



## William "Bill" Randolph Hess Jr.

November 2, 1946 - January 26, 2020

William "Bill" Randolph Hess Jr., 73, of Petersburg, Illinois, passed away at his home on January 26, 2020. He was born on November 2, 1946, in Rockford, Illinois, the son of William Randolph Hess Sr. and Marion (Blomgren) Hess. He married Janis Marshallsay in Rockford, Illinois, on September 15, 1968.

Bill served our grateful nation in the Vietnam War in the United States Army from 1965 to 1967. He was a member of the Petersburg United Methodist Church, Menard County Inter Veterans Ceremony Unit, Ansar Shriners, served as Commander of the VFW Post 6871 and was a Past Master of the Masonic Lodge (Clinton Lodge #19) in Petersburg. He went on the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. in May of 2018 to honor his military service. He loved his race cars and watching his son's race. He drove a school bus for many years in the PORTA school district and made many friends while doing so.

Bill is survived by his wife Janis; two sons, Mike (wife Ashley) Hess of Petersburg and William (wife Emily) Hess III of Williamsville, Illinois; his grandchildren, Anne (husband Rob) McFarland, William Hess, Stephen Hess, Madilyn (husband Kaleb) Hughes, Lily Hess and Westin Hess; one great grandchild, Finn McFarland; his siblings, Susan (husband Larry) Steiner, Mary Bradford of Petersburg, Robert (wife Linda) Hess of Rockford, Illinois, and Richard Hess of Machesney, Illinois.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; a brother in law, Bob Bradford; and a sister in law, Nancy Hess.

A memorial gathering will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2020, from 4 pm to 8 pm, at Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg. A Masonic Service will be performed immediately following the gathering at 8 pm. The family will be hosting a Celebration of Life at a later date with burial taking place at Camp Butler National Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois, following the celebration.

In Lieu of Flowers, memorial donations in Bill's name may be made to the VFW Post 6871 or the Shriner's Hospital for Children.

Please visit Bill's online obituary, at [hurleyfh.com](http://hurleyfh.com), to leave condolences and share memories you may have with Bill.

# Cemetery Details

## Camp Butler National Cemetery

5063 Camp Butler Road  
Springfield, IL 62707  
(217) 492-4070

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Remembrance

JAN 30. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg  
122 West Douglas Avenue  
Petersburg, IL 62675  
(217) 632-2500  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

## Masonic Rites

JAN 30. 8:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg  
122 West Douglas Avenue  
Petersburg, IL 62675  
(217) 632-2500  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *William "Bill" Randolph Hess Jr.*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *Jan and Family,  
Bill will be in our hearts and memories forever. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
From the Mega Motorsports team, Reading , Pa - Milt and Nancy Aquilini, Larry Gauker and Carol Pachuilo*

nancy Aquilini - February 05, 2020 at 12:30 AM



“ *Jan, Billy, Mike all the grandkids and Mary and family: So shocked,sad and sorry to hear about Bill's passing. I know he will be greatly missed by all of you and everyone who knew him. Bill was a great guy. I'm so glad I was able to spend all those younger years working alongside Bill. We were all quite the truckers in those days. What would we have done without our CB's? I'll never forget all the hours we spent together driving those old rough highway's in our Jimmy's. Our ole Buddy Racer made the job a lot more fun and pleasurable....(Fifthwheel to Racer...."Keep on Truckin")  
We send our sympathy and Condolences,  
Larry and Freta*

Larry and Freta Horn - January 31, 2020 at 12:18 AM

BE

“ *Jan and Family,  
Bill was such a great man. He will be missed. Prayers for you all at  
this time.*  
*Becky (Tangman) Murray*

Becky - January 30, 2020 at 09:29 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of  
William "Bill" Randolph Hess Jr..*



January 29, 2020 at 07:48 PM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the  
family of William "Bill" Randolph Hess Jr..*



January 29, 2020 at 12:00 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the  
family of William "Bill" Randolph Hess Jr..*



January 29, 2020 at 11:24 AM

RW

“ I am so sorry to hear about Bill's passing. I think about the days we were racing often. My thoughts and prayers are with All of you. Rich Weaver.

Richard Weaver - January 28, 2020 at 07:08 PM

SE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Sandy Estill - January 28, 2020 at 05:58 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Randolph Hess Jr..



January 28, 2020 at 05:27 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Randolph Hess Jr..



January 28, 2020 at 03:47 PM

JS

“ My sincerest condolences to Janis & family - Bill always seemed to be a happy person, one who was always happy to share a pleasantry or two with you. It was my good fortune to know both Bill & Janis through DQ years & hometown. May God bless & keep you, and bring comfort to you in your time of sorrow.

