



William E. Kolkmeier

August 27, 1949 - December 31, 2020

Dateline: Godfrey

William E. Kolkmeier

William (Bill) Kolkmeier, 71, passed away on Thursday, December 31, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at his home in Godfrey, Illinois. He was born August 27, 1949 in Alton, the youngest of three children of Otto and Edith (Hack) Kolkmeier. He attended Alton High School and graduated in the class of 1967; he then went on to SIUE where he received his BS degree in Business and Accounting in 1972. Bill had three children from a previous marriage: Lisa Kolkmeier, in Jerseyville, Julie (Kevin) Conley, in Chicago, and Kevin (Jessica) Kolkmeier, in Dow. He had one grandchild, Cadence, who was the light of his life. In 2007 he met Maureen (Rena) Zwilling and they married on October 12 in the garden at 12th Street Presbyterian Church. She has one son, Nicholas (Jacqueline) Beckworth from a previous marriage who resides in Maine. Bill is survived by his wife Rena, his children, his sister Jean Rathgeb of Godfrey, and his brother Robert (Willa) of Carbondale.

As a CPA, Bill began his work career for Madison County as Director of Financial Services and then went to Scheffel & Company. In 1980 he moved to Jersey State Bank where he ultimately became the President & CEO. Upon leaving the bank he became the Director of Finance for Riverbend Headstart and Family Services for ten years until his retirement in 2016.

Although he was always interested in aviation Bill never took flying lessons; however, he enjoyed his trips to the EAA Fly Ins in Oshgosh and maintained

his membership in that organization throughout his life. He enjoyed travel and he and his wife took advantage of their time to make a number of trips. They were also members of the local Emergency Medical Corps. One of Bill's special hobbies was writing poetry commemorating special events in family members lives'. These writings displayed his very tongue-in-cheek type of humor and were treasured by the recipients.

A celebration of his life for family and friends will be held on Friday, January 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at Gent Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Salvation Army. Private burial will be at Alton City Cemetery. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 8. 1:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services

2409 State Street

Alton, IL 62002

(618) 466-5544

<https://www.gentfuneralhome/>

Tribute Wall



“ *William E. Kolkmeier*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *William E. Kolkmeier*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Rena Kolkmeier - February 21, 2021 at 09:39 PM

NB

“ *Bill was a lovely man inside. He was my stepfather, and we shared a lot of life’s adventures together, including some blue water sailing and a trek into Northern Maine (where he came to my wedding despite being sick). I admired Bill because of how functional he was as a person. As a professional, he attracted more and more responsibility everywhere he went because he’s completely dependable, methodical, thorough, and uplifting always. I loved that about Bill; he was such a great example for me as I left college and I too entered the real world. When I needed a place to live, Bill gave it to me. When I needed advice, Bill was always there (like a stone). As Bill got older, I looked into his eyes, and I saw his mother Edie in those eyes. Bill was an absolute Kolkmeyer, through and through - something to be proud of. Bill was heroic in many small ways, and I loved him like a father. Rest well, my friend. Be still, where there is no more pain, but lots of love. We love you.*



Nick Beckworth - January 08, 2021 at 07:09 PM

SP

“ *Rena, Jean, Bob & Willa and families,*

May your dear brother rest in peace. Enjoyed meeting him a few times. Such a nice guy.

Prayers for strength and peace for you all!

*Susie Pruetzel
friend of Jean's and classmate of Bobs*

Susie Pruetzel - January 06, 2021 at 11:33 PM

AL

“ Bill and I graduated from AHS in the Class of 1967. He and his wife sat at the table next to us at our 50th AHS reunion and we talked a bit. We also attended Twelfth St. Presbyterian Church Sunday School in Alton. His parents Otto and Edith were friends of my parents. Kolkmeier family and Hack families were pillars of the church. My condolences to his wife, children and granddaughter. He looks very much like his high school photo--maybe a few more wrinkles and grey hair. RIP. Aggie Unterbrink Lawrence

AGgie Lawrence - January 05, 2021 at 06:32 PM