



William Frederick Theodore Kerssen

December 1, 1951 - April 26, 2025

William Frederick Theodore “Bill” Kerssen, 73, went to heaven on April 26, 2025, in Orlando, Florida. Born on December 1, 1951, in Fosston, Minnesota, Bill lived a life marked by service, generosity, and unwavering devotion to his family and faith.

Bill began his journey in Fosston, Minnesota and later pursued his education at Minnesota State Technical College in Moorhead, where he earned a certificate in Diesel Mechanics. This training laid the foundation for a lifelong career as a diesel mechanic—a profession he truly enjoyed.

Though he had a passion for working on diesel engines, he was well-known for his humorous disdain for working on automobiles.

From 1974 to 1980, Bill served honorably in the United States Army as a Sergeant (E-5) and Recovery Specialist. He earned the National Defense Service Medal, Marksman (M-16 Rifle), and Good Conduct Medal (2d Award) during his time there. He had many stories to tell especially

about his time spent in Germany. His time in the military reflected his strong sense of duty and commitment to helping others—qualities that would define him throughout his life.

Bill's heart was always with his family. He is survived by his son Matthew Kerksen; daughters Marissa Ryan (Brendan) and Alicia Kerksen; and bonus son Ryan Longtin. His legacy continues through his grandchildren: Kara Longtin, Heather Ilchuk (Dakota), Skylar Simpson, Marlee Larson, Alexa Larson, Sebastian Caez-Kerksen, Xavier Caez-Kerksen, Lacey Ryan, and Cole Ryan. He shared a special bond with each of them and took great pride in their lives. They loved to call him Grandpa Billy.

He is survived by his brother Mark Kerksen (Sue), sisters Elaine Mack (Keith), Laurie Bursheim (Bob), and nieces and nephews.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents William and Lorraine Kerksen; his brother Roger Kerksen; and sister Linda Sissell.

Though Bill and Cookie divorced in 1991 after marrying in 1982, they remained close friends throughout the years. They celebrated holidays and birthdays together with their family—a testament to their enduring friendship and shared love for those closest to them.

A man of deep faith, Bill was baptized by immersion shortly after his son Matthew's baptism—a moment that marked an important spiritual milestone for him. He was a devoted Christ follower and prayer warrior who found strength and community through several faith-based groups including Fellowship Riders, the I Am Second movement, Christian Motorcycle Association, and his cherished Bible study groups Family by Choice and Doing Life Together.

His generosity extended beyond words into action. Bill supported Straight Street Orlando's mission to feed the homeless—not only volunteering but also building and donating benches so people could sit while receiving nourishment both physical and spiritual. His hands were always busy helping others, whether it was constructing something useful or simply being present when someone needed him most.

He enjoyed being a part of the group Talako Indian Dancers where he received the Native American name Yellow Bear. He liked to volunteer to take the kids camping and had a great time tubing the Rainbow River with them.

In quieter moments, Bill found joy in simple pleasures—playing solitaire on his phone or enjoying meals at Waffle House. These outings were even more special when

shared with family members who joined him at his favorite spot. In these last few years, he enjoyed life as a reverse snowbird traveling to Minnesota where he grew up. Doc (his road name) was passionate about riding his motorcycle and always brought it with him on his travels there.

He is dearly missed by many whose lives he touched deeply, including his best friends Frank and Cookie Knight, who stood beside him through life's many seasons.

Bill's life was one of service, to country, to community, to faith, but above all else to family. His memory will live on through those who knew him best and loved him most.

May his memory bring comfort to all who mourn him today.

A Memorial Gathering will be held on May 18, 2025, from 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM at A Community Funeral Home & Sunset Cremations, 910 W Michigan Street, Orlando, Florida 32805. You are all welcome to enjoy some of Bill's favorite snacks after the service.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

A Community Funeral Home & Sunset Cremations
910 W. Michigan Street
Orlando, FL 32805
(407) 841-4424
<https://www.acommunityfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

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“ We met Bill in Orlando. He was a generous man who deeply loved his family. Our prayers are with his family. We will miss him. Carol & Homer Scott

Carol Scott - May 09, 2025 at 06:11 PM

JN

“ Bill is the grandson of Dr. Kerksen, who shared the same ancestor Abraham & Maria Kerksen who lived from 1774 till 1832. We never met. I only met his sisters Laurie @ Elaine and other relatives in 2003. Yet he was my brother through our mutual faith in Jesus Christ. I send my condolancis to all the ones who were close to him. May God comfort you.

Jan Kerksen in The Netherlands - May 08, 2025 at 12:51 AM

DC

“ 1 file added to the album Pictures of Bill



Diane Carter - May 06, 2025 at 08:11 AM