June Simmons - January 28, 2020 at 03:03 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Randolph Hess Jr..



January 28, 2020 at 12:23 PM

CA

“ So very sorry to hear of Bill's passing. Sending hugs. prayers. and love to his family and friends <3

candace - January 28, 2020 at 12:21 PM

FF

“ From Your Super DIRTcar Series Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William "Bill" Randolph Hess Jr..



From Your Super DIRTcar Series Family - January 28, 2020 at 11:19 AM

JE

“ During high school I worked at DQ and learned a lot from Bill. He treated people with kindness and respect. I remember laughing with him many times throughout my tenure. My condolences to the Hess family.

---

**Joe Earl** - January 27, 2020 at 11:59 PM

BS

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Prayers to all of you. He will be sadly missed.



---

**Becky and Ronnie Snyder** - January 27, 2020 at 07:28 PM

JC

“ My dear friend. I will miss you at the PORTA bus barn. You have an amazing soul and I am honored that my family and I have gotten to know you.

---

**Jennifer Canady** - January 27, 2020 at 07:02 PM

SE

“ Billy- so many memories through all these 50 years of friendship.

Your Billy was our ringbearer and you were an usher in our wedding.

For, the past 30 years you, Johnny, Dave A, Dave C, Tommy & a few select others that you boys have let join in the famous "Board Meetings" on Wednesday nights- have solved all of life's problems over beer & pizza what a friendship!

Lots, of memories from Havana & Beardstown drag races and all the dances at Oakford Town Hall- etc.

You will never be forgotten our dear friend. Hoping, soon Jan & the kids can have smiles of memories to replace the tears that are flowing now.

You will be missed our friend & never forgotten!

Johnny & Sandy Estill

---

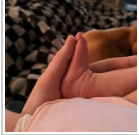
**Sandy Estill** - January 27, 2020 at 06:53 PM

RO

Race in peace Billy, enjoy the race tracks in heaven. Hug all our parents for us and thanks for the memories and laughs while you were here with us. May you be blessed. May God comfort your loved ones and make peace with your passing. You were a good and faithful servant.

---

**Rhonda Olson** - January 28, 2020 at 10:33 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



---

**Kelly Vaughn Cleesen** - January 27, 2020 at 06:24 PM

JH

“ So sorry for your loss Jan. Rest in peace Bill.  
Ron & Jaye Hinds



---

**Jaye Hinds** - January 27, 2020 at 06:09 PM

ES

“ Jan and family, sending many prayers for you and your family on your loss. Bill was always the friendliest person. Always had a smile on his face! He will be missed.

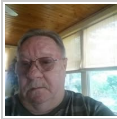
---

**Ellen Standish** - January 27, 2020 at 05:50 PM

MC

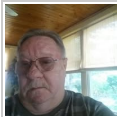
“ Rest in Peace, My Friend. I am going to miss you. We had some great laughs together over the years. I will miss the jokes, the messages and the emails. Most of all, I'll miss you at our Honor Guard gatherings. When I would call the guys for a service, I would call you and Albert Stier first because you two almost always folded the flag for us. You did a fantastic job. When I would call, and if you had a commitment that kept you from attending, I'd go into panic mode. Uh-oh! Hope I can find someone to help. We laughed about that several times. I remember you and me trying to close a gun cabinet door for 15 minutes one day, until we found the simple solution. You made me laugh, Buddy!

-----  
**Mike Carter** - January 27, 2020 at 05:10 PM



Racer you made the checked flag, great race buddy.

-----  
**Jerry Shockey** - January 27, 2020 at 06:12 PM



Racer you made the checker flag, great race buddy.

-----  
**Jerry Shockey** - January 27, 2020 at 06:15 PM

DM

Bill was a Great Man had a lot of fun with him i met Bill when i was 16 and raced with him at drag racing and sprint cars my thoughts and prayers go out to Jan and his family he will be missed for sure Dennis McQuinn Long Live the 51

-----  
**Dennis McQuinn** - January 27, 2020 at 06:47 PM

SJ

Rest In Peace my friend. I am going to miss you. You were a great person.

-----  
**Shirley Rexroad Jones** - January 27, 2020 at 07:04 PM

DB

*Jan, please know that you and your family are in mine and Ed's Prayers at this difficult time. I'm very sadden to hear of Bill's passing. Hugs coming your way until I get to see you in person. Peace be with you all.*

---

**Dana Blair** - January 28, 2020 at 09:00 AM