



William Walter "Bill" Prendergast

November 17, 1947 - July 4, 2025

William Walter "Bill" Prendergast, 77, died peacefully on July 4 surrounded by loved ones.

He was born to Joseph T. and Margaret D. (Dillon) Prendergast on 11/17/1947 in Evergreen Park, IL.

William answered to numerous nicknames, including Bill, Billy, Billy Boy, Mr. Bill, Willie, Flaco (Skinny Guy), Uncle Bunko, but mostly, Uncle Bill.

When Bill played football at Little Flower Grade School, his former teammates from St. Helena's (the opposing team) carried him off the field on their shoulders at the end of the game, in celebration of finding their long-lost friend. He attended high school at Divine Heart Seminary in Donaldson, IN. He graduated from Lewis College, majoring in history and education.

Bill was an avid reader and instilled a love of reading to generations of children, particularly when he spent his days off one summer, reading "The Hobbit" to the younger siblings and to so many neighbor kids. He gave each child a character name from the story, and because he worked in an office supply store, so he also made each child a name tag for their character.

Later, he worked as a silversmith's apprentice, delivering engraved jewelry to the gold district in New York City.

He attended nursing school in Pennsylvania. Bill was a registered nurse in Milwaukee, working for the Visiting Nurse Association for 10 years before returning to school to hone his skills, which led him to St. Luke's Hospital where he worked for more than 20 years. He made a point of working on

Mother's Day each year so that a lucky coworker could spend that day with her children.

Bill sang and played guitar and taught younger siblings the same. He made wine and entered it in the Wisconsin State Fair, where he also took best of show for his pineapple pepper jelly. He planted paw paw trees and enjoyed making jam with the fruit. He was a five-time Champion Canner at the Sandwich Fair for his jams and jellies.

His friends described him as sweet, interesting, generous, funny, unfailingly kind, a unique person, a thoughtful listener, and the best writer of postcards and letters. He loved eating baked goods, especially cookies and breads. He enjoyed working at the Sandwich Fair after he retired from nursing. Bill really appreciated the friends he made through his support group and exercise groups at Wellness House in Hinsdale and was really happy to walk the 3K fundraiser in May with the Crown Royals team.

He enjoyed numerous friendships in the Dixon Kiwanis Club and volunteered to support the bell ringers at Christmastime. He was a cherished member of the Eagles Nest Art Group in Oregon, IL where he sometimes enjoyed plein air painting. He was a member of the Uncle Ronnie's Club.

Bill is survived by his younger siblings, Michael (Nancy Doherty), John (Eileen), Mary (James) Murtaugh, Margaret (David) Holtschlag, Patricia Lytle, Timothy, Daniel, Anne (Steven) Hilliard, Anthony (Laura), and Dorothy (Philip) Gable, numerous nieces and nephews and their offspring, sister-in-law Patricia Tennison, and countless friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, his older brother, Joseph, brother-in-law Thomas Lytle, one nephew, his dear friend and neighbor, Mary March, and his best friend James Shudak, RN.

Visitation will be on Friday July 11, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM at Jones Funeral Home in Dixon, and from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Sandwich, IL. Funeral services will follow at 1:00 PM at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Sandwich. Burial will follow at Oakridge Cemetery in Sandwich. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Wellness House in Hinsdale, IL,

<https://wellnesshouse.org/donate>; St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care in Milwaukee, <https://stanncenter.org>; or the Jerry Cebulski African Disability Foundation, <http://africandisabilityfoundation.org> Arrangements by the Jones Funeral Home in Dixon.

