



William "Little Bill" R Jenkins

January 6, 1946 - January 28, 2025

William R "Little Bill" Jenkins, 79, of DeMotte, Indiana, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

Born on January 6, 1946, in Terre Haute, Indiana, Bill was the son of William and Madlyn (Lowe) Jenkins. He graduated in 1964 from Lew Wallace High School in Gary, Indiana, and went on to become a proud member of the Bricklayers Union Local 6, serving as a Union Steward for 58 years. Bill retired after 30 years of dedicated service at Inland Steel, due to a debilitating stroke. After recovering, Bill volunteered his time in the stroke rehab wing of Saint Anthony's Hospital in Crown Point to encourage other stroke victims by showing them life does go on.

On June 27, 1965, Bill married the love of his life, Karen Vician, at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Gary, Indiana. They shared a beautiful life together for over 59 years. Bill was an active member of Saint Michaels's Lutheran Church, in Hebron, and then at Faith Lutheran Church in DeMotte. He was passionate about fishing, camping, and spending quality time with his family. Bill was a Little League coach, had a passion for football, a member of the Duneland Rock Club, and played dartball for 25 years in DeMotte. Bill enjoyed winters in Gulf Shores, Alabama, where he and Karen made many new friends and fond memories. Above all, Bill cherished spending time with his

grandchildren and great- grandchildren, taking them on memorable trips, including each of their first visits to Disneyland/Disney World!

Bill is survived by his beloved wife, Karen, his children, Kari Glebe, Billy (Sarah) Jenkins, and Lori Jenkins Schmidt, his grandchildren, Matthew (Claire), Morganne, Mark, and Mitchell Glebe, Will and Shawn Jenkins, Aubree Allen (Willow), Ayden Allen, James, Zayden, Oriana, and Cazton Schmidt, his 6 great-grandchildren and 4 bonus great-grandchildren.

Bill was preceded in death by his daughter, Kristie Ann, his son-in-law, Matt Glebe, his brother, Howie Jenkins, and his parents.

A visitation will be held at Faith Lutheran Church on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM CST, followed by a funeral service in the sanctuary, with Pastor Brett Satkowiak officiating. A 1:00 PM committal service will be held in the mausoleum at Calumet Park Cemetery, in Merrillville, Indiana.

Bill will be remembered for his warm spirit, his devotion to God and family, as well as his love for life. He leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter and cherished memories.

Cemetery Details

Calumet Park Cemetery

2305 W 73rd Avenue
Merrillville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 4. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Faith Lutheran Church
1700 S. Halleck St.
DeMotte, IN 46310
(219) 987-3730

Funeral Service

FEB 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

Faith Lutheran Church
1700 S. Halleck St.
DeMotte, IN 46310
(219) 987-3730

Entombment

FEB 4. 1:00 PM (CT)

Calumet Park Cemetery
2305 W 73rd Avenue
Merrillville, IN

Tribute Wall



“ Jackson Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Little Bill" R Jenkins



Jackson Funeral Chapels - February 03, 2025 at 09:34 AM

MP

I'm so sorry for your loss. I love the video, he lived a beautiful life with his beautiful family. Michelle Peo

Michelle Peo - February 06, 2025 at 05:08 AM

CP

“ Karen I'm so sorry to hear of Bill's passing!! It has been along to since we have seen each other. The two if you were so friendly and always smiling!! Will never forget you for being friends in school all those years!! Prayers are for you and your family!!!
Lovely sincere regrets::
Carol (Yedinak)Perosky

Carol Perosky - February 08, 2025 at 08:19 PM

EM

“ Elizabeth M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Little Bill" R Jenkins.

Elizabeth M. - February 08, 2025 at 11:19 AM

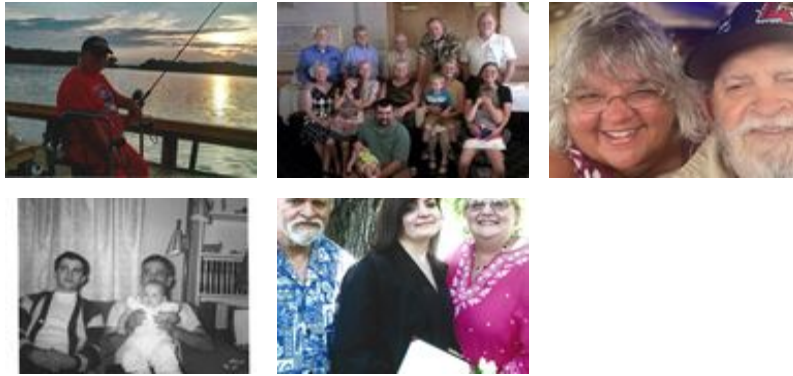
JM

“ I didn't know Bill well. We met him through my mother-in-law, Gail McBrayer, on a cruise to Alaska. He and his beautiful wife made the trip all that much more fun. His easy smile and that twinkle in his eye were the first things I remembered when Gail told me of his passing. RIP Bill and my condolences to the Jenkins family.

Jessica McBrayer - February 07, 2025 at 02:10 PM



“ 76 files added to the album LifeTributes



Jackson Funeral Chapels - February 03, 2025 at 09:33 AM

PD

“ Great memories of the time there at St Michael's. Enjoy the fullness of heaven and being with your Lord Savior. Karen find peace knowing Bill is enjoying the fullness of heaven. Sorry we can't be there, but we are there in spirit.
Pastor Jim Drummond and family

Pastor Jim Drummond - February 02, 2025 at 06:23 PM

WD

“ Wendy and Derek planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Little Bill" R Jenkins.

Wendy and Derek - January 31, 2025 at 10:45 PM

WD

“ Wendy and Derek purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of William "Little Bill" R Jenkins.



Wendy and Derek - January 31, 2025 at 10:45 PM

MF

“ Mike and Cheryl Jung family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of William "Little Bill" R Jenkins.



Mike and Cheryl Jung family - January 31, 2025 at 08:01 PM

AP

“ I did not know William personally, but I know his grandson, James Schmidt, a former student of mine at KVHS. I just wanted to say that I am so sorry for the family's loss, and that I am praying for God's comfort, peace, and strength for all of you during this difficult time. May His love and peace surround you!

Sincerely,
Andrew Piccirilli

Andrew Piccirilli - January 31, 2025 at 03:43 PM

SR

Norm & I wish we would have had a chance to get to know William better. Do remember how you & Karen opened up your home (and pool in the backyard) while we were visiting Chris & Lori and the kids. Praying for peace, strength, and comfort for your family 🙏🕊️❤️

Sara Ramiento - January 31, 2025 at 10:25 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the album Grandpa



James Schmidt - January 31, 2025 at 12:05 PM

DC

“ Duneland Rock Club planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Little Bill" R Jenkins.

Duneland Rock Club - January 31, 2025 at 11:27 AM

DC

“ Duneland Rock Club purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of William "Little Bill" R Jenkins.



Duneland Rock Club - January 31, 2025 at 11:27 AM

DB

“ *Bill was a great man. His heart was huge. Will miss him in the neighborhood but I know he is with his Lord and whole. Sending our thoughts and prayers to Karen and their children and grandchild. So very sorry Karen and family!!!*

David Butler - January 30, 2025 at 10:49 PM