



William Carpenter

July 5, 1948 - February 21, 2023

William "Bill" Bernard Carpenter, a devoted family man and veteran of Madison Heights, passed away on February 21, 2023, at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak after medical complications following surgery. He was born on July 5, 1948, in Detroit, Michigan to proud parents Ralph and Orlene Carpenter. Bill's dedication to his family was evident from a young age when he started working at the family pharmacy, Carpenter Drug. With stories of even as a child, taking the responsibility of transporting money by wagon to the bank on Main Street.

Bill graduated from Dondero High School in Royal Oak at the young age of 17, and immediately enlisted in the United States Army. After three years (or 2 years, 8 months, 4 days as he would recite if asked) of service, he joined the United States Postal Service as a clerk, where he worked until his retirement in 2003. During his tenure at the post office, Bill met "the love of his life", Gayle (Woltmann), whom he eventually married in an intimate ceremony surrounded by their family and friends in 1990.

In 1994, Bill and Gayle welcomed their twin sons, Steven and Daniel, into the world. Bill was an active father who enjoyed being a "room dad" at St. Paul Lutheran School, and took great pride in supporting his sons' various activities from academics to robotics and everything in between.

Bill was an active member of St. Paul Lutheran Church where he served as a member of the choir, 'head waterer' of the Garden Club (a title lovingly given by Gayle), and more. His love for the church and its community was evident in his participation in numerous activities.

In 2013, Bill was diagnosed with brain cancer and fought a brave battle for 10 years. Despite the odds, Bill defied his diagnosis time and time again, earning the admiration of his doctors and many others who referred to him as a miracle & living a long time in remission.

Bill will be deeply missed by his beloved wife of almost 33 years, Gayle, his two sons, Steven (Rachel Johnstone) and Daniel, his sisters Carole Hanson, Barbara (Malcolm) Martin, and Margie (late Ralph) Carpenter, Nancy (Dale) Miller, brother-in-law Glenn (Rose) Pollard, sister-in-law Carol (late Ron) Woltmann, and many nieces and nephews who often referred to him as the "fun uncle" with his backyard pool, motorcycle, & wit. He will also be missed by his lap dog & rescued best friend- Scout Marie. He was preceded in death by his parents Ralph and Orlene, his siblings Dennis, Ralph, and Doris (Jim) Lappin, siblings-in-law Audrey (Chuck) Ehrke, Ron Woltmann, & mother-in-law Marion Woltmann.

Bill's legacy of love and devotion to his family, his country, and his community will always be remembered by those whose lives he touched.

A visitation for Bill will take place on Sunday, February 26, from 2:00 to 8:00 pm at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors, 705 W. Eleven Mile Rd. (4 blks. E. of Woodward), Royal Oak, 48067. Bill will lie in state on Monday, February 27, from 10:00 am until time of funeral service at 11:00 am at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 202 East Fifth Street, Royal Oak, 48067. Interment at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **26**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB **27**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
202 E. Fifth Street
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Burial

FEB **28**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery
4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Tribute Wall



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Carpenter.* ”



February 24, 2023 at 10:54 PM



“ *Papaw & Granny Williamson purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of William Carpenter.* ”



Papaw & Granny Williamson - February 24, 2023 at 02:25 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of William Carpenter.* ”



February 24, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ *Love, Glenn & Rose Pollard & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William Carpenter.* ”



Love, Glenn & Rose Pollard & Family - February 24, 2023 at 01:57 PM

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“ *Carolee and Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of William Carpenter.*



Carolee and Family - February 24, 2023 at 09:26 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of William Carpenter.*



February 23, 2023 at 06:01 PM



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



February 23, 2023 at 04:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Carpenter.*



February 23, 2023 at 08:32 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William Carpenter.*



February 23, 2023 at 08:25 AM



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



February 23, 2023 at 08:02 AM



“ *I was lucky enough to call Bill my friend. I have never met anyone more funny in my life. The stories this man had would make you laugh till you cried! Seriously the things he would say. We volunteered at the local animal shelter together on Wednesday mornings. When I would pick him up he would tell me my driving was questionable and he would probably need two seatbelts and a helmet to get there safe! We had so many laughs together on those mornings and it is something I will always cherish. Bill loved God, his family, and his little rescue dog Scout (A sweet pup that stole his heart on one of those Wednesday mornings). Bill will be missed by so many.*

Sending all my love and prayers to his Beautiful wife Gayle and their two sons Steven and Daniel during this difficult time.

Kara MacBeth - February 22, 2023 at 10:18 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William Carpenter.*



February 22, 2023 at 09:57 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Carpenter.*



February 22, 2023 at 09:53 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of William Carpenter.*



February 22, 2023 at 09:48 PM



“ *Bill, thanks for being such a welcoming member of SPRO garden club. I don't know how Tom would have gotten dinner without your reminder "It's 8:00 Sandy!" You were certainly a genuinely good man!*

sandy Limbaugh - February 22, 2023 at 09:19 PM