



## William Gerald Rister

January 25, 1928 - January 28, 2024

Dateline: Alton

William Gerald Rister, 96, died at 7:10 p.m. Sunday, January 28, 2024 at La Bella of Alton with his family by his side. Born January 25, 1928 in Elsah, IL, he was the son of William H. and Violet (Stucker) Rister. He served with the U.S. Air Force in Guam during WWII. In 1989 he retired as a lineman from Union Electric and was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for 75 years. On November 17, 1956 he married the former Dorothy Nevlin at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Beltrees. She preceded him in death on July 7, 2016. Above all, his family was his pride and joy. He was a very humble man and an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed gardening, fishing and hunting and was a member of the Alton VFW Post 1308. Surviving are two daughters, Bonnie Hindelang (Dan Hornsey) of Grafton, and Diana Crowder (Kevin) of Brighton, two sons, Joe Rister (Jennifer) of Brighton, and Duane Rister (Candy) of Fosterburg. Also surviving are nine grandchildren, Anna Gonzales Hindelang, Michael Crowder, Kathryn Crowder, Paige Rister, Brooke Rister, Morgan Rister, Derek Spencer, Abbie Kitson, and Trevor Rister, three great grandchildren, Delilah Spencer, Weston Shomshor, and Theo Gonzales Hindelang, one brother, Noel "Butch" Rister (Darlene) of Alton, and one sister, Charolette Dershewitz (Gene) of Eugene, Oregon. Along with his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by two brothers, David Rister at birth, and Joe Rister, two sisters, June Cronin and Clara Kennedy, and a son-in-law, Richard Hindelang. Visitation will be from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Thursday,

February 1, 2024 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton where funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m. Friday, February 2, 2024. Burial will be at Elshah Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Village of Elshah Memorial Bench Program. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Elsah Cemetery

Elsah  
Elsah, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 1. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral

FEB 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bill was an amazing man!! He was a close friend of my dad. I have known him as long as I have been alive. I have so many awesome memories I do not know what to share. I grew up with our families camping together. Every camping trip created amazing memories!! The little farm pond in Chesterfield, IL is my favorite!! There were also many trips to Shelbyville Lake, Kentucky Lake and so much more. There were so many fish caught!! Sometimes there was a snapping turtle caught and chained to a rock. Bill was a great cook. There were many fish fries and BBQs our families shared together. Heaven has gained a great man!!*



*Linda (Stephens) Fleshman*

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Linda Fleshman - February 01, 2024 at 09:53 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Gerald Rister.*



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January 31, 2024 at 03:14 PM

FH

“ To the entire Rister family, Fred and I want to express our sincere sympathy with the passing of your dad. He was an amazing man and will be missed by all who were blessed to know him and be a friend. You were blessed to have him all these years to continue to create more memories. May God bless you and keep you strong at this sad time.

*Fred and Mary Ann Hentrich*

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**Fred & Mary Ann Hentrich** - January 31, 2024 at 02:39 PM

WT

“ With Love, Dan, Vicki, Jeffery, Timothy purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William Gerald Rister.



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**With Love, Dan, Vicki, Jeffery, Timothy** - January 31, 2024 at 10:16 AM

YG

“ Your cousin, Donna Gent purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William Gerald Rister.



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**Your cousin, Donna Gent** - January 30, 2024 at 11:26 AM

YG

“ Your cousin, Donna Gent planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Gerald Rister.

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**Your cousin, Donna Gent** - January 30, 2024 at 11:26 AM

SM

“ I’m so glad I had the pleasure of knowing this special man. Even though it was only 8 years of his 96, I felt like I knew him forever. He was funny, kind, humble, generous, knowledgeable, optimistic, passionate in hunting and fishing, a good listener, wise, hardworking and a genuine friend. I looked forward to my twice a month visit with him where he’d always ask “ so, what do you know?” When I’d ask the same in return, he’d say, “ I know I’m still here.”😭 He was so proud of his family and never took a day for granted. I put him in the category of a national treasure and am acutely aware that his “kind” is going extinct. My condolences to his kids, for I believe they will feel his absence the most. ❤️

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**Stacey Morgan** - January 29, 2024 at 09:11 PM