



William Gard

June 28, 1930 - January 7, 2024

William "Bill" Gard, 93, of Early, passed away on Sunday, January 7th, 2024.

UPDATED SERVICE AND VISITATION INFORMATION DUE TO UPCOMING WEATHER:

Funeral services will take place TUESDAY, January 16, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Early. Burial will follow in the Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery in Early. KC Rosary will be held MONDAY, January 15, 2024 at 4:45 p.m. followed by Visitation from 5-7:00 p.m. at the CHURCH. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Bill was born June 28, 1930, to Albert and Kathryn (Lang) Gard. He was baptized and confirmed at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Early where he remained a lifelong member. He graduated from Sacred Heart Catholic High School in 1947. After graduation, he began farming with his father, Albert. On April 22nd, 1957, Bill was united in marriage to Mary Ann Scharfenkamp at Holy Family Catholic Church in Lidderdale, Iowa. The couple was blessed with five children, Diane, Donna, Michael, David, and Katie. Bill and Mary Ann moved to the farm northwest of Early where he grew up and started to raise their family. For many years thereafter, he continued farming with Albert. Bill always cherished the relationship he formed working side by side with his dad.

He loved the land and especially enjoyed calving season, taking great pride in raising a new set of baby calves. Upon retirement in 1995, Dave took over the now century farm. Bill was able to form that same special partnership, this time creating that same bond with his son. Moving to town in 1999 did not stop him from being involved in the farm. Bill continued driving tractors until the age of 90. In his later years, Dad especially loved the harvest season.

Driving the combine and the tractor and wagon was a favorite. He embraced seedbed preparation using GPS technology and as a result was able to extend his years of being able to drive the tractor. His shared wisdom and experience were priceless to his family. In December 2022, Dad got his wish to move back to the century farm to enjoy his remaining days on the land he so loved.

Bill was a member of the Knights of Columbus and served on numerous boards and committees for both school and church. He followed the Iowa Hawkeyes and the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. His kids and grandkids' sporting events were a favorite and a trip to Wells Fargo Arena was a special treat.

Those who will greatly miss him and cherish his memory include children: Diane (Mark) Wilson of Nevada, IA; Donna (Glenn) Carleton of Johnston, IA; Michael (Julee) of Naperville, IL; David of Early; and Kate (Craig Howell) Ware of Walker, IA. Grandchildren: Erin (Matt) Larson; Nicole (Matt) Thompson; Colin (Clare) Carleton; Connor (Heather) Carleton; Gavin Carleton; Anna Gard; Andrew Gard; Caroline Gard; Emma Ware; Ellie Ware; Elise Ware. Great grandchildren: Elizabeth, Sloane, Brooks and Grant Larson; Alex, Elena and Blake Thompson; sister Ernestine Nielsen of Omaha; sisters-in-law Shirley Gard of Omaha, NE; Janet Davis of Johnston, IA; Karen Scharfenkamp of Carroll, IA; brother-in-law Roy Scharfenkamp of Baudette, MN.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ann (2008), his parents, his parents-in-law, his brother Ken and sister Ramona; brothers-in-law Bill Nielsen; Dick Davis; Bob Scharfenkamp; John Scharfenkamp; Joe Berger; sisters-in-law Mary Jane Scharfenkamp; Jean Berger; Carol Scharfenkamp.

Cemetery Details

Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery -- Early, Iowa

Church St.
Early, IA 50535

Previous Events

Rosary

JAN 15. 4:45 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery -- Early, Iowa
Church St.
Early, IA 50535

Visitation

JAN 15. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church --Early, Iowa
501 Church Street
Early, IA 50535
<http://www.nemahaweb.com/sacredheart/>

Funeral Service

JAN 16. 10:30 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church --Early, Iowa
501 Church Street
Early, IA 50535
<http://www.nemahaweb.com/sacredheart/>

Tribute Wall

PC

“ I will remember Bill...and MaryAnn... as always happy and smiling. So friendly...and handsome. What a great legacy they share in their children and beyond their generation to the next. They truly were “the Norman Rockwell” family...and I am sure, they will continue to be. God Bless and welcome Bill ✨

Peg DeGarmo Cavanaugh - January 15, 2024 at 11:03 AM

KC

“ Uncle Bill was a marvelous Uncle. My having been gone from the community for many years he was always so welcoming when I came back, always wanting to stand around the back of church to talk and catch up. My mother, (his sister, Ramona) would share stories of them growing up and all the fun they had-whether it be working, and we know there was plenty of that, or of playing in the creek, riding their horse or shoveling mounds of snow (how appropriate that is to this very day) they had a great brother/sister relationship.

We know you were blessed with a great life here on earth and that the same will be true in the hereafter. Sending my love to all of those that remain, those that loved you with all their hearts.

Eternal blessings, Karen Cusick

Karen Cusick-niece - January 14, 2024 at 02:46 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Gard.



January 13, 2024 at 10:01 AM

LF

“ *Lois Crouse and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Gard.*



Lois Crouse and family - January 11, 2024 at 03:41 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Gard.*



January 11, 2024 at 03:29 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of William Gard.*



January 11, 2024 at 09:41 AM

PO

“ *My sympathy to the Gard family, a tough time for sure! You are all in our prayers!*

Pat O'Leary - January 10, 2024 at 09:36 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Gard.*



January 10, 2024 at 09:03 PM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - January 10, 2024 at 04:27 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Gard.*



January 10, 2024 at 09:16 AM



“ *My sympathy to the Gard family.
Kay Snyder Marvin*



Kay Marvin - January 09, 2024 at 09:56 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of William Gard.*



January 09, 2024 at 07:03 PM



“ *Nicole W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Gard.*

Nicole W. - January 09, 2024 at 07:03 PM



“ *Teresa & Andy, & Christina purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of William Gard.*



Teresa & Andy, & Christina - January 09, 2024 at 02:47 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Gard.*



January 09, 2024 at 02:11 PM

SF

“ *Sympathy to the Gard family! He was a great guy! Steve Frank*



Steve Frank - January 09, 2024 at 11:40 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of William Gard.*



January 09, 2024 at 11:32 AM

SO

“ *My sympathy goes out to the family of Bill. He was an amazing, kind man. We have lost a Godly man indeed. I will cherish my memories and remember you all in prayer. Shari*



Shari L. Willer O'Bannon - January 09, 2024 at 08:22 AM

KM

“ *My sympathy to you all.
Kay Snyder Marvin*



Kay Marvin - January 08, 2024 at 08:50 PM