Cemetery Details

Oakridge Cemetery

2089 Suydam Rd
Sandwich, IL 60548

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 11. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Jones Funeral Home, Dixon
204 South Ottawa
Dixon, IL 61021
Ph: 815-288-2241
info@thejonesfh.com
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

Visitation

JUL 11. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
340 W Arnold St
Sandwich, IL 60548

Service

JUL 11. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
340 W Arnold St
Sandwich, IL 60548

Tribute Wall

TS

“ I am grateful that I had Uncle Bill in my life. He met my father when they were younger while working at the hospital together in Wilkes-Barre, PA while transporting patients in the elevator. They both became nurses and best friends. He was my father’s best friend before I was born so I grew up with him as my adopted Uncle. I got to spend time with him on so many family vacations. We went to Disney together, Glacier National Park, Chincoteague, VA. Once we went to the Upper Peninsula Michigan and our van broke down. Uncle Bill bravely hitched a ride as a passenger on a motorcycle to ensure that our family was able to get a tow truck, get the van fixed, and we spend the vacation fishing and touring iron mines. He always had the kindest encouragements and I appreciated that so much. He even introduced me to his niece Maggie and more of his family members in Dixon. I was able to visit him twice there. I couldn’t be more lucky to have such an awesome Uncle. I will never forget his music most of all. I loved growing up listening to him sing and play. As I got older and started to play guitar and sing too, he shared songs with me. How awesome to have such a friend! I love him so much and always will.

Terri Shudak - July 10, 2025 at 10:58 PM

J(

“ My Mom worked with Bill for many years at St. Luke’s hospital here in Milwaukee. I’ve met him numerous times not only when I went to go visit my Mom at the hospital but when he came to my softball games. I recognized him a mile away when he was walking up to the diamond with his tall stature and bright smile. My Mom always talked highly of him and he will be greatly missed.

Jen Knox (Glowinski) - July 09, 2025 at 01:22 PM

BS

“ Bill was a nurse colleague of mine for many years at Aurora St. Luke’s in Milwaukee. He was a kind and gentle member of our team, and he always gave compassionate care to his patients. May his soul rest in the company of angels❤️

Bette Schubert - July 08, 2025 at 11:37 AM

YH

“ Bill was my neighbor. He enjoyed talking to my husband, and I would wave at him and say hello whenever I seen him. The first time Bill and I actually had a conversation, was over a year ago outside on a clear evening. It was on the night of a moon event and I stood on my lawn waiting for this event. Out of no where, I heard a soft kind voice asking me if I was waiting for the moon. It was Bill, he was across the street in his driveway. He invited me to come see the event in his driveway because he said I could see it better. It was great!! From then on Bill was a friend and I'll never forget that moment. He will be missed.



Yvette Handley - July 07, 2025 at 04:34 PM

ES

We so enjoyed Bill’s company at our Plein air outings, he always had a smile and such interesting stories, from his travels to his award winning pineapple jam. You will be missed, Bill.

Evelyn Soltys - July 07, 2025 at 08:35 PM



“ *Bill was my brother. He enjoyed local painting classes. He loved occasional travel to the Driftless Region, Paris, Turkiye, Ireland, and camping at Isle Royale. He worked at the Sandwich Fair for 16 years. As a registered nurse, he Mother's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas every year so that a lucky coworker could spend that day with her family. He was a member of the Uncle Ronnie's Club, ESCONI, Eagles Nest Art Group, Kiwanis of Dixon, Art Institute of Chicago, Milwaukee Art Museum, and YMCA, but would cancel any plans to spend time with family. Bill is so dearly missed. Anne Hilliard*

Anne Hilliard - July 07, 2025 at 03:43 PM

KB

Not only did I work with Bill at St Luke's, he also cared for my mother when she was a patient. Bill was the kindest person. Such a gentle soul. He will be missed!

Kathi Baraga - July 08, 2025 at 05:47 PM

CW

Bill was my neighbor for the last 7 years in Dixon. Me and my wife just loved being part of his life. He was always so happy and fun to be around. He for sure grew on us and in our lives. We always watched out for Bill and helped him in anyway possible. Thank you Bill for being part of our life's. You will be forever missed !!! Love you

Craig Wenger - July 10, 2025 at 02:16 AM