



Billy Lee Smith

August 10, 1935 - April 19, 2020

Billy Lee Smith, age 84 of Marion and formerly of Chicago, passed away Sunday, April 19, 2020 in his home.

He was born August 10, 1935 in Spokeplant, Arkansas to Thornton and Susie (Cornett) Smith.

Billy married Vivian Lamberson on June 1, 1957. They shared 62 years of marriage.

He had worked for Sears in the automotive department. He retired in 1993 after 33 years of faithful service.

He loved to play his guitar and sing. He also enjoyed all types of music and playing music with his friends.

Billy is survived by his loving wife, Vivian Smith of Marion; children, William Smith of Marion; Darlene (Mike) Overbee of Roselle, IL and Debra of Chicago; grandchildren, Amanda and Jesse Overbee of Carpentersville and Melissa Meyer of Virginia Beach, VA; great-grandchildren, Landon, Malachi and Adalyn Meyer of Virginia Beach, VA; siblings, Kenneth (Judy) Ray Smith of Sheldon; Gladys Gayheart of OH; and Elva (Dean) Jean Lykins of Michigan City, IN; other relatives and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Donna and five sisters.

Private services for Billy Smith will be at Crain Funeral Home Egyptian Chapel in Energy, Illinois with Rev. Jim Cooper officiating. Entombment will follow in Egyptian Memorial Gardens Mausoleum.

Memorials may be made to the donor's choice. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Crain Funeral Home Egyptian Chapel in Energy is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Egyptian Memorial Gardens

3208 S. Park Ave.
Energy, IL 62933
(618) 942-6051
crain@crainsonline.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Billy Lee Smith*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *To my dear friend Darlene (Overbee) and Family,*

My deepest sympathies to all of you, with the memories Darlene has shared with me about her Daddy, I see that he was truly a wonderful man who will be sorely missed.

I will keep all of you in my thoughts and prayers.

*Sincerely,
Debbie Nevins*

Debbie Nevins - May 19, 2020 at 09:06 AM



Dana and our family will be praying for this beautiful family. Dear Lord comfort them all.

brenda feltner - May 19, 2020 at 12:57 PM

CN

“ What I want to share about my Uncle Bill. Uncle Bill had this contagious smile and laughter, and he would light up a room. He is one of a very few that I can say I never saw in a negative mood. In fact, I am looking at a picture of him right now, that smile, that warm friendly smiling face. It is fitting that he married my Aunt Vivian. They were a pair made in heaven, and it is obvious they were meant to be together. Aunt Vivian has always had that same contagious smile, kindness, and laughter. Uncle Bill loved music and working on cars. Music is said to be the universal language, and Uncle Bill knew how to speak it, and I am sure that is where that smile and laughter came from. I remember as a little fellow, Uncle Bill helped teach me guitar. He was so excited and encouraging while helping me. I remember going to see him and his band play in public on occasion. I would sit and think to myself, "That Is My Uncle Bill Up There On Stage!" I was so proud. I remember once visiting Uncle Bill and he brought out his new guitar, a Gibson Hummingbird. It was rather expensive, but he enthusiastically handed it over to me and said, "Hit it a few licks!" I was nervously excited and scared to touch it, but he said, "Go ahead, give it a whirl!" OMG, I couldn't believe it, how excited I was. I have not been able to see my precious Aunt and Uncle for 30 some odd years, but they have always been in my heart and mind. Many different reasons why we were separated, mostly because of a distances thing. They moved to southern Illinois years ago, and I went through a lot of life situations myself, and sometimes life isn't fair. One thing is for sure, my life will always be better because my Aunt Vivian and Uncle Bill were in it. Every time I pick up my guitar I will think of my Uncle Bill, and that CONTAGIOUS SMILE and LAUGHTER. I love this man, and he will stay with me forever. RIP Uncle Bill. Thank you for loving me, and say hello to Waylon! You will forever be a part of me and I will never forget you. Love and prayers, Carl.

Carl Smith, nephew - May 13, 2020 at 03:20 PM



“ My name is Melissa Meyer (Overbee), grand daughter of Bill Smith. I had the pleasure of having the worlds greatest grandpa in the whole world. Anytime I was around him he was always happy and smiling and I don't think he had a mean bone in him. He would take time to listen and talk with just about anyone. Boy did I loved to hear what he had to say always! He had such kindness and wisdom. He would make friends with just about anyone anywhere he would go. My very favorite memory was something I was just talking about a few weeks ago which was being little and there was always live music going on. Grandpa and Uncle Will would be pickin on the guitar and my mom would sing. I would fling around dancing along and listening. I also loved watching him fix cars he was so good at it! Another favorite memory would be waking up early with him and my grandma just so I could have coffee with them. Grandpa always loved his little cookies or cakes and he wouldn't gain a single pound haha! I feel so very blessed that he attended my wedding 10 years ago I will cherish those memories forever! If you ever had the pleasure of talking with or knowing my grandfather then I'm certain he made a positive impact on your life. He had a way of doing that to people. I love him and miss him so very much. I love you grandpa!!!!



Melissa Meyer - May 04, 2020 at 09:03 AM

JC

Melissa,

The words you spoke about your Grandpa, describe him perfectly. He was a joyful and very gentle person. I got the chance to meet him at Sears many years ago. I had not seen him for quite some time but do recall what a great guy he was. Billy was truly a blessing and very gifted in auto mechanics and playing music. I am sorry for your family's loss and will keep you all in my prayers.

Pastor Jim Cooper

Jim Cooper - May 12, 2020 at 03:27 PM