



William "Bill" Ernest Prater, Jr.

November 19, 1933 - January 28, 2016

It is with deep and heavy sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather, William "Bill" Ernest Prater, Jr. Bill succumbed to cancer surrounded by his family on January 28, 2016.

Bill was the son of William Ernest Prater, Sr and Opal Fern (Smith) Prater. He was born November 19, 1933 in Webb City, MO. After graduation he served his country in the United States Marine Corp. Bill was employed at Carthage Marble (Carmar) for 42 years until retiring in 1996. Bill loved the Lord and was a member of The Three Point Church in Carthage, pastored by his very good friend Tom Wright. Bill married the love of his life, Bonnie Lyons on July 2, 1961 in Carthage, MO. She survives.

He leaves to cherish his memories his beloved wife, Bonnie (Lyons) Prater, son David Butler; fiancée Annie Day of Carthage, daughters Rhonda (Butler)Zippro; husband Bill Zippro of Joplin, Lisa (Prater Froehlich; husband Larry Froehlich of Springfield, MO and Kendra (Prater) Sexton; husband Danny Sexton of Carthage. 12 Grandchildren and 24 Great Grandchildren. Bill is also survived by his sisters Coness Ruth Standlee of Grandview, WA and Pat Gregory; husband Carl Gregory of O'Fallon, IL and brother Robert Prater; wife Luz Prater of Santiago, Chile. Bill was preceded in death by his father William Ernest Prater, Sr. and his mother Opal Fern (Smith) Prater.

Services will be 11:00 a.m. Thursday February 4, 2016 at Fairview Christian Church in Carthage. Family will receive friends and family 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday at the Ulmer Funeral Home. Burial will be in Park Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to The Three Point Church Building fund in care of the Ulmer Funeral Home. Online condolences may be sent at www.ulmerfh.com. Arrangements are under the direction of the Ulmer Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ *May Bill suffer no longer. May he rest in peace and feel the love of our Lord. Our prayers go out to all his family and friends. I wish we could have met him. I have heard so many kind words spoken about him. His pictures portrayed him as a happy and handsome man loved very much by his family. Love and hugs to all.*
Connie & Charles Moorrees

CONNIE MOORREES - February 04, 2016 at 08:58 PM

ME

“ *My Uncle Bill Prater was strong, gentle and kind. He was a good son to his parents, brother to his siblings, soldier, husband, father and friend to all . He had a great sense of humor and was a snazzy dresser. He had class. The earth is a lesser place without him, but heaven has gained a special star. Actually a part of him will always be with us, so in a way, he is still here. Especially here , are the seeds of love he planted into his children. He was a special special one.*

Melody - February 04, 2016 at 06:50 PM

KE

“ *i love you Daddy and I Miss You!*

kendra - February 01, 2016 at 02:31 PM