



William Ross Shafer

January 7, 1952 - December 28, 2017

William "Bill" Ross Shafer, 65, of Kalkaska, passed away on Thursday December 28, 2017. He was born to the late Richard and Margaret (Ross) on January 7, 1952 in Warsaw, Indiana. Bill was an all state wrestler and enjoyed playing football for Warsaw High School. In the early 1970's Bill moved to Kalkaska with his family. Bill loved the outdoors especially fishing and hunting. He was very witty and liked to joke with his friends and family. Bill was a member of the Kalkaska Moose Lodge and could often be found hanging out at Trout Town. Bill is survived by his children Todd (Noreen), Trinity (Billie), Angie and Dawn, grandchildren; Evan, Devon, Darren, Nick, Warren, Jerrica, Bryce, Reese, David, Dan, brother Charlie (Diane) Shafer. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his brother Tony Shafer. A Memorial Service will take place at 10:30 am, on Thursday January 4, 2018 at Kalkaska United Methodist Church, 2525 Beebe Road. Arrangements entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Previous Events

Service

JAN 4. 10:30 AM (ET)

Kalkaska United Methodist Church
2525 Beebe Road NW
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Tribute Wall

AC

“ *Alba United Methodist Church purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of William Ross Shafer.*



Alba United Methodist Church - January 03, 2018 at 05:50 PM

DL

“ *During high school, Bill worked on our farm baling hay. One time he rode a brand new motorcycle to the farm and wanted me to ride it, which I did not have any interest in riding it. He insisted and started it up. Within 3 seconds it was upside down on top of me. Doug Lozier, Warsaw High School class of 1970.*

Doug Lozier - January 02, 2018 at 10:35 PM

HW

“ I am deeply saddened by the loss of Bill, or "Sweet William" as I called him.

As a coworker at Top of the Line Crane Service, he was charming, very funny and considerate to others.

He never spoke a harsh word toward me, (that's a rarity for Oil Field men) no matter how badly I had messed up his directions to a location, or the description of what he was supposed to lift out there with the boom.

I remember fondly the tales of his sweet chocolate lab dog named Tootsie. He would talk about her so lovingly, even when she hogged the whole bed at night!

He brought her to the shop a few times to visit. Her slow pace, rounded body and gray haired muzzle were telling of her age, but the tail wagging (thumping) and sparkly eyes showed a happy life filled to the brim with love.

When she passed away, his heart just broke.

I tried hard get him to share his life and love with another dog. He would not do it, saying there would never be a dog as good as Toots was.

A huge benefit of working with him, was amazing back rubs, which I pleaded for often! Effective almost to the point of hurting, zeroing in on the exact spot of pain, and I always walked away feeling so much better.

I believe he had told me he and his brothers (?) learned how to release back pain on each other, saving money from chiropractic treatments.

He cooked fantastic breakfasts at the shop many mornings! His eggs perfect for dipping toast, oven cooked crispy bacon, biscuits and gravy, ect With beaming grin on his face it was apparent he loved to cook for others, making sure everyone was full and satisfied.

I told him repeatedly he needed to open a little restaurant or a food

truck calling it "Bill's Grill".

The same vigor he had for cooking, he also had for eating! Being somewhat of a "foodie" guy, enjoying tastes, textures and combinations of flavors.

I grin as I recall an employee Christmas party. He was the star of the show to say the least! With died blond hair, shirt unbuttoned low on his chest, gold chain around his neck, he danced and danced and danced!!!

He was having a blast, and so were all of us watching him!

He retired as a well seasoned crane and boom truck operator. He held this position for many years in the oilfield, working at Kal Con for 20 plus years before joining Top of the Line Crane Service. He enjoyed telling the stories of life in "the patch", some funny, some scary, and some down right crazy!

I vividly remember him returning from "Jack Land" locations in Adrain, that are particularly messy when it rains down there. The mud and clay caked up and over the axles and tires of good old Boom Truck Unit 3, and up and over and IN his boots.

