



William "Bill" Eastman

May 23, 1947 - July 17, 2022

William "Bill" Eastman of Dixon passed away on Sunday July 17, 2022 at OSF Saint Anthony's Hospital in Rockford at the age of 75. He was born on May 23, 1947 in Dixon, the son of Arthur "Bud" and Ada (Venier) Eastman. He graduated in 1965 and was elected senior class president. Bill owned and operated the Royal Palms in Dixon for 48 years. He was also a faithful volunteer coach for the Dixon Wrestling program for 55 consecutive years. In 2017, Bill received recognition for his lifetime commitment as he was named the National Assistant Coach of the year, as well as becoming a member of the wrestling Hall of Fame. On July 23, 1976 he married his wife Valerie in Dixon. Bill is preceded in death by his parents, grandson Julian Douglas Eastman, and his beloved dog Maggie Mae. He is survived by his wife Val, children Douglas Eastman, Lee (Marti) Eastman, John (Sandra) Eastman, Kelli (Shannon) Eastman, grandchildren Taylor Eastman, Alex Eastman, Stephanie Eastman, Alicia Willey, Bruce Eastman, and 6 great grandchildren. Bill is also survived by his siblings, Louie (Paula) Eastman, James (Kelly) Eastman, Linda (Mason) Durham, and his nieces and nephews Josie Berkley, Ian Eastman, Aaron Eastman, Nick Durham, Maria Burke, and his many friends he made over the years through work. There will be no services at this time, but a celebration of life will be announced at a later date. Memorial donations can be made to the Dixon High School wrestling and golf programs, and to the Granny Rose Animal Shelter. The family would like to send special thanks to the Dixon Wrestling family and fishing buddy Mike Hubbell. They

would also like to show their appreciation for the support and love from his long-time friend Chris Bishop (Love you too, Chris!). Arrangements by Jones Funeral Home in Dixon.

Tribute Wall



“ *William "Bill" Eastman*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *William "Bill" Eastman*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *I'm sorry for your loss Val and family! Becky Hall Lockett*

Becky Lockett - August 12, 2022 at 11:45 AM



“ *Hearing of Bill's passing was very sad to me and my family. I bartended at the palms for a very long time. He was a great friend to my family.*

The best memories I will never forget was going to wine tasting parties in RockFalls and to Chicago. He was so much fun.

When vacationing with him and Val in Branson, Bill rode 2 roller coasters, went zip lining with us for our first times and went to the worlds largest toy store. We went to a car show of crazy cars of all sorts.

He was a big kid at heart and was a very giving person. Our family will always remember him with love.

Until we meet again!!



Christine Bollman - July 25, 2022 at 10:55 PM

SB

“ I had a great opportunity to work for Bill & Val back in the 90's for 10 years. I first got to know Bill when I was 19 by playing for the womans softball league that he sponsored. When I turned 21 that was my first and only place to celebrate! A year and a half later I was asked by Val to bartend. Bill and I established in my eyes a very special and trusting relationship. Bill was a very supportive boss and always had my back. I will always hold Bill near and dear to my heart and will always be to me my FAVORITE BOSS OF ALL TIMES!!!
I also want to say I had a great time meeting a lot of great and fun people and had a lot of good times!
Thank you and Love you,
Shawne

Shawn E Burkhart - July 23, 2022 at 01:24 AM

RW

“ Sorry to hear this news. My thoughts are with the family as they and the community have lost one of the good guys. Bill will be missed

Randall Webb - July 22, 2022 at 09:44 AM

DJ

“ sorry for your loss prayers God bless debra and dennis jay

debra jay - July 20, 2022 at 07:23 PM

SW

“ Valerie I am so sorry to hear Bill passed away. My condolences to you and your family. He was a wonderful man with a good sense of humor. Bill and you watched out for me when I bartended at the Palms. It was an education! May y'all experience peace and healing throughout this time.
Sarah Gardner

sarah gardner wursche - July 20, 2022 at 04:20 PM

KH

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the Dixon Wrestling Family...he will be missed*

Kevin Heller and the Sterling Wrestling Family

Kevin Heller - July 20, 2022 at 02:50 PM

CB

“ *Deepest sympathy my dad and his brothers were regulars there The Fish brothers Ted Enie and Don*

cindy beeman - July 20, 2022 at 02:33 PM

BP

“ *I had a ball being a member of the Royal Palms dart team for a few years with Bill as captain. It was a million laughs and when I started I think Bill was still throwing these old wooden body darts with what looked like half of a mangy feather hanging off the back. It always made me laugh that he could hit anything at all with those things! (Jerome Powers was always saying something about the Flight of the Phoenix.)*

I have good memories of a few bus trips to Monroe WI for Cheese Days...fuzzy memories but great ones nonetheless! And of course many memories at the Palms since I came into town in the early nineties, including trading some stories about the old AWA "rasslers."

Bill was a good man and will be missed by so many who knew him over the years. His involvement with local wrestling alone speaks volumes about him. My thoughts and prayers are with the family who I hope take comfort from how many will relate great stories of Bill and how much he will be missed.

Bob Pilling - July 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM

PH

“ *Please accept our sincere condolences. We will keep your family in our prayers.*

Pat & Rose Hoppe - July 19, 2022 at 10:16 PM

DE

“ *We are sorry to hear about your loss, we are thinking about you and all of your family.*

Best regards Chloe and Devin

Devin - July 19, 2022 at 05:38 PM