



William "Bill" Barnard

March 11, 1927 - December 9, 2020

Dateline: Godfrey

William Barnard, 93, died December 9, 2020, surrounded by the love of his family near and far. Bill was born in Alton on March 11, 1927, the only child of William J. and Frieda (Wetstein) Barnard. He grew up on Mills Avenue, and was lucky to have the support of family and childhood friends throughout his life. As soon as he graduated from Marquette High School, he enlisted in the Merchant Marines. After the war, he graduated from Saint Louis University, and started working at Olin in 1954. The keystone of Bill's life was Mary Ann (Meister) whom he married in June 1955. Their life together was loving and adventurous. During his 37 year career with Olin, Bill and Mary Ann made many great friends. In the 60s they were transferred to New York, living in Connecticut and making great friends there, too. Coming back to Alton meant coming back to lifelong friends and family. They celebrated their 65th anniversary this past June. Bill was warm, witty and sentimental. He was a natural salesman, a committed mentor, a faithful volunteer with everything from reading to the blind on the radio to cooking at the Salvation Army. He liked clothes, and cars, and could tell you the history of almost every house in Alton. He treated everyone equally, and continued to be genuinely interested in other people right up to his passing. He lived what he believed. Bill was a great cook, a fun host, and a huge fan of fresh flowers. Our home was filled with holiday traditions, celebration and laughter, old friends and new. In addition to his wife, Bill is survived by three children and their spouses; Ann

and Paul Toftness of Saint Paul, MN, Jamey and Susan (Wild) Barnard of Onekama, MI, and Alice Barnard and David Schmalbeck of Alton; five grandchildren, Eric and Kate Toftness in Duluth, MN Corson Barnard in Chicago, Louise Barnard in Miami, Will Schmalbeck in Champaign, and Andy Schmalbeck in Champaign; and one great-grandchild, Charlie Toftness. A memorial will be held in the spring when we can celebrate Bill and give thanks for his life. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *William "Bill" Barnard*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *William "Bill" Barnard*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *I remember Mr. Barnard's great smile. He will be missed by so many!*

Sally Hanson - December 22, 2020 at 03:31 PM



“ *Bill's obituary reflects him to a tee! I worked with Bill in Brass Marketing at Olin and can say he was most respected and respectful in all our business situations. My deepest condolences to Mary Ann and Alice, the family members I knew best. Jean and Buck Hord, Melbourne FL*

Jean Hord - December 16, 2020 at 11:18 AM



How nice to hear from you, Jean. Being a part of Olin meant a lot to Bill! Thank you for your kind memories - Alice.

Alice Barnard - December 17, 2020 at 07:57 PM