



William "Bill" Ward Sumner

March 25, 1930 - May 30, 2015

William "Bill" Sumner passed away on May 30, 2015 at Cass Regional Medical Center in Harrisonville, Missouri. He was fighting cancer and winning the battle but his immune system was weakened by the chemotherapy. He succumbed to pneumonia. He was born and raised in Portland, Michigan. Bill was born on March 25, 1930, the oldest of six children.

He was a proud veteran of United States Army, serving in the Korean War. Bill served in both Japan and Korea as a radio technician. He was honored to be able to go on an Honor flight to Washington D.C. in October 2015.

He married Donna Koon on May 11, 1957. He spent his working years in Anaheim, California, where their only child, Kathleen, was raised. Bill worked his way up from an electronic engineer to the Department Manager of Foreign Programs at Hughes Aircraft Company. He retired from Hughes in 1984. They retired to Harrisonville, Missouri in 1989.

After Donna passed away, Bill found love again with Kathleen Sechrest. They were married in 1997, where he quickly adapted to the country life in Holden, Missouri.

Bill loved music and singing. He sang with a barbershop chorus and quartets in California. Once in Missouri, he started singing with the East Lynne Baptist Church choir, Garden City Community Choir and the Praise V gospel quartet. With his ever-growing faith, Bill became a Deacon at the church and a hospital chaplain at Cass Regional Medical Center. This was his calling and he ministered to sick for over 11 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Patrick and Emma Neva Sumner; brothers Edwin and Merle (Mike) Sumner; sister Francis Boswell and his first wife Donna.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Sechrest; daughter Kathleen Bennett (Randall); 6 step-children, Robert Sechrest (Karen), Roger Sechrest, Russell Sechrest (Melinda), Richard Sechrest (Leslie), John William Sechrest (Paula) and Susan Hayrynen (Sean); 18 step –grandchildren and 11 step-great grandchildren

Bill will always be remembered for being an avid baseball fan (especially for the Kansas City Royals), his antique radios, love of music, smile, sense of humor and mischief and his devout faith in Christ.

He did not know a stranger and is making new friends in Heaven as he rejoices in his Homecoming. God has called another angel home.

Cemetery Details

Orient Cemetery

Harrisonville, MO 64701

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 4. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

East Lynne Baptist Church
25713 S State Route K
Harrisonville, MO 64701

Service

JUN 4. 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM (CT)

East Lynne Baptist Church
25713 S State Route K
Harrisonville, MO 64701

Tribute Wall

DH

“ Bill was such a loving and friendly man. I had the pleasure of working with him at Cass Regional Medical Center. He always had a smile on his face and kind words to share. He was a true blessing to all who crossed his path. I am so blessed that I was able to welcome him home on his recent HONOR FLIGHT!! Bill also joined us to HONOR OUR VETERANS at nursing facilities on Veterans Day and talk about his trip to Washington with them. He was such a blessing to me and I will miss him stopping by my office just to chat a few minutes. May God bless you and your family during this difficult time. Bill will forever be in my heart!!!



Debi Harrill - June 04, 2015 at 10:54 AM

JE

“ He always had a smile on his face. Had a beautiful voice for the Lord. He will be truly missed.

Jenny - June 03, 2015 at 11:46 PM

BM

“ I am grateful for the life of Mr. Sumner. Thanks to his service and to the service of others in our armed forces, my family and I have been able to lead our lives in freedom and peace.

Bob in Grandview, Missouri - June 03, 2015 at 05:37 PM

 Gayle Matloff

“ I am so sad too hear that my Uncle Bill has passed. I remember as a little girl visiting my grandparents and my Dad along with Uncle Bill would stand over in the corner and just crack up all of the time. You see my Dad and Uncle Bill were the only son-in-laws to my grand parents and they loved them so much. They are all meeting in heaven now and they are all finally reunited. We will miss you until we meet again, love you.

Gayle Matloff - June 03, 2015 at 09:59 AM

 Sherry Myers

“ I will always remember Bill with the fondest of thoughts. He really cared so much for others and was a sweet and gentle soul. He always had a smile and made me feel special - and his faith and friendship were an inspiration. I will miss him.

Sherry Myers - June 01, 2015 at 10:21 PM



“ Adoration Casket Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Ward Sumner.



June 01, 2015 at 05:41 PM

CL

“ Uncle Bill will be missed. I remember going to hear him sing in the barbershop quartet it made him so happy to sing. He loved his family and friends so much. You will truly be missed. Love you Cheryl "Thoman" Louthan



cheryl thoman louthan - June 01, 2015 at 07:52 AM

SH

“ Bill was a one in a million guy.... I will always remember him being at the door of the church to greet us every Sunday morning or any time the church doors were open. He was always there first to get the coffee going for everyone else. What a great person and man of God. I am sure the heaven gates opened up wide for him and he is singing in the Lord's choir. He loved to sing so much..... Prayers go out to Kathleen and his family. Sandi and Les Holtcamp

Sandra Holtcamp - May 31, 2015 at 07:27 PM

BS

“ Bill has been such a blessing, role model in Christ and an inspiration to the Sechrest family for almost 20 years. Always patient, kind and with good advice. You will be missed greatly.



Bob and karen Sechrest - May 31, 2015 at 10:16 AM

MW

“ Mark & Sherri Wakeman lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Ward Sumner



Mark & Sherri Wakeman - May 30, 2015 at 09:29 PM

MW

“ *Michael Wakeman lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Ward Sumner*



Michael Wakeman - May 30, 2015 at 05:44 PM

MW

Bill was a great Man who loved the Lord and was a loving husband. We will miss you Bill, and because of your faith in Christ, we know where you will spend eternity! Aunt Kathleen, we are praying for you!

Love, Michael & Rhonda Wakeman and Family

Michael Wakeman - May 30, 2015 at 05:49 PM

MG

Kathleen Sumner we hadn't heard but just a minute ago Susan sent this out . So sorry , we'll keep you in prayer, Bill always enjoyed his music and he was a friendly man that loved the LORD. God Bless his family.

Mackey Ginnings - May 30, 2015 at 08:35 PM

NC

So sorry for your loss. We were blessed when Bill when come by to see us when dad was in the hospital- His prayers were so humbling. I was praying for his recovery in his treatments. May he rest in peace now.. Naomi, Dave, Jon

Naomi Chastain - May 31, 2015 at 01:10 AM

GK

Heaven has received a great man! We remember going to hear him sing and his voice and great smile lit up the room. ...The whole family will miss you .. you will be I our hearts forever. Jim and I loved the wonderful times we had going to Vegas with you, we always knew where to find you... In the Keno Lounge. Rest Billl , you will be missed

geri koon - June 01, 2015 at 01:40 PM