



## Bill Helpingstine

November 6, 1945 - May 25, 2022

Bill L. Helpingstine, 76, of Smithland, Kentucky formerly of Centralia and Salem, passed away Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at his home.

He was born November 6, 1945 in Atlanta, Georgia, the son of John Helpingstine and Lela (Shuler) Helpingstine. He married Patricia A. Duncan on October 4, 1969 at

the First Presbyterian Church in Salem and she survives.

In addition to his wife of 52 years, Patricia Helpingstine of Smithland, Kentucky, he is also survived by his three children: Daniel L.

Helpingstine and Christy of Centralia, Sarah L. Helpingstine Gordon and Clint of Salem, and K. Lee Helpingstine and Chelsea Smith of Ferndale, Michigan; three grandchildren: Nate Helpingstine of Centralia, Jacob Helpingstine of Centralia, and Claire Gordon of Salem; a brother: Garry Helpingstine and Terrie of Buffalo, Wyoming; several nieces and nephews; and his four legged companion: Izzy.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother: Robert Helpingstine, sister: Kathy Steinmann and his four-legged companion: Jack.

Bill graduated from Salem High School and attended Centralia Junior College. He was a farmer for 38 years in Salem and he retired in 2012.

Bill served with the 281st Assault Helicopter Company as a Crew Chief in Vietnam. He was a member of the Centralia American Legion Post 446, where he served as Adjutant, Board Member, and finally as Post Commander for two years. He was also a member of the Centralia V.F.W. Post 2055, DVA, and

VVA. He was awarded with Veteran of the Year in 2014 and he was inducted into the Hillcrest Memorial Park Court of Honor in November of 2016.

Bill enjoyed hunting and was a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. He also was an avid reader and he was well known at the Centralia Library. Bill cherished the time he spent with his family and friends. A Celebration of Life Service will be held Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia. Military Honors will be accorded at the Funeral Home by the Centralia American Legion Post 446 and the Centralia V.F.W. Post 2055. Visitation will be held Wednesday evening from 4:00 PM until the time of service at the Funeral Home. Memorial Donations may be made in his honor to the Centralia American Legion Post 446 and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home and Cremation Services at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Helpingstine Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com) and the Sutherland-Garnier Facebook Page.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 1. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home

## Celebration of Life

JUN 1. 6:00 PM.

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Bill Helpingstine*



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**Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services** - June 01, 2022 at 11:55 AM

MD

“ *Patty so very sorry to hear of Bill's passing. He was such a kind soul. So glad I had an opportunity to meet and get to know him, as well as yourself. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.*

*Mandy Dawson*

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**Mandy Dawson** - June 02, 2022 at 12:48 PM

ST

“ *Stephanie lit a candle in memory of Bill Helpingstine*



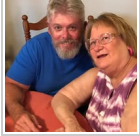
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**Stephanie** - June 01, 2022 at 02:00 PM

ST

*My heart goes out to the entire family. It was a privilege to know this man. Bill, Thank you for your service to others. We have the watch now.*

Stephanie - June 01, 2022 at 02:05 PM



“ *Patty so so sorry for your loss. Our deepest condolences. June Kindermann*

June Kindermann - May 31, 2022 at 10:49 PM

JM

“ *Bill was a crew chief in the 281st Assault Helicopter Company, one of the toughest jobs in the Army, especially in Vietnam. It's hard to count how many lives he saved over there. He will be missed but he is also going to join a great group of Intruders who preceded him in Heaven. Rest Bill, You've earned it.*

Jeff Murray - May 31, 2022 at 01:36 PM

GT

“ *So sorry Lee. Your father was very successful and his legacy in you is very strong! Thank you for sharing and letting us all know him through you! Love, hugs and prayers!*

Gary Tanner - May 31, 2022 at 12:40 PM

WL

“ *Walsh Grain Farms, LLC purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bill Helpingstine.*



Walsh Grain Farms, LLC - May 31, 2022 at 11:35 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bill Helpingstine.*



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May 29, 2022 at 10:15 PM



“ *Lee we're so sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. Looked like he was a well respected man. Peace and condolences to you and your family.*

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**Sandy McCann** - May 29, 2022 at 10:58 AM



“ *The Wittenauer family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bill Helpingstine.*



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**The Wittenauer family** - May 29, 2022 at 10:34 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Bill Helpingstine.*



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May 28, 2022 at 09:05 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Bill Helpingstine.*



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May 28, 2022 at 06:22 PM



“ *MaryAnn Long lit a candle in memory of Bill Helpingstine*



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**MaryAnn Long** - May 28, 2022 at 08:20 AM



“ *I remember Bill calling my dad telling him that he'd found a field the doves were coming to across from his place off Hoots Chapel. I shot over two boxes of shells with a single shot and only killed two!! Bill and dad had fun with that!! Gonna miss him*

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**Craig Phillips** - May 27, 2022 at 10:18 PM



“ *I guess I got to meet you when you farmed the land behind my house on West Boone Street. I knew Patty from the bank and got to know Sarah from church. My heart goes out to the family and I prayed for Bill and now will continue to pray for the family.*

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**Mary Scott** - May 27, 2022 at 06:50 PM

DR

“ This past Wednesday morning's sad announcement of Bill's passing has caused a wondering ..

*"How is it, so many memories of great moments in time, those laughable to tears*

*moments as well as those serious moments, can be experienced over a one year segment of our lives?" This past year seemed like several; it has however, been way too short & has flown by us all so quickly.*

*Bill & Patty, the neighbors that neighbors always pray to have & cherish as great friends! From our 1st day meeting Bill he was always kind, tenderhearted, forgiving & charitable - a wonderful friend & an all around great & respected man. Keeping company with Bill in our lives, we've been blessed beyond words.*

*Dear Patty, Karen & I pray for your comfort in this time. We send our heartfelt condolences & sincere sympathy to you as well as each & everyone of y'all's wonderful family & friends.*

*Dave Estes & Karen Rickman*

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**David Estes / Karen Rickman** - May 27, 2022 at 03:42 PM

KW

“ So sorry to hear about Bill. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. He was a great person.

*Kendra Woolridge and Family*

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**Kendra Woolridge** - May 27, 2022 at 02:10 PM

PB

“ I am so saddened hearing of Bills passing! We shared the same birthday (5 years apart) and Patty and I both went to Patricia Stevens in St Louis in 1970. He was a great man and will be missed!! Thoughts and Prayers! Godspeed!

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**Peggy Myers Beal** - May 27, 2022 at 12:12 PM

DH

“ Last night at our Throwback Thursday car show we were all sharing memories of Bill back in his younger days. It was Tom Brough, who worked with him at Holsapple's, and Verle and Joe Boyles who all had Chevrolet Super Sports like his and how they would all go out on Patoka road and drag race them. Everyone had good memories to share.

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**Dale Helpingstine** - May 27, 2022 at 10:16 AM