



## Bill Mills

April 4, 1957 - December 3, 2023

William "Bill" Mills of Vienna IL passed away at his home Sunday December 3rd 2023 with his loving wife by his side.

Bill was born April 4th 1957 in Billings, Montana to Lowell William and Hazel Ellen (Honey) Mills.

Bill proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1975 -1977 as a Petty Officer 3rd class.

He worked as a farm hand and welder for many years before beginning a career in the medical field. Bill began as an ambulance driver at Johnson County Ambulance Service and worked his way up to Paramedic while attending nursing school. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1994 from Shawnee Community College.

He worked in several positions as an RN settling at Choate Mental Health where he was, as friends recall him, a stellar representation of the Choate nursing staff and Illinois Nurses Association. He served as the shop steward for AFSCME Council # 31 working tirelessly during contract negotiations and retired after 15 years of service in 2017.

Bill had many accomplishments in his life but was he was most proud of being

a husband, father and grandfather. He was of the Christian faith.

He was an avid reader and gardener, loved spending his days doing wood working projects, tending to his yard and cooking. He enjoyed hunting and was always up for a discussion on politics, American history or one of his many favorite authors.

After several proposals, he was finally united in marriage to Hannah (Rentfro) Mills on December 30th 2004. They shared a total of 26 years and she survives.

Bill greatly loved his children Renee (Bill) Grimes of West Frankfort IL, Felicia (Chad) Maze of Washington DC, Elaina (Kyle) Scerena of Herrin IL, and Yuri (Khristen) Rentfro of Metropolis IL.

The title he loved most was PawPaw Bill. He was blessed with 9 grandchildren. Kristi and Tristen Brown, Andrew, Rachelle and Brantley Grimes, Stella Scerena, Alexis, Natalya and Kylo Rentfro as well as 2 great grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, children and grandchildren as well as 3 nieces he loved dearly, and many friends he considered family.

He was preceded in death by his beloved mother and father, brothers John Woods and Harold Woods, sister and partner in crime Cathy (Mills) Averitt, brother-in-law Thomas Averitt, sister-in-law Carolyn (Woods) Bates and his father-in-law & mother in law Robert and Elaine Rentfro who he greatly admired.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held Saturday afternoon, January 27, 2024, at 3 PM at the Vienna Diner, 511 East Vine Street, Vienna, IL. The family invites

all relatives and friends to gather, share stories and memories, as well as enjoy a time of fellowship.

Memorials may be made to the Veterans Honor Flight of Southern Illinois, 10400 Terminal Drive, Suite 200, Marion, Illinois 62959.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JAN 27. 3:00 PM (CT)

The Vienna Diner  
511 East Vine St.  
Vienna, IL 62995

# Tribute Wall

KA

“ *Kathy(Black)Holt lit a candle in memory of Bill Mills*



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**Kathy(Black)Holt** - January 22, 2024 at 07:11 PM

JE

“ *From one Navy Petty Officer to another, rest in peace my friend. Condolences to his family.*

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**James & Marita Estes** - December 17, 2023 at 02:28 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bill Mills.*



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December 11, 2023 at 05:21 PM

BR

“ *Bobby Rentfro lit a candle in memory of Bill Mills*



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**Bobby Rentfro** - December 07, 2023 at 04:00 PM

KH

“ Prayers for the family. My deepest condolences to Hannah and the children.

Kaye Harris - December 05, 2023 at 11:12 PM

LM

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



Larry and Carolyn McGill - December 05, 2023 at 02:33 PM

JS

“ So very sorry for your loss. Sending prayers to Felicia & Chad and the whole family.  
Pete & Jill Seagriff



Jill Seagriff - December 04, 2023 at 10:44 PM

JS

“ It was my honor to have worked with Bill while at Choate MHDC. He was a great nurse and was always ready to pitch in when it hit the fan. To The family of Bill Mills, may God console and comfort you. To Bill, Fair winds and following seas fellow squid. I am blessed to have crossed paths with you in this life.  
John Straddeck MHT3

John Straddeck - December 04, 2023 at 07:33 PM

CF

“ So sorry for your loss. thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

*Richard and Joan Faulkner-Owen*



**c Joan Faulkner** - December 04, 2023 at 07:12 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bill Mills.



December 04, 2023 at 06:39 PM

BJ

“ Barbara Jeffress lit a candle in memory of Bill Mills



**Barbara Jeffress** - December 04, 2023 at 05:01 PM

BB

“ Billy & Nancy Belford lit a candle in memory of Bill Mills



**Billy & Nancy Belford** - December 04, 2023 at 12:59 PM

JS

“ *John Slack sent a virtual gift in memory of Bill Mills*



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**John Slack** - December 03, 2023 at 09:32 PM

Ron  
McBride

“ *Bill was as my grandpa used to say a shirttail relative, he was a great friend to me and Marie who he worked with at the ambulance base. RIP Bill, you will be missed.*



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**Ron McBride** - December 03, 2023 at 09:09 PM

EK

“ *Elizabeth Kerley lit a candle in memory of Bill Mills*



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**Elizabeth Kerley** - December 03, 2023 at 08:29 PM

EK

*I worked with Bill several years at Choate he was a great friend and co worker*

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**Elizabeth Kerley** - December 03, 2023 at 08:35 PM

MA

“ Mike And Teresa Anderson lit a candle in memory of Bill Mills



Mike and Teresa Anderson - December 03, 2023 at 06:56 PM

SH

“ Scott Hunsaker lit a candle in memory of Bill Mills



Scott Hunsaker - December 03, 2023 at 05:57 PM

DB

“ Dorothy Bacon lit a candle in memory of Bill Mills



Dorothy Bacon - December 03, 2023 at 05:49 PM

LK

“ Linda Koehler lit a candle in memory of Bill Mills



Linda Koehler - December 03, 2023 at 05:44 PM

JM

“ So sorry for your family's loss. Sending prayers to all ❤️



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**James and Tammy Mathis** - December 03, 2023 at 05:17 PM

KB

“ Karen Brumley lit a candle in memory of Bill Mills



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**Karen Brumley** - December 03, 2023 at 05:14 PM