



## Bill E. Donahue Jr.

February 13, 1943 - July 12, 2021

Bill E. Donahue, Jr., 78, of Peoria, passed away on July 12, 2021, at UnityPoint Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria. He was born on February 13, 1943, and was raised by Beulah and Walter Hodgkins in Bartonville. In 1966, he met Marcia Ann DeWeese at Steak 'n Shake and married her on June 24, 1967, in Peoria; she survives.

He is also survived by his son Jeff (Christine) Donahue of Peoria and his 2 grandsons, Connor and Chase Donahue.

Bill grew up farming in Smithville and joined the Navy in January of 1962. He served in Kodiak, Alaska with Anti-submarine Squadron VP-42. He then transferred to the USS Yorktown CV-10 during the Vietnam War. He returned to Peoria to work in plant maintenance at Keystone Steel and Wire for 36 years.

Bill loved being a grandpa and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a member of the Tremont Sportsman Club and Pekin Boat Club. He was an avid race car driver from the late 60's to the late 80's.

Cremation rites have been accorded. There will be a Celebration of Life at a later date. Gary Deiters Funeral Home and Cremation Services in East Peoria is assisting the family.

Memorials may be made to TAPS or USS Yorktown Association. Online condolences may be left at [www.GaryDeitersFH.com](http://www.GaryDeitersFH.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bill E. Donahue Jr.*

October 08, 2023 at 04:50 PM



“ *I am saddened to hear Bill had passed on. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you! Love and miss you all.  
Tonya DeLay and family*

**Tonya DeLay** - July 16, 2021 at 03:29 AM



“ *Marcia, our sincere condolences to you and the family with Bill's passing. May God comfort you.*

**Dick and Marilyn Monroe** - July 15, 2021 at 05:10 PM



“ *My greatest memory of Bill and Marcia was when they took my brother Glen and I out to dinner at Jumer's and to see the John Wayne movie "Hellfighters" to celebrate my 14th birthday. Thanks you for that fond memory!*

**Pauline "PJ" (Jacobs) Hagerdorn** - July 15, 2021 at 08:50 AM



“ *54 years with the Love of my Life. There will be no other like him. He was rough on the out side but he could be sweet on the inside. I will Miss you my Love* ❤️❤️❤️

**Msrcia Donahue** - July 14, 2021 at 11:10 AM

BM

*I'm am so sorry to hear that Bill passed Marcia. Sending my deepest sympathy to you and Jeff. Love Bette Gail*

**bette mckinney** - July 15, 2021 at 05:26 PM

BM

*I am so sorry to hear of Bills passing Marcia. Sending my deepest sympathy and love to you and Jeff. Bette Gail*

**Bette mckinney** - July 15, 2021 at 05:29 PM

BM

*I'm so sorry to hear of Bills passing Marcia. Sending my sympathy and love to you and Jeff. Love , Bette Gail*

**Bette mckinney** - July 15, 2021 at 05:30 PM

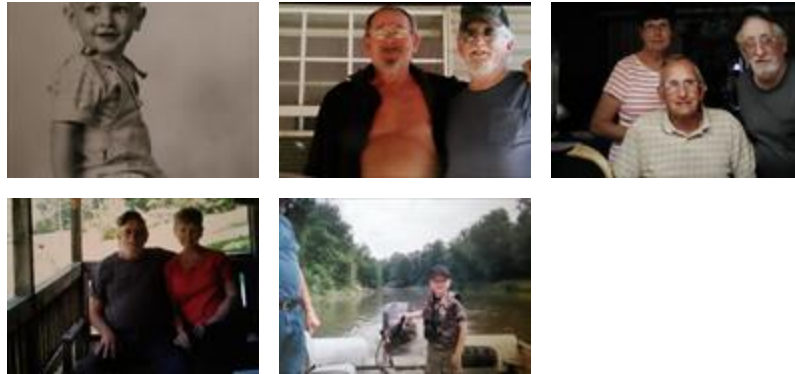
VM

*So sorry to hear of Bill's passing Marcia. Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
Vicki Mesecher*

**Vicki Mesecher** - July 15, 2021 at 08:47 PM

CD

“ 46 files added to the album Memories Album



**Chase Donahue** - July 14, 2021 at 12:42 AM

CZ

*The Donahue family,  
We wish to offer our sincere condolences on Bill's passing. I knew Bill  
for years at Keystone, and he loved to talk about pretty much anything.  
Prayers to the family.  
Charles (Dave) & Marylee Zook*

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**Charles Zook** - July 14, 2021 at 06:43 AM

DS

“ *Marcia, Jeff, Christine, Conner & Chase,*

*We are so very sorry to hear of Bill's passing. He was always such a  
joy to talk to and had such good racing stories. Our love and  
prayers go out to all of you.*

*Jack, Debbie, Jordan & Caleb Siegel*

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**Debbie Siegel** - July 13, 2021 at 10:29 PM

CW

*I've known Bill and Marcia for years. Loved talking with them at Dales  
Den. Jeff was just a little boy then. I worked with Bill at Keystonesteel  
and he always had a story to tell. RIP Bill. You will be missed by many  
people. Prayers for your family.*

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**Collen Walters** - July 14, 2021 at 09:13 PM