



William "Bill" Gustin

October 29, 1937 - July 1, 2020

Dateline: Godfrey

In the early hours of July 1, 2020 William Henry (Bill) Gustin succumbed to his age-related afflictions in the final chapter of a long and meaningful life. He was born on October 29, 1937 at the Rosiclare Hospital in Southern IL. The only child of Virginia Kathaleen Winn and George Warren Gustin, his early childhood was spent in TVA settlements where his father supported the war efforts at Fontana Dam and Oak Ridge TN. The family returned home to Cave-In-Rock, IL after the war where his father worked as a lineman for the REA.

After high school, Bill made his way to the University of Illinois to study engineering. His father was disabled in an accident at the REA and he was unable to afford to finish his degree. Bill moved to the St. Louis area where he found employment in the engineering department at McDonnell Douglas. While residing in Wood River, he met his future wife Karon (Fay) Love who was working as a car hop at the A&W. They married June 5, 1959 and soon started a family. Their first house was in Brighton where they became part of the family at the United Methodist Church of Godfrey for almost 60 years and counting. In 1968 they moved to River-Aire in Godfrey. Bill's career at McDonnell Douglas spanned 35 years and included roles in various space and military programs, including design work on the Space Shuttle, and Patriot Missile systems. After retirement, he enjoyed RV vacations, assisting family with their repairs and projects, and fishing with his lifelong friend. In

1995 Bill and Fay built their retirement home in Brighton. Three years ago, they downsized to a house at the Methodist Village in Godfrey. Bill was always generous with his wealth and expertise and his family will always be grateful for the love and help he freely offered.

Bill was preceded in death by his father, George Warren, and mother, Kathaleen. He leaves behind his wife, Fay, of 61 years; daughter Betty and her husband Doug Mueller of Godfrey; son Brian and his wife Jacqueline of Prosser, WA; Grandson Tim Mueller and his wife Katie; Grandson Nick Mueller and wife Amanda; Granddaughter Elizabeth and her husband Derek Spanton; Granddaughter Chrissy and her husband Grant Bailey; and 5 great-grandchildren Colin, Brock, Anna, Christopher, and Ryan.

A private memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 11 at Godfrey First United Methodist Church followed by interment of his ashes in the Church's memorial garden. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Godfrey First United Methodist Church. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *William "Bill" Gustin*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *William "Bill" Gustin*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *I always remember Uncle Bill coming out to help us build our log house. We all worked hard, but we shared lots of laughs. He even missed his class reunion to stay and help us. We will miss him.*

Jamie Gwaltney - July 10, 2020 at 09:39 PM



“ *I remember Bill's laugh and smile. He was always smiling. I appreciated his help when Betty and I were youth leaders at Godfrey First. We relied on his skills for a few projects, including how much sand we needed for the luminaries at Christmas one year. I remember Betty and I discussed it and decided we should ask Bill. He will be greatly missed.*

Maeda - July 10, 2020 at 05:57 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Gustin.*



July 09, 2020 at 08:07 PM

JG

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Jim and Jane Gasaway

Jane Gasaway - July 08, 2020 at 11:06 AM

GL

“ I remember years ago while I was in college, my parents and I came to the Alton area to visit with family. We stopped in to see you Bill and your wife Fay (my cousin). As a former RF-4C Phantom II maintainer myself, I was fascinated by your stories about the aircraft and your knowledge of its various feats. You and I talked in the kitchen for almost the entire visit. Even after having the experience of working on the aircraft for 8 years myself, I learned so much more just from that conversation. That has always been a unique memory. Later when I moved to the area, I was welcomed as if I had never been away. You, Fay and the entire family welcomed me with open arms. I am thankful for that. You will be missed Bill. My deepest condolences go out to Cousin Fay and all of the family.



Greg Love - July 07, 2020 at 01:47 PM