



Bill Cato

December 15, 1945 - February 9, 2021

Bill Cato, 75, of Villa Ridge, passed away on February 9, 2021 at his home in McClure.

He was born on December 15, 1945 in East St. Louis, Illinois to William and Evelyn (Turner) Cato. He married Sandra Carol Read on June 28, 1983. She preceded him in death on July 2, 2018.

Bill proudly served his country in the United States Army during Vietnam. He loved his farm life, especially his cows. He often referred to them as his girls. Bill helped Bull Helman with farming for many years. He worked construction for E.T. Simonds for 40 years before retiring. Besides "his girls" his grandchildren brought him so much joy in life. Bill was a past president and member of the SEMO Shrine Club and also a member of the Masons, VFW, and American Legion.

He is survived by his sons, Joe Cato, J.D. Cato, J.W. Cato, Bob Cato and Robert "Bull" (Leslie) Helman; daughter, Rhonda Cato; fiancé, Lora Owens and children, Christian, Madison, Allison, Jace; many grandchildren, Chelsey, Rachael, Rebecca, Colton, Mikie, Shaina, Addy, Sophia, Layla and Clara; sisters, Susie Schierbaum, Patti Reeves and Burna Ryan; brothers, Johnny and Jerry Ryan; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Besides his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents and sons, Dewayne Cato, Jeff Baker and Russell Baker.

Cremation will be accorded. A private memorial service will be held. Inurnment will take place at a later date in Rose Hill Cemetery in Pulaski, Illinois.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children and will be accepted at the funeral home. Please mail to Crain Funeral Home, 135 W. Vienna St., Anna, Illinois.

Crain Funeral Home in Cairo is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

Pulaski, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Bill Cato*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Bill was there for me at a time when nobody else was. He was so sweet to me and probably the most generous person I ever met. I will never forget him.*



Kaycee A. - February 18, 2021 at 04:42 PM



“ *Ride high in the sky!*



Constance Stigall - February 12, 2021 at 01:37 PM



“ *We celebrated many birthdays together and Sandra took excellent care of us both. I'll never forget the message on my phone at 3am letting me know that she had passed and how heart broken you were. You are now with her again and smiling that big smile. Gonna miss you buddy.*

Marty Nicholson - February 11, 2021 at 01:27 PM

LO

“ Bill was a kind and generous man. I loved him with all my heart and I still do, I will love bill forever and always. Madison and I watched mountain men tonight I know he was watching it also. That was our favorite show to watch together. Bill would never watch it without me.

lora owens - February 10, 2021 at 09:34 PM

DL

“ Bill Cato was a really great friend to the Leek family he will greatly be missed

Danny Leek - February 10, 2021 at 06:28 PM

CR

“ Mr.Cato was indeed a man who truly loved his family. I remember the first day he walked into my office wanting to enroll the great-grandkids in head start. And all the visits and talks. One could truly tell how much he loved his family. I loved the visits we had on his front porch and the talks we had. Never a dull moment around him! He will truly be missed,

cindy rice - February 10, 2021 at 06:08 PM

KC

I tried to call Bill just a few days ago, I had not heard about this. I'm in total shock I thought about calling in yesterday we would always talk to each other one way or the other. We worked together for EtSimonds, he was my teamster and we were friends not just workers. He was a very dedicated Schreiner and Was always a hoot to be around, he always had something funny to say and get you rolling on the ground! I Miss Sandra and think of her all the time and I will always think of Bill, he did everything you possibly could to make me look good doing my job! Bill and Sandra will always be in my heart and I will always think of them, Sandra was a wonderful woman to put up with Billy and she called me! My heart is broken!

Kyle Carson - May 05, 2021 at 07:44 PM

CG

“ *Cato was one of a kind! He will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.*



Carol & Randy George - February 10, 2021 at 10:43 AM

HG

“ *He was a handful and a sweetheart all at the same time. I will miss him.* ❤️😭

Heather Green - February 09, 2021 at 08:56 PM