



William L. "Bill" Kruzan

March 1, 1930 - February 15, 2020

“Everyone has a reason for being in this world, and it’s our job to figure out our purpose and pursue it.”

Bill (William) L. Kruzan, beloved husband, father, brother, educator, friend, advocate for children with special needs, and supporter of human rights, passed on Saturday February 15, 2020. Bill was born on March 1, 1930 in Terre Haute, Indiana, the son of Hubert W. and Mary E Kruzan (Beabout). His mother passed seven days after his birth, he was raised by his grandparents Leonard L. Beabout and Anna E. Beabout (Singleton) in Terre Haute, Indiana.

He was a 1947 graduate of Wiley High School in Terre Haute. BS from Indiana State Teacher’s College, Terre Haute 1955, MS degree from Indiana State Teacher’s College 1958. Bill did additional graduate work: Michigan State University Lansing, MI, St. Francis College, Fort Wayne, IN, and Ball State University Muncie, IN. Bill was a Korean War veteran who served with Air Force and was stationed in Greenland.

Bill married Joan L. Kruzan (Smith) on December 28, 1957 in Lansing, Michigan; she preceded him in death in 2017. They moved to Sullivan, Indiana, later moving to Huntington, Indiana in 1960.

Bill dedicated his life to special needs children with 33 years of service in

Special Education in the State of Indiana. Bill was the Director of Special Education for Huntington - Whitley Area Programs for Exceptional Children. His inspiration was his brother, Hubert Eugene Kruzan, who lived with severe cerebral palsy.

One of the highlights of his life and career was when he received the Herbert D LaMont Award from Pathfinder Services as Director of Special Education in 1987. He was so honored and happy about receiving the award, he proudly displayed the plaque in his room at the Heritage and he spoke about it as recently as this past Christmas.

During retirement, Bill continued to advocate for the rights of others. In 2005 Bill supported and fought for the rights of gays and lesbians to be married in his church. He believed in doing the right thing - for everyone - and that love is love. In May 2018 Bill was thrilled when he was invited to join Northeast Indiana Honor Flight #28 to Washington D.C. Bill and his daughter flew out of Fort Wayne and had the time of their lives. Bill enjoyed traveling with Joan, genealogy, going out for dinner, and visiting with family and friends. In 2019 Bill moved to the Heritage of Huntington, where he was very active and thrived. While living there Bill made many friends, enjoyed all the staff, and was touched by their kindness.

Survivors include his daughter, Connie Kruzan of Los Angeles, California and her life partner Ed Daley of Las Vegas, Nevada, his sister Susan M. Harris (Kruzan) of Watkinsville, Georgia, niece Suki Janssen (Harris) of Athens, Georgia, niece Amy Harris Reynolds of Chugiak, Alaska, and niece Robin Schofill (Harris) of Jefferson, Georgia, cousin Doris Kruzan of Terre Haute, Indiana, his honorary daughter Debra Ward of Canyon Country, California, and his beloved little dog, Missy, who has a loving new home in Huntington, Indiana. His parents and wife preceded him in death.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana, 46750. Funeral services will immediately follow at 12 p.m. Wednesday at Bailey-Love Mortuary. Burial will be in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Huntington.

Preferred memorials are to Pathfinder Services or Huntington County Humane Society, in care of Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana, 46750.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Hope Cemetery

1700 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 4. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary
35 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 356-1710
wecare@baileylove.com
<https://www.baileylove.com>

Service

MAR 4. 12:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary
35 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 356-1710
wecare@baileylove.com
<https://www.baileylove.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of William L. "Bill" Kruzan



Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary - March 03, 2020 at 09:15 PM



“ Mr. Bill was one of the best men I have ever known. In the short time I got to spend with him and Joanie, they both brought such a beacon of light to my life and so many others. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Connie and the rest of the family.



Brooke Worley - March 04, 2020 at 11:11 AM



Thank you so much, Brooke.

