



## William Edward Schafer Jr.

December 28, 1936 - November 23, 2018

William Edward Schafer, Jr.

December 28, 1936 – November 23, 2018

Bill was born December 28, 1936, the son of Wilma (Berg) and William Edward Schafer, Sr. Bill grew up in the Oakwood Neighborhood in Kalamazoo. He graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School. Growing up he spent many summers on his Uncle Bill's farm in Hopkins where his love of farming began. He served honorably as a United States Marine from 1955-1959. While he never spoke of his service at length, one could tell he was proud to have served. "If the Army and Navy ever look on Heaven's scenes, they will find the streets are guarded by United States Marines."

After serving, Bill went to work at the Lake Street Lumber Company in Kalamazoo with his brother-in-law Andy. This adventure brought about the creation of Stevens and Schafer Builders. Bill moved his family to the Gobles area in the early 1970's. Bill worked for many years as a papermaker, first with KVP Sutherland, then with Brown Company, moving on to James River before retiring from the Crown Vantage Corporation. For many years he operated a small family farm, where he raised and sold hay and asparagus. He and his boys also raised cows and had horses, donkeys and goats on his farm. Bill always had a basset hound. He raised three sons on his farm teaching them the values of hard work. Bill was an avid fan and supporter of the Gobles

Tigers. He was a founding member of the Back-Row Coaches Association. After retiring he loved to travel in his RV. One of his favorite destinations was Alaska. He also loved to go camping with his family every chance that he could. His favorite place to go and relax was at the family Cottage on Wilkinson Lake.

Bill passed away on November 23, 2018 after a short but vigorous fight against brain cancer. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Beverly (Stevens); his three sons, Wes (Carlos) Schafer, Thad (Ruth) Schafer and Lon (Kim) Schafer; his sister, Mingo Decker; a great grandchild; many grandchildren; nieces; nephews; and his loyal basset hound, Copper Pot. Bill was preceded in death by his infant son, Chet; his parents; his sisters, Eva Mitchell and Erma Verburg; and his brothers-in-law, Andy Stevens and Bob Decker. According to his wishes he will be cremated and there will be no service. As a memorial to Bill, donations may be directed to the Eric Hartwell Foundation, 3154 Skyview Court, Brighton, MI, 48114; Wings of Hope Hospice, 330 Linn Street, Allegan, MI, 49010 or a charity of your choice.

The family would like to thank the Staff of the West Michigan Cancer Center for their treatment of Bill. In addition, the family would like to thank Wings of Hope Hospice for the respect and dignity given to Bill and their efforts to keep him comfortable during the final days of his journey.

# Cemetery Details

**Cremation**

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Debra Decker - November 25, 2018 at 04:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Debra Decker - November 25, 2018 at 03:53 PM



“ Many years ago, when I was in the auto and equipment repair and painting business, Bill loaned me his old two row corn planter. I had about five acres to plant. When I got done planting, I put it in my shop, made some minor repairs and painted it. Returned it to Bill a few days later, and HE encouraged me to borrow the rest of his farm equipment.

David Williams

David Williams - November 25, 2018 at 03:02 PM

MV

“ As long as I have coached football and baseball at Gobles high school Bill was a unforgettable voice in the crowd always cheering on the tiger team of that season with his scratchy loud voice yelling some sort of positive cheer there was never a doubt who’s voice was cheering.

He was truly a Gobles Tiger grandfather, father and forever fan. You will be greatly missed my friend 🙏😊

Love Coach VanHeukelum

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**Marc VanHeukelum** - November 25, 2018 at 01:10 PM



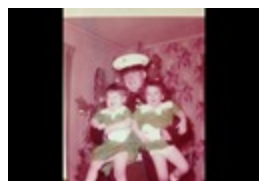
Marc, thank you for the kind words. He was Mr. Tiger for sure!!!!

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**Lon Schafer** - November 25, 2018 at 08:33 PM

DD

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**debra decker** - November 25, 2018 at 12:33 PM

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**debra decker** - November 25, 2018 at 12:27 PM

BS

“ We enjoyed two trips to Alaska with Bill and Bev . He had a saying we liked ! You got a problem ? Bill was a very nice person , husband , father and friend . Our thoughts and prayers to the family ❤️

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**Bob and Bonnie Smith** - November 24, 2018 at 05:39 PM