He visited the shop often, to chit chat and catch up on the gossip. Often he would bring sweet treats for us office girls, one time he even brought us plants! He spoiled the shop cat Gia with lots of petting and plenty of cat treats! The dedication to The Big Bang Theory show as well as it's cast members was endless! Also America's got Talent and several other shows he shared with me as I worked away at my desk. He couldn't believe I didn't watch these shows and I would laugh while saying "I don't have too, you tell me all I would need to know"!

We bantered back and forth like an old couple, him sitting next to me at my desk, questioning what seemed like everything I said and did. LOL! He chimed in his opinion and ideas, and I would tease him for being so snoopy.

He smiled brightly and greeted me with "hello beautiful" at each visit and ended it with "glad you got to see me". When he was being sneaky or trying to play innocent, he would giggle and speak out the word "what" with a grin like the cat that ate the canary. "See you very much" was another cute saying he used a lot, catching people off guard on how to reply.

He quietly listened to me complain about life, tossed in advice when needed and was thrilled to hear about the good stuff! I was able to Facebook stalk an old girlfriend for him and the reconnection was a delight for both of them.

He was an extremely gentle, gentleman. He spoke openly about past loves and losses, successes and regrets.

I have never known a man quite like him, I doubt I ever will. I think back to when Toots passed away, and he said there would never be a dog as good as Toots was.....there will never be a man quite like Sweet William.

Heidi Williams - January 02, 2018 at 07:56 PM

SV

“ *I am so sorry for your loss of a good man! Bill and I have been friends for several years, and I thought very highly of him. He was a good friend and fun to be around. It was not unusual for him to pick up my tab for breakfast at Trout Town or for me to pay for his, if I could get the register in time. He loved his family and fishing!*

Sue Vowels - January 02, 2018 at 02:45 PM

MA

“ *Todd and Norene , " May your faith give you strength & courage to face the challenges that lay ahead as your recent loss becomes more real" ! Christmas Love ❤️ Peace Ken & Marti Barrow*

martibarrow - January 02, 2018 at 09:22 AM

VM

“ Todd and Trinity I hope you have good memories that will grow sweeter with each passing day of your dad. He was a good guy, funny and fun loving and very proud of you both! I thought of him as my big brother and have good memories of him. May you have peace and comfort in the days ahead. Love A Val and U Bryan.

Valerie McInerney - December 31, 2017 at 04:30 PM

JB

“ So sorry to hear of your loss

Jeanie Baltierrez - December 30, 2017 at 01:12 PM

CB

“ Bill use to work for me at Top of The Line Crane service bill was always a pleasure to be around and always mild mannered bill always was and hope he will always be a prankster bill your extended family of Doubl check and Top of Line employees will miss your coffee stops bill we know you made it in to heaven and are looking down on us my friend we will all see u again someday love u brother and for the family what a loss my heart goes out to you as I tear up hang in there
Yours truly
Capt carl.

carl baker - December 30, 2017 at 09:46 AM

KS

“ So sorry to read of your lose. Death is an enemy whenever it strikes. The words found at Rev 21:3,4 are a comfort at a time like this as it offers a hope for those we have lost in death. My hope is this brings you some comfort now and in the months ahead. And please except my sincere sympathy during this time of lose.

karen sw - December 30, 2017 at 08:09 AM

SS

“ *My fondest memories of Bill were fishing with him on East Grand Traverse Bay. We took my middle son once in pretty heavy seas and Zac was fine til we got the downriggers in. He started throwing up, non-stop. Bill said "wanna get him back in?" I said yeah, we better. As soon as Zac hit the dock he was fine lol. Another time Bill and I were out and he said to throw this blue spoon out, he always had luck with it. I bent over the side of the boat and when I reached for the swivel to attach the spoon, I dropped the spoon over the side. I watched it sway back and forth, down into the blue abyss. I turned around and said "you're not gonna believe this, I dropped that spoon in the water. Do you have another one?" He said "are you serious? No, I don't have another one." I know I shouldn't have laughed. He just shook his head. I don't think he was all that surprised at me.*

Scotty Shafer - December 29, 2017 at 04:36 PM