



## William J. "Bill" Fricke

December 25, 1931 - May 30, 2018

William J. "Bill" Fricke, of Petersburg, Illinois, returned to his heavenly home on May 30, 2018 after a valiant battle with a long illness. His devotion to his family and his firm belief in God supported him in his struggle and ultimately gave him peace. He was 86 years old.

Bill is survived by his wife of over 63 years, Marilyn; children, Mark (LeAnne)Fricke of Petersburg, Lisa (Larry) Garber of Mahomet, and Matthew (Kim) Fricke of Petersburg; his five grandchildren, Aaron (Kylie) Fricke, Adam (Kelly)Fricke, Caleb Fricke, Grace Fricke, Sam Garber and step-grandchildren Kaleb Garber and Kayeli Garber; as well as his two great-grandchildren, Ryker William Fricke and Lynlee Beth Fricke and also many cousins, nephews and nieces. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family.

He was born on December 25th, 1931, on the family farm outside of Petersburg, Illinois, to William H.F. and Eda (Roegge) Fricke. He was one of eight siblings, (Earl, Ruth, Gib, Glenn, Paul, Berniece, John). He graduated from Petersburg Harris High School in 1950. He married Marilyn Jane Hansen on June 17, 1954. He was a veteran, serving in the United States Air Force during the Korean War, being honorably discharged in 1956, and attaining the rank of staff sergeant. After returning from the service, he joined brothers Gib and Glenn to form "Fricke Brothers Farms", and together they farmed for the next 26 years until 1982. Upon retiring from over 40 years of farming in 1997, Bill then went to work for the Illinois Secretary of State, retiring from there in 2007.

He was a dedicated member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Petersburg, and was also active in many organizations in his community. Among these were 16 years on the Menard County Fair Board, the Menard County Board of Commissioners, and 15 years on the PORTA school board (7 as president). Additionally, he was a member of the Jaycees, Toastmasters, Illinois Pork Producers, Menard County Farm Bureau, Illinois Beef Association, the American Cattleman's Association, Lutheran Laymens League, and was a proud member of the American Legion. He also found the time to coach both of his son's Little League Baseball teams.

He loved following the University of Illinois' Football and Basketball teams, PORTA sports, and Purdue Track and Field, as well as gardening and fishing in his spare time.

Funeral for Bill will be held Saturday, June, 2, 2018 at 11 am at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Petersburg, IL. Visitation will begin prior to the service from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Burial will follow at Rosehill Cemetery in Petersburg. Military Honors provided by Menard County Inter Veteran's Ceremony Unit. In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial donations be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church for a project in Bill's honor. Condolences can be left for the family online at [www.hurleyfh.com](http://www.hurleyfh.com). Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg, IL is assisting the family with arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Rose Hill Cemetery

Petersburg, IL 62675

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 2. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
120 W Monroe  
Petersburg, IL 62675  
(217) 632-2453

## Funeral

JUN 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
120 W Monroe  
Petersburg, IL 62675  
(217) 632-2453

# Tribute Wall



“ *William J. "Bill" Fricke*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *I enjoyed serving with Bill on the Fair Board for many years. He was a good man and he will be greatly missed.*

**Steve Allen** - June 02, 2018 at 08:18 AM



“ *Craig Schaeffer lit a candle in memory of William J. "Bill" Fricke*



**Craig Schaeffer** - June 01, 2018 at 10:32 PM



“ *So very sorry to hear of your loss. I have many fond memories of Uncle Bill growing up and the cousins helping out on all of the farms. He was a substitute grandpa for Korrie at a very young age letting him ride in the combine. He will be missed by many.*

**Rhonda Davis** - June 01, 2018 at 06:12 PM



“ *Marilyn and Family:*

*Please accept our sincere condolences on the passing of Bill. May you find comfort in knowing you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Bob and Mary Jo Morlee*

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**Mary Morlee** - June 01, 2018 at 08:29 AM

MA

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Mark** - May 31, 2018 at 09:51 PM

TC

“ *Tony & Jennifer Cruz purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of William J. "Bill" Fricke.*



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**Tony & Jennifer Cruz** - May 31, 2018 at 09:21 PM