



## Bill Schwegman

February 4, 1935 - October 5, 2021

Billy Joe Schwegman, 86, passed away Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at his home in Carbondale.

Born in Metropolis, Illinois, February 4, 1935, he called Carbondale home for over 70 years.

Bill graduated from University High School, briefly attended S.I.U. Carbondale, then transferred to the University of Illinois (Urbana) where he earned a B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering. He married his high school sweetheart and next-door neighbor, Judith (Crandle) Schwegman in 1954, and the two enjoyed a marriage of nearly 66 years.

A member of ROTC, Bill was on active duty for a brief period after graduation, then joined the Army Reserves, where he earned the rank of Captain. As a newly-minted aeronautical engineer, Bill worked for McDonnell-Douglas in St. Louis, Missouri, before returning to Carbondale. There he obtained his professional engineer's license and became a civil engineer at the Illinois State Highway Department. During this time, Bill designed portions of the interstate highway system that runs through southern Illinois.

In 1967 Bill became the first director of public works for the City of Carbondale. During his tenure, he began to systematize the repair of streets

and to modernize the water treatment and sewage plants. His biggest contribution during those years was the construction of Cedar Lake as Carbondale's source of drinking water. Not only does the lake ensure that the town has potable water for the foreseeable future, but it provides excellent fishing and recreation for the area. While at the City of Carbondale, Bill also served a six-month term as interim city manager.

In 1973 Bill became head of the Carbondale office of Clark, Dietz, & Assoc., an engineering company headquartered in Champaign-Urbana, which planned the Mill Street railroad overpass and the Pleasant Hill railroad underpass in Carbondale. In 1979 he started his own consulting company, Southern Engineering, serving the civil engineering needs of many small towns in Southern Illinois.

Upon his retirement, Bill and his wife Judy were active in organizing several University School Reunions, reuniting alumni from the days when classes were held in Old Main and the Allen Building up till the last class to graduate from its Pulliam Hall site in 1968. They enjoyed Learning in Retirement and supported the Varsity Theater and McCleod Summer Playhouse. Bill and Judy also enjoyed many travels after retiring, all over the U.S., the Caribbean, and Europe. They even took a safari in Tanzania. Bill won several blue ribbons for his photos, mainly of his travels, at the DuQuoin State Fair.

Bill was a life-long member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He was also made an honorary member of the Evergreen Garden Club, of which his wife Judy was president for three years, for his frequent assistance with transporting flower arrangements, gardening supplies, and even club members as they traveled to attend flower shows and to visit famous gardens. An avid "letter to the editor" writer in the Southern Illinoisan, Bill was honored with the Southern's Golden Pen award.

Bill was an elder and active member of the First Presbyterian Church of

Carbondale. After his retirement, he donated many hours to repairs and improvements to the church building and grounds. He also organized a monthly restaurant fellowship gathering.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Judith, his son, William Douglas, and his parents, Virgil and Margaret (Lay) Schwegman. He is survived by his daughter, Deborah Troester and her husband Joe Troester, of San Jose, California, and by his son Jeffrey and his wife Suzan (Stokes) Schwegman of Chesterfield, Missouri; as well as three grandchildren: Scott and Sara Schwegman of Chesterfield, and Christa Troester of Los Angeles, California.

A memorial service will be hosted by the family and held at the First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale, at 310 South University Ave., on Tuesday, October 19, at 2 p.m. Friends may greet the family after the service. The church requests that masks be worn.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorial gifts to the First Presbyterian Church, 310 South Illinois Ave., Carbondale, IL 62901 or to the American Heart Association.

Please follow the Masks and Social Distancing guidelines. Following the service, there will be a time to greet the family outdoors on the green space. Simple beverages will be available.

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The service will be available via ZOOM (see below)

First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82484553329>

Meeting ID: 824 8455 3329

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Pleasant Grove Memorial Park

31 Memorial Dr.  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 687-1145  
crain@crainsonline.com

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **19**. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale  
310 S University Ave.  
Carbondale, IL 62901

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bill Schwegman*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *He was my brother-in-law for 66 years. He married My sister Judy when I was ten. Hence I shared Many Good times with them . I their babysitting for their children when they lived close to us. I loved Bill's sense of humor and his enduring love for Judy. Thanks for the memories.*

**Kathleen Crandle Anderson** - October 17, 2021 at 08:18 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. I knew your father through his engineering firm. He helped the Village of Tamms on many projects. One time he gave me two tickets to a SIU football game.*

**Sharon Abercrombie** - October 16, 2021 at 05:23 PM



“ *Bill was Acting City Manager when I was hired by the City of Carbondale. He was a terrific City Manager and Public Works Director. Over the years, when we would run into each other, he was always so kind and friendly. I will always be thankful for him giving me the opportunity to work for and have my long career with the City. Sending sincere sympathy to his family and friends.*

**Jane Boyd** - October 14, 2021 at 04:34 PM

JC

“ Way back at University High School in the late 40s and early 50s.  
He always had the answer.

Jennie cecil crawshaw - October 06, 2021 at 12:27 PM

MS

“ John and I are very sorry for your loss. Bill was a wonderful person

Martha Schwegman - October 06, 2021 at 10:46 AM

TM

Billy will be greatly missed! He touched many hearts and had many great stories that he would share about his life.

Tracie Mick - October 06, 2021 at 06:20 PM