

Bill Ashing

6H-R
10-15-2018



Bill Ashing, age 83 of Gilman, died on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, at his home under the care of Grinnell Regional Hospice. He was surrounded by his loving family.

A funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, October 15, 2018, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Private family interment was held at Prairie View Cemetery in Gilman.

Visitation with the family present was held from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday at the Smith Funeral Home.

Memorials may be designated to the Gilman Fire Department or to Grinnell Regional

Hospice, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family online at www.smithfh.com.

William Lester Ashing was born the son of Lester Earl Ashing and Ellen Irene (Taylor) Ashing on January 3, 1935, at St. Francis Hospital in Grinnell, Iowa. He was raised on the family farm in rural Poweshiek County near Newburg, Iowa, and graduated from Newburg High School with the class of 1953.

While in High School, Bill drove a school bus for the Newburg School District and worked at the Newburg Lumber Yard. Following his education, Bill worked for Lennox in Marshalltown, Iowa, and later worked for his uncle Ed Taylor as a mechanic. In 1963, he began operating Bill's Repair Shop in Gilman. Bill was united in marriage to Ruth Ann Lavender on September 16, 1968, in Gilman, Iowa. They made their home in Gilman and the couple was blessed with four children: Mark, Scott, Jean and Leslie. In 1983, he began working for the Gilman Telephone Company until his retirement in 2003. Ruth passed away on June 7, 2008. Bill was united in marriage to Doris Lowry on September 1, 2010, in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Bill was a longtime fireman with the Gilman Fire Department and the Grinnell Fire Department. He served as mayor of Gilman along with serving on the Gilman City Council. He was an avid bowler of over 50 years and was proud of his best score of 279. His enjoyments included woodworking, working on computers, making salsa for his family, riding motorcycles, dancing and listening to county music, playing softball, attending Iowa State Fire Conventions, representing the Gilman Fire Department at parades and water fights, and all the fun times hanging out at the Ashing Café.

Bill is survived by his wife, Doris Ashing of Gilman; son, Mark (Toni Hudson) Kingery of Gilman; daughters, Jean (Roger) Snyder of Sidney, Iowa, and Leslie (Thomas) Groves of Littleton, Colorado; three step children, Rick (Debbie) Flathers, Becky (Willie) Wilson, and Bucky (Cathy) Flathers; 18 grandchildren; 34 great grandchildren; brother, Larry (Rosemary) Ashing of Grinnell; several nieces and nephews; and his beloved cat, Tiger. Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Ashing; son, Scott Kingery; and his parents.