



William A. "Bill" Southwell

October 13, 1953 - October 16, 2025

William "Bill" Southwell, age 72 of Clare, passed away on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at the Henry Ford Hospital of Detroit, surrounded by his family. On October 13, 1953, Bill was born the son of Harold and Mabel (Hoisington) Southwell in Lansing, MI. Bill's childhood and early adult years were spent in Webberville, where he was a graduate from the Webberville High School Class of 1971. He was united in marriage to Joan Wainright on June 20, 1980 in Mason, MI, and together they shared forty-five cherished years. In 1985, Bill and Joan moved from Lansing to Clare where Bill had a work opportunity for the State of Michigan as an assistant manager of the John C. Mackie Rest Area—a career that Bill enjoyed for thirty-five years up to his retirement in 2010. In his younger years, Bill enjoyed pheasant hunting and taking trips with Joan to hike the White Mountains in New Hampshire. His lifelong passions included his love for vegetable gardening, collecting antiques, classic automobiles, and a love for woodworking—specifically carving toy cars for his grandchildren.

Bill is survived by his wife Joan Southwell of Clare and their children Katherine (Raymond) First of Mt. Pleasant and Andrew (Erin) Southwell of Midland. Other survivors include Bill's grandchildren Elijah First of Mt. Pleasant and Vivian and Lennox Southwell of Midland and his sister-in-law Laurie Southwell of Webberville. Bill was preceded in death by his parents Harold and Mabel Southwell and his brother Harold Southwell, Jr.

A funeral service in honor of Bill, will take place on Thursday, October 23,

2025 at the Clare Church of the Nazarene at 12:00 P.M. with Pastor Brian Farmer officiating. A time of visitation will be held at the church on Thursday from 10:00 A.M. until the time of service at 12:00 P.M. A graveside committal for Bill will be held in Fowlerville's Greenwood Cemetery on Friday, October 24th at 10:30 A.M., where Bill will be laid to rest alongside his parents. To honor Bill's love for nature and trees, memorial contributions made in his memory are encouraged to the Arbor Day Foundation, or the Clare Church of the Nazarene. For those unable to attend services, online condolences may be shared at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

4350 Cemetery Road
Fowlerville, MI 48836

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **23**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Clare Church of the Nazarene
10160 S. Grant Avenue
Clare, MI 48617

Service

OCT **23**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Clare Church of the Nazarene
10160 S. Grant Avenue
Clare, MI 48617

Graveside Committal

OCT **24**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Greenwood Cemetery
Fowlerville, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William A. "Bill" Southwell.*



October 22, 2025 at 11:24 AM



“ *The three trees are in memory of Bill from Joan's cousins Cathy Clugston, Doug and Jane Archer, and Bruce and Terrie Reinoehl.*

Terrie Reinoehl - October 21, 2025 at 09:48 AM



“ *Terrie A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William A. "Bill" Southwell.*

Terrie A. - October 21, 2025 at 09:14 AM



“ *We're remembering Bill's cheery smile, his active ,Intelligent & creative thinking, his abundance of ideas and projects. He seemed to embrace every moment of his day with enthusiasm. We enjoyed every visit with him and looked forward to the next. We will miss him.
Our deepest sympathy to Joan and the family they created together.*

Don and Shelley Carpenter - October 21, 2025 at 08:38 AM

LK

“ Love, Ty, Julie and the Turner kids planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William A. "Bill" Southwell.

Love, Ty, Julie and the Turner kids - October 20, 2025 at 08:52 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William A. "Bill" Southwell.



October 20, 2025 at 08:52 PM

CG

“ Cara Baker and your fellow agents at GtD planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William A. "Bill" Southwell.

Cara Baker and your fellow agents at GtD - October 20, 2025 at 05:39 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of William A. "Bill" Southwell.



October 20, 2025 at 05:39 PM

DM

“ Bill graduated with my older brother and him and his buddy Tim were around often and neighbors (well within a few blocks) of ours when we lived over on Clark St. Always liked Bill and visited with him every time we swung into the freeway rest area in Clare that Bill managed.

David Morris - October 20, 2025 at 02:55 PM

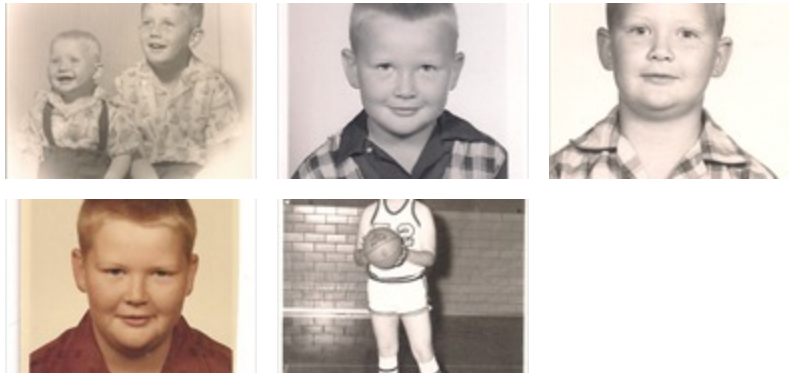
LS

“ I have many great memories of my cousin Bill. When we were kids, every few weeks our parents would get together to play euchre while we usually were outdoors doing something. I remember Dec. 21, 1968. It was very cold. We were outside looking up at the sky. It was the first time man had orbited the moon. Apollo 8 had been successful. There was a lot of cheering!

Linda Siciliano - October 19, 2025 at 10:57 PM

LS

“ 20 files added to the album Photos from Linda Siciliano



Linda Siciliano - October 19, 2025 at 09:48 PM

RM

“ Roy,Nancy, Edward and Charles McGowan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William A. "Bill" Southwell.

Roy,Nancy, Edward and Charles McGowan - October 19, 2025 at 07:37 PM

RM

“ Roy,Nancy, Edward and Charles McGowan purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of William A. "Bill" Southwell.



Roy,Nancy, Edward and Charles McGowan - October 19, 2025 at 07:37 PM

TM

“ One that always makes me laugh...Bill and I were hanging out in my backyard. Think we were about 16 years old. We had an old barn filled with garden tools that included an old pickax handle. We would pick it up and swing it around and were doing so that evening. Can't remember all the details, but I believe there was someone trying to kidnap kids in the area. We were talking about it and I asked Bill what he would do if was here. By the way, Bill had the pickax handle in his hand when I asked him. He decided to show me what he would do and swung the pickax handle as hard as could, like he was trying to take somebody out. Did I mention we had a clothesline in our backyard and they are not very visible at night. As soon as he swung it the pickax handle found the clothesline that Bill didn't see and rebounded off the clothes and came back and found the middle of Bill's forehead. The surprised look on his face. wondering what just hit me. Guess I would have to give the win to the clothesline. No blood just a goose egg and we both had a good laugh, at least I did. You will be missed my friend...thank you for always being there for me.

Your Friend Always

Tim McCoy

Tim McCoy - October 19, 2025 at 02:17 PM

CS

“ Many condolences to Joan and the kids from Phil, Jessica and I. He was such a caring man; always asked how you were doing no matter what he was going through. Our prayers for God's grace and loving thoughts will be with you as you grieve your loss.



CHAR SMOCK - October 19, 2025 at 02:06 PM