



Bill Francis

April 1, 1943 - February 28, 2026

Dateline: Godfrey

Bill Francis, 82, died at 12:36 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Bill was born April 1, 1943 to Odell and Mae (Schaefer) Francis in Alton, IL.

Bill attended Alton High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served from 1961 to 1965.

On September 18, 1965 he met the love of his life, Janet Scoggins, and they were married on September 3, 1966 at St. Bernard Church in Wood River, IL. They enjoyed 59 years together.

Bill was employed by the Alton School District for 37 years, retiring on June 30, 2001. During his years of service, he worked as a bus driver/maintenance warehouse driver. He then advanced to warehouse supervisor and then to maintenance supervisor. Bill drove the instruments for the "Marching 100" from 1968-2001.

He leaves behind his wife Jan and four children, Donna (Rob) Argus, Todd Francis, Heather Knetzer and John (Heather) Francis. Five grandchildren, Christine and Sarah Argus, William Knetzer, Goldie Francis, and Emma Le Grand. Four siblings, Judy Bornes, Joanne (Gary) Metcalfe, Tom (Shari) Francis, David (Janet) Francis and many nieces and nephews.

Bill enjoyed camping with his children and grandchildren. When Bill and Jan retired, they enjoyed spending their winters in Gulf Shores, Alabama. They belonged to the Midwest R.V. Club and enjoyed many trips with them. But

most of all he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

After selling their home of 56 years, in Alton's Middletown, they moved to Asbury Village in Godfrey, IL. There they found an extended family, friends and caring staff.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026 beginning at 10:00 a.m. until time of service at 11:00 a.m. with a reception to follow at Asbury Village, 5201 Asbury Lane, Godfrey, IL.

Memorials may be made to the Independent Order of Oddfellows (IOOF) Western Star Lodge #1, 2532 State Street, Alton, IL 62002 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Asbury Village
5201 Asbury Lane
Godfrey, IL

Celebration of Life

APR **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Asbury Village
5201 Asbury Lane
Godfrey, IL

Tribute Wall

MO

“ I am so saddened, and my heart hurts for the loss of Bill. He was such a nice man and a great friend. He was so kind, caring, thoughtful, and he will be so dearly missed. Bill was an outstanding DIY pro, who always gave great advice, and was always available to help if needed. I will miss our weekly get-togethers discussing projects, grandkids, and telling jokes. Thinking of Bill will always warm my heart and put a smile on my face. Diane and I extend our deepest condolences and prayers to Janet and their children.

Mike Osterman - March 16 at 11:30 AM

VB

“ Mrs Janet and the kids, I'm so sorry about Mr Bill you guys have been in our life forever, my heart hurts but I'm glad we made it to see him and he knows I was there he was the best! You both are my deepest condolences and will see you soon praying for you Mrs Janet love Vanessa aka (Van) as he called me ❤️

Vanessa Bea - March 11 at 11:45 PM

SO

“ I've always admired Bill's smile and friendly hello going all the way back to my time at his parents stable on Big Arch and later running into him through work at AHS. Peace and good memories to Jan and the rest of the family.

Sondra - March 07 at 03:20 PM

PM

“ Bill Francis was a good friend to all who knew him. He was always ready with a smile and a helping hand. He will be missed.

Pete McFarlane - March 06 at 12:58 PM

JD

“ Bill and Janet were residents of my old neighborhood in Alton. He was a great guy. Loretta and I extend our condolences to his family.

John J. Dunphy - March 04 at 03:17 PM

CS

“ Bill was such a nice person and a very hard worker. He was always such a big part of Marching 100 performances. He made sure they got to performances and that was just one of the many things Bill did for band kids. So very sorry Jan for your loss. He will be missed. Cindy and Greg Sims.

Cindy Sims - March 04 at 08:31 AM

BH

“ Bill was a wonderful person. I will always remember how he made my 16th birthday so very special. He was like a second Dad when I was growing up. Sending lots of love & prayers to his family.

Becky Hayes-Leggett - March 03 at 09:42 PM

MD

“ Bill was always a great guy. He was my son's first soccer coach and later we worked together on many projects for the school district. He always had a big smile on his face and was well loved. I will miss him and send my condolences to the family.

Matthew Darr - March 03 at 05:52 PM

JC

“ I am so very sorry to hear Bill has passed. Keeping you, Jan, and family in my prayers.

Judy Clark - March 03 at 02:50 PM

RS

“ *A true friend of many years, who will be greatly missed. Deepest condolences to his wife Jan and their children.* ”

Rick Monje/Don Schnaus - March 03 at 01:38 PM