



William L. Burns

August 16, 1933 - August 13, 2016

William L. Burns, age 82, of Clare, passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday, August 13, 2016. He was born the son of Elijah and Marjorie (Krabbe) Burns on August 16, 1933 in Saginaw County's Buena Vista Township. He married Shirley Buckius on March 21, 1953, and she survives him. Bill had served in the Michigan National Guard, Bay City police, had a long career in the Michigan State Police retiring as a Detective First Lieutenant, and had served as Undersheriff in Isabella County after retiring from the State Police. He was also passionate about farming. He had served as the President and director of the Clare County Fair Board for several years, was a director and president of the Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibitions and was a member of the Clare United Methodist Church.

Bill is survived by his wife, Shirley, his brother Grant and Marla Burns, his sister Margorie and Dennis Swiecicki, his children; Randy and Cynthia Burns of Belding, Cindy and Jim Latocki of Beaverton, Jeff and Penny Burns of Pierson and Bill Jr. and Christine Burns of Spring Lake. Also surviving are his grandchildren Elizabeth, Jennifer, Jessica, Randy Jr., Perry, Jamey, Angela, Bradley and Breanna and great grandchildren Kayla, Ariana, Ahnalee, Natalina, Bentley, Evelyn, and Eloise.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, August 18, at 11 AM at the Clare United Methodist Church with Pastor John Kasper officiating. Burial will follow in the Cherry Grove Cemetery in Clare. Memorials may be made to the Clare United Methodist Church, Thin Blue Line of Michigan, Clare Community

Foundation, or the American Cancer Society.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 17, from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 PM at the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home (1005 N. McEwan, Clare) and on Thursday from 10 AM until service time at the church (105 E. Seventh Street, Clare).

Cemetery Details

Cherry Grove Cemetery

1000 Cedar St.
Clare, MI 48617

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 17. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)
1005 North McEwan St.
Clare, MI 48617
(989) 386-7451
wymanhf@chartermi.net
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

Visitation

AUG 17. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)
1005 North McEwan St.
Clare, MI 48617
(989) 386-7451
wymanhf@chartermi.net
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

Visitation

AUG 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Clare United Methodist Church
105 E. Seventh Street
Clare, MI 48617

Service

AUG 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Clare United Methodist Church
105 E. Seventh Street
Clare, MI 48617

Tribute Wall

MB

“ *To Mrs. Burns and family,*

Jamie and I would like to offer our condolences to you on the passing of your beloved husband, Bill. It was an honor to have him as a neighbor in Florida and we will truly miss him. May God embrace you and your family in comfort during this difficult time.

Kindest regards,

James McLachlan and Monique Boulanger

Monique Boulanger - August 22, 2016 at 12:00 PM

CH

“ *Chris lit a candle in memory of William L. Burns*



chris - August 20, 2016 at 10:21 AM

KN

“ *Mrs. Burns. So sorry about the passing of Bill. He and my father Harold Nunn we're buddies for many years on the northern mich harness board. I new Bill myself but not like my dad . My mother passes her condolence also. Take care. Kim Nunn*

kim nunn - August 19, 2016 at 02:43 PM

MH

“ *Maye Tessner Rood And Deb Hoyt lit a candle in memory of William L. Burns*



Maye Tessner Rood and Deb Hoyt - August 18, 2016 at 10:03 AM



Yvonne
Graham

“ *Mel and I had the pleasure to have Bill as our neighbor in Florida. He was a kind and helpful man. With a good hardy laugh. You are going to be missed by us all. Love you Shirley. Sincerely yours, Mel and Yvonne Graham*



Yvonne Graham - August 17, 2016 at 07:33 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of William L. Burns.*



August 17, 2016 at 02:23 PM

MB

“ Me and Tommy Moose would go to Billy’s house to pick him up on weekends, and Mr. Burns would always tell us that he was glad to see us. BUT, before Billy could go anywhere there was a few chores he needed to do at the farm, and that it would go much quicker if we would pitch in and help.

Well, after about 4 hours we would be done, but very tired and hungry! Mrs. Burns would have a nice dinner ready for us, (not sure how she knew we would be there for dinner). Usually an awesome roast beef or something just as good.

We would enjoy a great dinner, then we were free to go on with our day, or evening as it turned into.

I enjoy lots of memories from those days, would not trade a one... but still can’t help wonder if they were planned way ahead of when me and Tommy came out.

What a great guy, he will be missed. He always would speak to us, never talked down to us and always made us feel welcome.

