



Bill Choate

July 2, 1941 - September 28, 2019

Bill Choate, 78, a resident of rural Ozark, Illinois, passed away Saturday afternoon at 2:55 PM at Herrin Hospital.

Bill was born July 2, 1941 in New Burnside, Illinois. He was the eldest of two sons born to Lowell Herbert “Toe” Choate and Beulah Mae (Wall) Choate.

On July 21, 1961, Bill was united in marriage to Donna Jean Simmons at Stonefort, Illinois. Donna preceded him in death on July 18, 2017.

Survivors include: 2 daughters – Kristi Raben of Evansville, Indiana and Kara Rash of Ozark; 4 grandchildren – Jared, Andrew, and Kelsi Raben and Baylee (Shawn) Penrod; 5 great grandchildren – Kennedee, Kayden, Annie, Ellie and Adam; a brother & sister-in-law – Bob (Linda) Choate of Boaz, Kentucky; along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and many friends.

In addition to his parents and wife, Bill was preceded in death by a son – Scott Eric Choate.

Bill was a 1959 graduate of Vienna High School. Bill joined the International Union of Operating Engineers (I.U.O.E.) local # 318 in 1960. He worked as an operating engineer throughout his career until his retirement in 2003. For 10

years, Bill was employed at Burning Star Mine # 5 near DeSoto as a dozer operator. Bill served on the IUOE Local # 318 Executive Board as well as serving as local treasurer for a time.

Bill was very community minded. He loved people and was always willing to lend a helping hand whenever it was needed. Bill served for over 26 years as a member of the Burnside Water District board and has served as chairman for 14 years, a position he held at the time of his passing. Additionally, Bill served as a member of the New Simpson Hill School Board for 8 years. He was also a former member of the Wise-Robinson Cemetery board.

Bill was a member of the Stonefort General Baptist Church.

Bill is remembered for his love of restoring and trading tractors and trucks. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed spending time in the woods. Bill enjoyed hunting ginseng and had also raised bird dogs and enjoyed quail hunting. Bill was also an avid St. Louis Cardinal's baseball fan.

Bill loved to visit with his friends. He was a proud member of the "Ozark University." Bill is fondly remembered for his love of family and his generous and giving nature. He was a father figure to many and had frequent front porch sessions providing his wisdom and advice.

A celebration of the life of Bill Choate will be held Wednesday morning, October 2, 2019, at 11 AM at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna. Pastor Jeff Owens will officiate.

Burial will be in the Wise-Robinson Cemetery north of Ozark.

Visitation will be conducted Tuesday, October 1, 2019, from 3 PM – 8 PM at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna.

Memorials may be made to the Heather Harper Treat Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 98, Vienna, IL 62995 or to the Wise-Robinson Cemetery, c/o Rhonda O'Neil, 1255 Ozark Road, Ozark, IL 62972.

Cemetery Details

Wise-Robinson Cemetery

US Rt 45 North
Ozark, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 1. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home
705 North First Street
PO Box 695
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2311
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com
<https://baileyfh.com>

Celebration of Life

OCT 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home
705 North First Street
PO Box 695
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2311
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com
<https://baileyfh.com>

Luncheon

OCT 2. 1:30 PM (CT)

Stonefort General Baptist Church
30 Roosevelt Street
Stonefort, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Bill Choate*

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM



“ *Linda Simmons lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Linda Simmons - October 03, 2019 at 11:29 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Bill's passing.*

*J & L Robinson Construction Company
Jerry, Linda, Ed and Leo*

Linda Robinson - October 02, 2019 at 08:49 AM

JE

“ *Kristi and Kara,*

I grew up on Ozark and went all through grade and high school with both he and Donna.

I met the school bus at Jack and Naomi's every day during the school year and was a neighbor of theirs.

You have my sincere sympathy. Kknow you are in my prayers and your parents were favorite long time friends.

*Judy Reid Elliott
Bethalto, IL*

Judy Elliott - October 01, 2019 at 09:27 PM

KB

“ *Troy & Kay Brown*



Kay Brown - October 01, 2019 at 06:02 PM

KB

“ *Kimberly Beasley sent a virtual gift in memory of Bill Choate*



Kimberly Beasley - October 01, 2019 at 12:03 PM

BW

“ *Brent And Tracy Williams lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Brent and Tracy Williams - October 01, 2019 at 08:26 AM

CC

Worked with Bill at Burning Star #5. Was a gifted operator and a pleasure to work with. Great man.

