticello, IN; one step-daughter, Christina (Josh) Thompson of Pekin; one step-son, Scott (Ashley) Lykins of Florida; several grandchildren; one granddaughter whom he especially doted over, Jaelyn Toms, these two were very close; two sisters, Jackie Mitzelfelt of Ottawa and Cheri (Larry) Dawson of Springfield; one brother, Bud Martin of Florida; and several nieces and nephews.

Bill worked for Caterpillar for over 35 years, finally retiring in 2002. He served his country in the United States Army, achieving the rank of Sergeant. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving two tours as an Army Ranger. Bill received numerous service medals, including a Purple Heart. He was an amazingly generous man who dedicated his life to the Vietnam Veterans and

was instrumental in helping raise money to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Springfield. Bill was an exceptional man in the things he did for veterans, he never wanted any recognition for it, in fact, when people tried to recognize him, Bill shied away from it.

He was involved in numerous organizations such as the Vietnam Veterans of Illinois, VFW Post 2078, Amvets Post 64, American Legion - Vietnam Veterans Memorial Vigil, American Legion Riders, AMVET Riders, Peo-Taz Abate, and HOG.

Bill was a person of pure honesty and truth, you always knew where you stood with him. He loved his children beyond words. The family would like to express a special thanks to our dear family friends, Lee and Sydney Buell for their unconditional support and to the UnityPoint Proctor Hospital for taking such amazing care of dad, they truly loved him like family, and to the Danville VA Center who also took amazing care of dad.

Bill's graveside service will take at 11:00 am Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at Parkview Cemetery in Peoria with full military honors. His family is in charge of service arrangements. The family requests that attendees wear either their black jeans or Harley or military clothes. Cremation arrangements have been entrusted to Schmidt-Haller Burial & Cremation Services in Peoria. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Veterans Memorial Vigil care of Jim Mathes 1221 Mossman Ave. Springfield, IL 62702.

Events

Details are pending.

Cemetery Details

Parkview

2021 N University St

Peoria, IL

Tribute Wall

SS

“ *William Lee Martin*

Schmidt Haller Burial and Cremation Services - August 13, 2024 at 01:18 PM

HG

“ *Bill was a true warrior. dedicated and true to the mark. He treated my wife and i like family. It was such a pleasure doing business with bill, and he always appreciated our work and our efforts. Bill and Louise always made sure we knew about the fish fries and dinners. We were honored to be their true friends. Not a lot out there like them anymore. We were so happy for Bill and Louise when they moved into the big house on Kennedy. They deserved it and more. So long friend. Howard-Linda Grieser Mcpherson, Kansas*

howard grieser - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Lee Martin.*

Beautiful in Blue - October 29, 2021 at 12:00 AM

GP

“ *I have known Bill for a long time. I don't think anyone was involved more in Vietnam issues and causes than Bill. Many will miss Bill and his way of saying exactly what he thought. Rest In Peace Bill. Glenn and Sandee Perkins*

Glenn Perkins - October 27, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BB

“*One life lived, many lives touched ❤️ We shared many fond memories, Bill, during our high school years and beyond! I felt embraced as part of your family, I considered you, my brother, too! Your loss will be felt by many hearts, you will be missed ❤️*”

Barb Bull - October 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DA

“*GRANDPA you will be missed dearly. Make sure you give my mom (tonya) the biggest hug for me. I remember always staying at your house and playing with the cats when I was younger and you always had your butt planted in that recliner in the corner.*”

dakotah - October 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JY

“*I always looked forward to seeing Bill and Louise each year at the Annual Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial Vigil. The weekend always went way too fast and our time reuniting was never enough. Bill did a ton of work at the Vigil and will be sorely missed there as well as amongst his brothers in arms. Until Valhalla my friend. JD & Marilyn Young*”

J.D. Young - October 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

GF

“*Sorry about your loss. Bill was a good man. So now Ferguson Martin and Louise are all having a great time drinking beer and hanging out together. Remember all of the great memories and the great times*”

Gena Ferguson - October 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

NM

“*Uncle Bill you will be missed by many! Lucky God blessed me with you as my uncle, you had a tough exterior but one of the biggest hearts ever! Love and miss you always!*”

Nikki Monari - October 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BT

“*Bill's work for the Veteran's and especially the Vietnam Veteran's community in the Peoria area and statewide can not be overstated. He was involved with either spearheading or assisting on nearly every memorial and organizational project involving veterans for the last four decades. Way too numerous to name all. Was a force for veterans and will be sorely missed! Bill, You served your Country and your Community with courage and honor. Wherever you are I am certain they know you have arrived! Godspeed. Bruce and Teri Thiemann*”

bruce thiemann - October 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BM

“*Bill was a member of Peo Taz Abate for many years He and Tom would always head up the Grand National Parade at Peoria Motorcycle to downtown. Dave always supported Veterans as he was one too. Somewhat hard shelled guy but had a heart of gold inside. Loved his girls and Grandkids. Will miss you Bill I tried to get into see him, but,they wouldn't let me. I sent a card and included the message of Gods love and a prayer for Bill to pray. He's in Gods hands now. Fly high brother Ben and Pam Madigan*”

Ben Madigan - October 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

ST

“*The Woodruff HS Warrior Nation mourns the loss of a fellow classmate, teammate and alum. What I remember most about Bill during our HS days is this: Bill was undersized for a football lineman and linebacker but he was never outplayed. As a senior, he sustained a serious shoulder injury early in the season. They put a brace on him so he could not raise his arm very far. That is how he played the entire 1964 season, essentially one armed. He was not going to miss his senior season. In the 1963 WHS football season, Bill was awarded the Don Shaver Award for the top linemen. That was how tough Bill Martin was! As a fellow VN veteran, the VN Veteran Nation thanks you for your service.*”

Steve Anderson, Capt. 1964 WHS FB Team - October 23, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RD

“*Will always think of Bill as a Brother . And always will. Regret that we didn't Stay in touch. Rest in Peace Willy.*”

RD - October 22, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JM

“*Daddy I will miss you so much. My heart is broken into pieces. The kids all say BYE BYE see you again Papa Harley.*”

Jennifer Martin Mayhew - October 22, 2021 at 12:00 AM

SB

“*My buddy*”

Syd Buell - October 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ Cheryl and I were best friends and Bill was like a brother to me He will be gravely missed. I am in shock. Cheryl I love you and have my deepest sympathy. Love Karen. ”

Karen Latvaitis Perdelwitz - October 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM