



William John Stieren

March 29, 1929 - October 8, 2022

William John Stieren, 93, of Lakeland died peacefully on Saturday, October 8, 2022. Bill was born in Springfield, IL on March 29, 1929.

Bill grew up as an only child, of William A. and Anne Stieren in Springfield, IL. He spent his childhood playing sports and riding bikes with neighborhood friends and starting work at a young age driving a truck and delivering blocks of ice to city residents.

He graduated from high school early to join the Marine Corps. His high school year book has his picture in his Marine Corps uniform with the caption: "We are glad Bill could be one of our graduates even though he was serving his country." Bill earned the victory medal for WWII for his service.

After his honorable discharge, he returned to Springfield to work as a machinist for Cave Auto Parts. It was during this time that he met Velda, who was to become his wife of 67 years. Bill spent most of his career working as a mail carrier for the USPS in Springfield. Over the years he carried many areas of the city and delivered mail to many homes and commercial establishments. He hardly went anywhere without seeing someone he knew.

He very much loved his family. He could fix anything and his sons broke plenty. He was always there for the boys. He frequently became the player to round out the sides in neighborhood games of football, basketball and baseball. He was always the best player on the field, even when the boys became older.

When not carrying mail, or working in his yard, you could find him at the local

park watching the men's fast pitch softball or in the winter months he was often seen at Springfield High School basketball games.

After retiring from the post office, he wintered in Lake Wales, Florida for many years before moving to Lakeland as an all year resident in 2016. He never left his roots in Springfield and never wavered on his loyalty to the St. Louis Cardinals. He enjoyed living close to his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Bill was also a man of great faith and relied on his close relationship with Jesus Christ to provide strength, especially through the last few months of his life. He has now completed his goal to be in Heaven with Jesus, his wife, and several family members and friends. He fought the good fight and has finished the race.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Velda and his daughter-in-law, Joanne. He is survived by his sons, Bill (Ginny) and John Stieren; grandchildren, David (Sandy), Richard (Cindy) and Katrina (Diddy) Stieren; great grandchildren, Suzanna Wright, Charlie, Haley, Annslee and Waylon Stieren.

In lieu of flowers please donate to your favorite charity. We are particularly grateful for Highland Park Church and their senior ministry.

Services will be at Gentry- Morrison Southside Chapel in Lakeland, Florida.

Visitation will be from 10 – 11 AM, with the service starting at 11 AM on Friday, October 14, 2022.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Burial Park

4620 US Highway 98 S
Lakeland, FL 33812

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **14**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Southside Chapel
1727 Bartow Road
Lakeland, FL 33801
(863) 688-7679
t.hall@gentry-morrison.com
<https://www.gentry-morrison.com/>

Funeral Service

OCT **14**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Southside Chapel
1727 Bartow Road
Lakeland, FL 33801
(863) 688-7679
t.hall@gentry-morrison.com
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Tribute Wall



“ *Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of William John Stieren*



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - October 12, 2022 at 04:28 PM

SW

“ *I met Bill and Velda at South Side Christian Church. Velda and I shared a love for quilting and I spent many hours on their backporch visiting with them while Velda and I quilted. Their love for family, each other and their heavenly Father was very evident. Such good people!! My sincere sympathy to the family. Sandie Whalen*

Sandie Whalen - October 17, 2022 at 10:53 PM

NG

“ *I met Bill and Velda at Southside and what dear friends they were! As to Bill, he took my husband under his wings and when Dick was sick and I had to work, Bill would take him to doctor appt, check on him at home and in the hospital. I needed to work, so Bill was a true blessing. I remember the two of them would have to wait , in this one doctors office, sometimes 2 hours or more but they never seemed to mind. Bill was always running into some one he knew and they loved to talk. Bill earned his crown and jewels in heaven for all the good things he did for people. He has been missed and still will be a special memory to me. Thank you Bill!*

Nancy Greenwood - October 17, 2022 at 01:58 PM

BI

Nancy, thanks for your kind words. Dad enjoyed the time he spent with your husband.

Bill - October 23, 2022 at 07:04 AM

CS

“ Was sorry to see that your mom and dad had past. My mom and dad went to southside Christian church with them My mom Betty Huff Pritchett grew up with your dad in the same neighborhood. My mom also quilted with your mom. My prayers and thoughts are with you.

Connie huff sneyd - October 13, 2022 at 10:48 PM

PM

“ So sorry to learn of Bill's passing. He was our carrier on State Street in Springfield until we moved from that area. May your many beautiful memories bring you comfort at this difficult time. My husband was a letter carrier at Springfield as well. Patsy and Glen Mester, Sun City, AZ

Patsy Mester - October 13, 2022 at 09:51 PM

KD

“ Our prayers of comfort are with each of you. Leon & Kay Dodson

kay Dodson - October 11, 2022 at 01:10 PM

MM

“ I sure will miss you Bill,prayers for comfort for your family,fly high sweet man.



mary mills - October 10, 2022 at 01:49 PM