

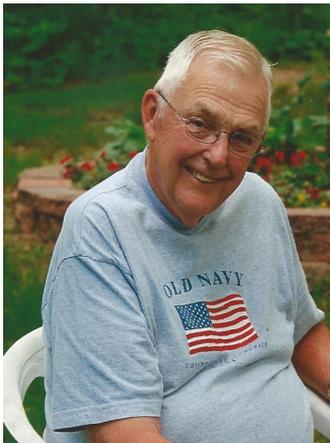
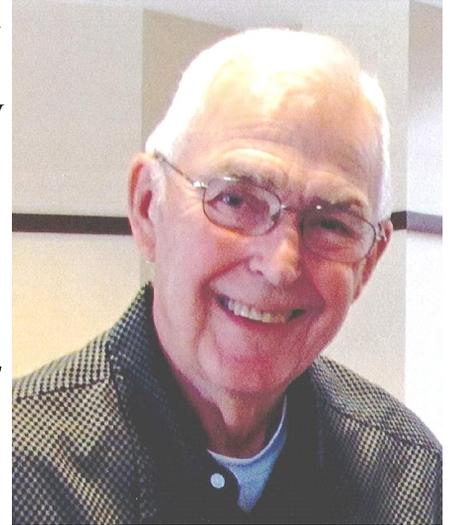


A lasting memorial has been given to Spirit of Hope Church In memory of Bill Stewart

January 24, 1932 - February 11, 2015

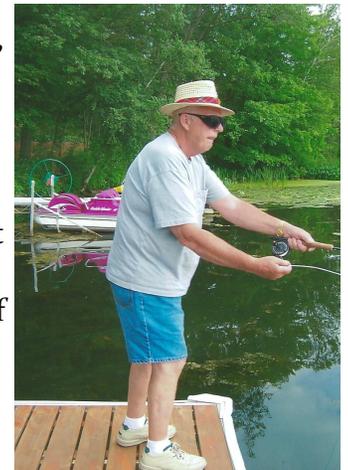
William “Bill” Stewart, age 83, went to be with the Lord on February 11, 2015, in Panama City, Florida. Bill married his wife Judy on August 22, 1964. They had just celebrated 50 years of marriage. They have three children, Jennifer, Jane, and Aaron. Bill was also blessed with eight wonderful grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Bill was raised with four great sisters. It was a very close and loving family and has remained that way even though they live in different parts of the country! Bill grew up on a farm in Southern Illinois near Paducah, Kentucky. At six years old he started to milk the cows. His grandchildren can hardly believe he used horses and not tractors when he started farming.



Bill was drafted to serve in the United States Army. He tells about receiving a letter that said “his friends and neighbors wanted him to serve.” He had not been far away from home thus far in his life and now he was going to Japan! Times were different back then without Skype, cell phones, or computers. He only got a letter or two a month from back home as his way of staying in contact. Just like many other soldiers, when he got back from the service it was difficult to find work. Bill went with his uncle to Elgin, Illinois, to work at the Elgin Watch Factory. Later he moved to Minnesota to work in manufacturing. Bill was happiest working hard. He worked his way up at Northwest Swiss-Matic to become part owner of the company his last 15 years of working.

After he retired, he and Judy spent more time at their cabin at Balsam Lake, Wisconsin, and Destin, Florida. Bill was thrilled to be able to take his family on deep sea fishing trips. Fishing was one of his favorite hobbies. He also loved gardening. Bill and Judy had flowerbeds that Bill tended to all around the cabin. Also at the cabin, Bill bought 50-gallon barrels that he cut in half so wood fire cooking could be done over them. Making breakfast over the fire was his specialty. Another very special part of life that Bill enjoyed was when the whole family gathered at the cabin, like on the 4th of July! Family and friends meant the world to both Bill and Judy. In summary, they have great memories of spending wonderful times in many of God’s beautiful places.



July 6, 2015