



## Harry Frederick William "Bill" Perk

October 24, 1927 - September 12, 2022

IN MEMORY OF:

Harry Frederick William "Bill" Perk

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive (Old Route 13), Murphysboro, Illinois

Harry Frederick William "Bill" Perk, age 94, of Carbondale, passed away on Monday, September 12, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. in his sleep at his home with his sons by his side.

Bill was born on October 24, 1927 in Los Angeles, California, the son of Herman Wilhelm and Grayce Aarseth (Brisley) Perk. In May 1956, he was united in marriage to Ruth de Rosales who preceded him in death on December 14, 1990.

Bill taught in the Design Department at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale for over 30 years, drawn to academia by his mentor, R. Buckminster Fuller, after an early career at the RAND Corporation and ITT. His dedication to cybernetics and comprehensive design science inspired a variety of extracurricular projects, including but not limited to his involvement with Fuller's Old Man River's City Project in East St. Louis, multiple World

Game workshops, capital homesteading, the Team Syntegrity protocol, and promoting Emergy analysis. Bill was an ardent supporter of progressive causes and took pride in being a World Citizen, with a World Passport to prove it. He also helped commercialize the Rombix puzzle. One of his final projects was to support the purchase and restoration of R. Buckminster Fuller's dome home at 407 S. Forest Street in Carbondale as a National Historic Register-listed museum. In addition to being a voracious reader, some of his hobbies across his 94 years included radio-controlled aircraft, tennis, jogging, kite flying—for which he cut a distinctive figure by using fly rods to launch his kites—Pilates, and Kriegspiel. In dress as in life, Bill marched to a different drummer, from his ubiquitous bolo ties to his fondness for Mexican guayabera shirts, pockets bulging with notebooks, cards, colored pens, eyeglasses, and whatever new productivity device occupied his fancy.

Survivors include his two sons, David (Monica Alcabin) Perk of Seattle, WA, and Jeff (Jacqueline Romeo) Perk of Boston, MA; his grandson, Isaac Perk of Seattle, WA; a sister, Joyce Hughes Clayton of Woodland Hills, CA; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Ruth Perk; and a sister, Karran E. Richards.

Bill's wishes were for cremation rites to be accorded. A private inurnment will be held in Pleasant Grove Memorial Park.

In lieu of customary remembrances, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be directed to the R. Buckminster Fuller Dome Home Preservation Project. Donations may be made securely online via the "Donate Now" link at <https://fullerdomehome.com/>.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral

Home.

# Cemetery Details

## **Pleasant Grove Memorial Park**

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Harry Frederick William "Bill" Perk*

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October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *There will be two events honoring Bill this Saturday, October 22, 2022:*

*Fuller Dome Home Visitor's Center Groundbreaking*

*2:00 - 3:30pm*

*811 West Cherry St., Carbondale, IL*

*Celebration of Life for H.F.W. "Bill" Perk*

*4:30pm*

*Fuller Dome Home, 407 South Forest Avenue, Carbondale, IL*

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**David Perk** - October 17, 2022 at 08:50 PM



“ *I remember Bill from SIUC but especially when I was a weekly volunteer at the Carbondale Public Library, 2001-2020. It seemed to be his second home: a table on the second floor by the newspapers. Such an interesting man with a deep curiosity and intelligence. A life of purpose. I thank him for the resurrection of the Dome Home.*

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**Laraine Wright** - September 15, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *I grew up living across the street from the Perks. I remember seeing Bill flying many different kites and climbing up the treehouse he had designed in their backyard. Rest in Peace*  
*Tina Wood Butler*

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**Tina Butler** - September 14, 2022 at 01:34 PM