



## Willard Lee Kern

July 11, 1929 - September 19, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

Willard Lee Kern

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – EGYPTIAN MEMORIAL GARDENS  
3208 South Park Avenue, Energy, Illinois

Willard Lee Kern, 96, of Du Quoin, IL, passed away on September 19, 2025, after a lengthy illness.

Mr. Kern was born in Zeigler, IL, on July 11, 1929, to Ruby Hazel (Smithpeters) Kern and Owen Kern, Sr. He attended Zeigler High School and the University of Illinois, where he studied Industrial Engineering. He was the founder and CEO of Management Science, Inc. He made his home in Appleton, WI and Carson City, NV for decades.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Owen and Ruby Hazel (Smithpeters) Kern; four brothers: Teddy Roosevelt Kern, Joseph C. Kern, Bobby Gene (Gooney) Kern, and Owen Kern, Jr.; and two sisters: Patty Sue (Kern) Gilmore, and Ruby Kay (Kern) Loos.

He is survived by two daughters: Judy Ann (Kern) KahlerJalbert, of Lakeland, FL, and Linda Kay (Kern) Blakemore, of Savannah, GA; and a son: Paul Dean Kern of Naperville, IL. He has four grandchildren: Shawn P. Kahler, of Dade City, FL, Noah L. Kahler, of Auburndale, FL, Lindsey (Kern) Brown, of Reno, Nevada, and Victoria (Blakemore) Moon, of Santa Cruz, CA. He has four Great-Granddaughters: Brittney (Kahler) DiLiello, of Brooksville, FL, Cassandra (Kahler) Delgado, of Lake Alfred, FL, Madelaine Kahler, of Winter Haven, FL, and Jordin (Kahler) Leslie, of Dade City, FL. He has one great-great grandson, Gabriel Delgado, of Lake Alfred, FL.

A private inurnment will be held in the future.

Crain Funeral Home in Energy is in charge of arrangements.