Matt Benic - August 17, 2016 at 01:06 PM

TL

“ As a local police officer assigned to work narcotics back in the early 1970's, I had the good fortune to meet Bill. Over the many years, although we worked in different offices and in different counties, I often called on Bill for his assistance and knowledge. I am forever indebted for his friendship and leadership.

Tony Los
Trenton Police (Retired)
DRANO
DEA

Tony Los - August 17, 2016 at 08:15 AM

TM

“ Burns family my thoughts and prayers are with you! Lost a great sheep man, superintendent and a very wonderful man. Memories of the shows with Bill will always bring a smile to my face. He took me to my first Detroit Tigers game with many other kids that were at the old Michigan State Fair. The Bill Burns stories are endless and the memories live forever.

Teresa Sheaffer Mckay - August 17, 2016 at 07:24 AM

YF

“ Your Consumers Energy EO Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of William L. Burns.



Your Consumers Energy EO Family - August 16, 2016 at 02:48 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of William L. Burns.



August 16, 2016 at 01:30 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William L. Burns.



August 16, 2016 at 01:25 PM

MB

“ Shirley and family--My thoughts are with you all at this very difficult time. I have many fond memories of all the time spent at your house from early on in my life. I remember being afraid of Bill when I was very young, especially when he would come home after working undercover with BAYANET (he did not look like anyone's father). As the years went on and I grew older, I learned that Bill was an amazing man, husband, father, grandfather, and friend! I learned a lot about lots of things from all of you, especially about raising sheep. I will never forget the summer I spent with Cindy on the fair circuit showing open class, it was an amazing experience, especially for someone as young as I was! Bill always pushed me to try harder and work harder with my sheep, even though I hated it at the time, he was right and it did pay off! My mother was very lucky to have a friend like Shirley and her whole family. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers, all of you! Rest in Peace Bill.
Melanie McJames Bell

Melanie Bell - August 16, 2016 at 10:55 AM

AT

“ I have fond memories of Bill. A little conversation always brought positive results for the Clare County Fair Horse Program!
Allyson Thompson

Allyson Thompson - August 16, 2016 at 06:29 AM

DM

“ Shirley and Family, I first met Bill several years ago when he came to pick up a AV ballot. We had a nice long talk, he had a way of making you feel comfortable. We had those talk very two years when he came for his ballot. He was a great man a d will be missed. May God be with you during this time.

Doris Methner Wise Twp. Clerk

Doris Methner - August 15, 2016 at 07:35 PM

MS

“ Shirley and Family, A tall timber has fallen... Bill commanded and deserved so much respect. What a great man, a mentor to all who came into contact with him. Life as we know it is bigger and better thanks to Bill. His dedication to his community is only one of his legacies. Capt. Burns, may God grant you peace throughout eternity!

mark salchert - August 15, 2016 at 07:23 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of William L. Burns.



August 15, 2016 at 05:31 PM

TB

“ The Staff At Benchley Brothers lit a candle in memory of William L. Burns



The Staff at Benchley Brothers - August 15, 2016 at 04:08 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William L. Burns.



August 15, 2016 at 09:59 AM

AW

“ My sincere condolences to the Burns family. I worked for Bill at the Bay Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (BAYANET) and considered him a fine mentor and friend. Bill was a phenomenal investigator/detective. His unique management style ("don't sweat the small stuff") created a loyal following among the officers under him. From shutting down nuisance drug houses; to dismantling complex drug trafficking organizations; to investigations of prescription drug fraud; to arresting street level dealers...Bill engineered it all. He could have written a book. He should have written a book.

Bill Burns got things done and made law enforcement exciting. The mold has been broken.

Sincerely,

Art Wakeley, MSP Retired

Art Wakeley - August 15, 2016 at 09:39 AM

JL

“ So sorry about your loss Shirley, Bill and I had a lot of fun talks over coffee in the morning when I was working for the phone company. He was a great guy and will be missed.

Jim and Nancy Lloyd

Jim and Nancy Lloyd - August 14, 2016 at 05:25 PM

BC

“ Shirley, Bob and I so enjoyed our time we spent with you and Bill in Florida last winter. We have a lot of memories that we will never forget. Bill was a great man and I am so glad he was such a good friend to my Dad over the years that were spent in Florida. We are also so glad that we had a chance to have lunch with you and Bill in June. Our love and prayers to a special lady

Bob and Sheila Cregg - August 14, 2016 at 01:50 PM

FW

“ *Bill and I were classmates in the State Police. I remember him as being one of the oldest recruits, which goes to show you good police officers come in all ages. He had a great career. He will be missed.*

Frank Wright MSP 87

Frank Wright - August 14, 2016 at 01:46 PM