Charlie Caolinger - October 03, 2019 at 12:58 PM

MD

“ *Bill was a true mentor and friend. A genuine gentleman indeed. Rest In Peace brother.*

Matt Darnell - September 30, 2019 at 11:15 PM

RM

“ *Richard And Bonnie McHugh lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Richard and Bonnie McHugh - September 30, 2019 at 01:34 PM

EV

“ *Edna Vice purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Bill Choate.*



Edna Vice - September 30, 2019 at 11:31 AM

BR

“ *Bill And Debbie Rigsby lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Bill and Debbie Rigsby - September 30, 2019 at 10:13 AM

DH

“ *Dennis And Pat Harner lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Dennis and Pat Harner - September 30, 2019 at 09:42 AM

JR

“ *Judy Barger Riley lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Judy Barger Riley - September 30, 2019 at 01:20 AM

JS

“ *Jeremy & Carlene Staton lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Jeremy & Carlene Staton - September 29, 2019 at 11:37 PM

SL

“ *Bill and Donna have been friends to us since we moved to Ozark in 1978. Great person and gonna miss him!!!* ”



Steve & Kathy Lay - September 29, 2019 at 11:35 PM

KG

“ *Kenneth And Patty George lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate* ”



Kenneth and Patty George - September 29, 2019 at 09:51 PM

SC

“ *Sherryl Case lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate* ”



Sherryl Case - September 29, 2019 at 07:42 PM

JS

“ *I only met Mr Bill And Ms Donna once, but knowing Kristi tells me everything I need to know about them. Fantastic humans come from fantastic parents. ❤️ To you all.* ”

Jeanne Spain - September 29, 2019 at 05:42 PM

AS

“ *Angie Street lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Angie Street - September 29, 2019 at 04:06 PM

DB

“ *Christie and kara, take comfort in knowing your dad was a very fine, honest man. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

David Bowles - September 29, 2019 at 03:42 PM

JB

“ *So sorry for your loss. Kara and Baylee you and your families are in our thoughts and prayers.*
Ted and Joy Beggs



Joy Beggs - September 29, 2019 at 03:33 PM

JR

“ *James And Diane Rainbolt lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



James and Diane Rainbolt - September 29, 2019 at 11:09 AM

JF

“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers and thoughts for the family.

Richard and Joan Faulkner-Owen



Joan Faulkner-Owen - September 29, 2019 at 08:11 AM



“ Sending prayers from our family to yours.



Christina Slivinski - September 29, 2019 at 02:08 AM

JW

“ Jane Ross Wright sent a virtual gift in memory of Bill Choate



Jane Ross Wright - September 29, 2019 at 12:15 AM

JW

*Sorry for your loss...may God comfort you all at this time.
Clearon and Jane (Ross) Wright*

Jane Ross Wright - September 29, 2019 at 12:17 AM

LK

“ *Linda Koehler lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*

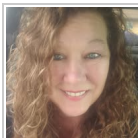


Linda Koehler - September 28, 2019 at 11:17 PM

DF

“ *What a wonderful person and an asset 2 all that knew him ,OUR LOSS HEAVENS GAIN*

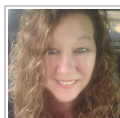
Darrell Ford - September 28, 2019 at 10:33 PM



“ *Angela Tite Masters lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Angela Tite Masters - September 28, 2019 at 09:31 PM



So sorry to hear this, prayers for you all..

Angela Tite Masters - September 28, 2019 at 09:32 PM

MM

“ *Mike Matheny lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Mike Matheny - September 28, 2019 at 09:11 PM

JP

“ *Bob, Linda and families, So sorry to hear of Bill's passing, he was a good man and will be missed. May God comfort you during this time. With sympathy, Jerry, Judy and Jay Phelps.*



JPhelps - September 28, 2019 at 08:49 PM

CH

“ *Dallas & Charlene Harner*



Charlene Harner - September 28, 2019 at 08:48 PM

SE

“ *Scott And Jeri Lynn Engler lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Scott and Jeri Lynn Engler - September 28, 2019 at 07:43 PM

AS

“ *Angie Street lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Angie Street - September 28, 2019 at 07:31 PM



“ *I'm So Sorry for your loss, Sending Prayers to ALL of you and your Family!!*



Theresa McKenzie - September 28, 2019 at 07:27 PM



“ *Mike Crews lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Mike Crews - September 28, 2019 at 07:23 PM



Kristi I am so sorry for your loss Bill was a good Dad and man

Edna Vice - September 28, 2019 at 08:39 PM



“ *Bill was a very dear friend and will be greatly missed by all. Thinking of Kara and Kristy in your time of sorrow*



Lora Goddard - September 28, 2019 at 07:08 PM

Sandy
Inman

“ *Sandy Inman lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Sandy Inman - September 28, 2019 at 06:53 PM

LM

“ *Larry And Carolyn McGill lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Larry and Carolyn McGill - September 28, 2019 at 06:53 PM

JN

“ *Judy Nutty lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Judy Nutty - September 28, 2019 at 06:50 PM

MP

“ *Myra Powell lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Myra Powell - September 28, 2019 at 06:50 PM

BT

“ *Becky & Mike Turley lit a candle in memory of Bill Choate*



Becky & Mike Turley - September 28, 2019 at 06:49 PM