



James "Bill" William Stephens

July 25, 1939 - April 26, 2015

James William Stephens, better known to some as Bill, Billy, or J.W., 75, of Kalkaska, passed away Sunday, April 26, 2015 at Kalkaska Eden Center, surrounded by his children. He was born on July 25, 1939 to the late William and Annette (Sharp) Stephens in Warsaw, Indiana and later grew up on a farm in South Boardman with his three cherished siblings: Doug (Janet) Stephens of Kalkaska, Evelyn (Ron) Cavner of Belmont, and Jeanette (Cecil) Phillips of Kalkaska, who all survive him. Bill graduated from Kalkaska High School and went to work at Kalkaska Screw Products and then McLean's Hardware for 36 years. The McLean's, Al Dimon, and the others became not only his friends, but a part of his family. On January 25, 1964, Bill married the love of his life Verna Dee Frye. Together they had two children; Todd (Kim) Stephens and Darci (Mike) Fitch, both of Kalkaska; and four grandchildren Morgan and Alaina Fitch and Mackenzie and Allison Luck. His family meant the world to him. Bill enjoyed woodworking, collecting coins, spending time with his family, and watching the Detroit Tigers with his granddaughter Alaina. The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 11:00 am in the Chapel of Kalkaska Funeral Home with final visitation beginning at 9:00 am until the time of service. Andy Bratton of the Kalkaska Church of Christ will officiate. Burial will take place at Evergreen Cemetery in Kalkaska. A luncheon will follow at the Kalkaska Church of Christ. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Kalkaska Eden Center or Michigan Hospice. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

272 West St.
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Previous Events

Final Visitation

APR **29**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S Cedar St
P.O. Box 1457
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Service

APR **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S Cedar St
P.O. Box 1457
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Tribute Wall

BC

“ We are so sorry to hear about your loss of your husband, father and grandfather. While we didn't know Bill well, he always treated us like friends and made us feel like he cared. He will be greatly missed. We are thinking of all you, Stephens and Fitch families...our thoughts and prayers go out to all of you. Bob and Fran Carey

Bob and Fran Carey - April 30, 2015 at 03:09 PM

DD

“ I am sorry for your loss Stephens and Fitch Families. Having known Bill since I was little going into McLean's and getting the chance to work with him was a joy and a pleasure. He was truly one of the greats and meant a great deal to many, many people, especially my dad.

Daryl Dimon

Daryl Dimon - April 29, 2015 at 07:43 AM

DD

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Bill was an amazing person and was one of the kindest people I have ever met. I know he meant so much to my dad and to everyone in the community. Thank you for sharing all of those great pictures of him.

Derrick Dimon - April 28, 2015 at 07:33 PM

RL

“ Occasionally in our lives, we are fortunate to meet folks that you know without a doubt, are just good Americans. Bill and Verna are among those that deserve that label. They deserve our thanks and our gratitude for the way they lived and for creating a legacy that gives hope for the future. It was truly our honor to know Bill and the memories will be fond.

Randy and Cathy Lucyk - April 28, 2015 at 02:48 PM

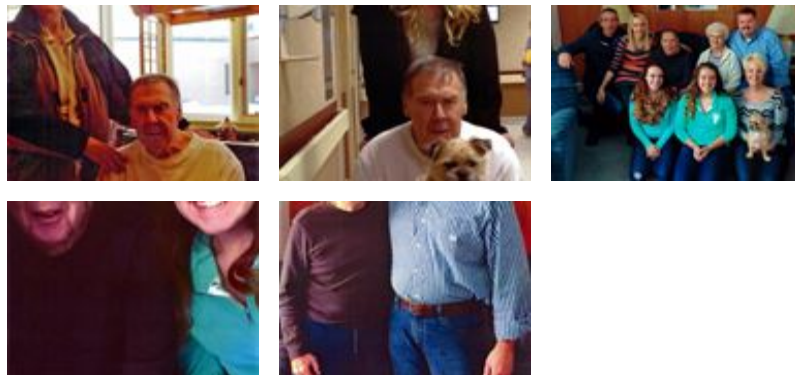
DP

“ What a genuinely nice person! My sympathies to Verna, Todd, Darci and all the family. The Stephens family were our neighbors when we first moved to Kalkaska. They obviously raised their kids to be wonderful people, and Bill was a humble, honest example.

Deb Payne - April 28, 2015 at 09:16 AM



“ 41 files added to the album Life Tributes



Kalkaska Funeral Home - April 28, 2015 at 08:39 AM

LM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Lavina (Sieting) Mack

Lavina Mack - April 28, 2015 at 07:40 AM

AJ

“ *Al Jordan lit a candle in memory of James "Bill" William Stephens*



Al Jordan - April 28, 2015 at 07:21 AM

DF

“ *We were saddened to hear of Bill's passing. We just want you to know that we will be praying that God will give give you extra grace and strength in the upcoming days.*

Doug and Sharon Fry - April 28, 2015 at 03:40 AM