Connie Kruzan - March 10, 2020 at 08:34 PM



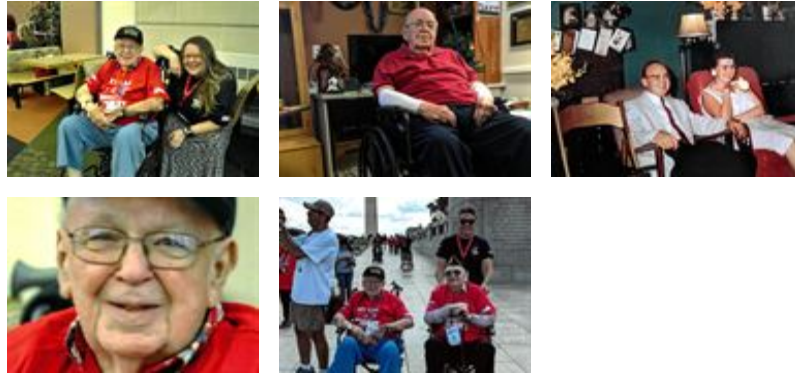
“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of William L. "Bill" Kruzan.



March 03, 2020 at 07:55 PM

BL

“ 18 files added to the album Life Tributes



Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary - March 03, 2020 at 07:23 PM

TM

“ I am sorry to hear of your loss. He was such an inspiration to so many for persons with special needs in Huntington. He was a great mentor to my aunt (Martha Michael) who taught in Huntington

Tanner Michael - February 28, 2020 at 11:05 PM

CK

Thank you, Tanner. Dad and Mom and I loved your Aunt Martha, she felt like part of our family. She was a real mentor Dad when began teaching here. She taught him so much. They worked together so well.

Connie Kruzan - March 03, 2020 at 12:22 AM

JR

“ *Bill Kruzan, March 1, 1930 - Feb 15, 2020, was one of the founding members of the Huntington County Association for Retarded Children (HCARC), which is now called Pathfinders Services, Inc. During those early years, he provided invaluable advice and assistance - even assuming the role of Executive Director when that position became suddenly available. His continuous support and guidance of the HCARC through many years as head of Special Education for the Huntington County Community School Corporation contributed greatly to the growth of the Association and, with little recognition, helped the lives of thousands of adults and children.*

Bill was quiet and unassuming but very highly respected and I sought his counsel often that first year. His contributions to the success of Pathfinders Services and the wonderful services it now provides to the people of our community should not go unrecognized.

Dr. John Regan

john regan - February 26, 2020 at 01:32 PM

CK

Thank you, Dr Regan. Dad thought and spoke so highly of you, too. He was so grateful you came to Mom's visitation. <3

Connie Kruzan - February 28, 2020 at 02:49 PM

LS

*Dearest Connie,
I work at Huntington Post Office and was so blessed each time your mother and father, and eventually just your father, would come in to send off a package to you.
They became my “regulars” years ago when I noticed they were sending a package to California. I’m from California so it was easy to strike up a conversation with them.
No matter how my day was going, whenever they walked up to my window I was instantly filled with joy, peace, and dare I say “love”. I adored them!!
I just happened to be missing your father for awhile now so I googled his name and found his obituary. My condolences to your family and our community.*

Lynn Smithley - April 19, 2021 at 06:42 AM

CK

*Dear Lynn,
Thank you so much for sharing this, I'm just now seeing your response. Please know that Dad loved talking with you at the Post Office. He would always tell me about how you two would chat. I miss he and mom so much.*

Thank you for brightening his days, too.

Connie Kruzan

Connie Kruzan - April 13, 2022 at 05:59 PM

RS

“ My Uncle Bill was such a kind soul. He never missed a Christmas, or a birthday for our daughter. He was a wonderful person who will be always be remembered and missed. We love you Uncle Bill. Love, Robin Harris Schofill, Michael Schofill and Sofia Kruzan Schofill



Robin Harris Schofill - February 26, 2020 at 07:18 AM

CK

Thank you, Robin.

Connie Kruzan - February 28, 2020 at 02:50 PM

KS

“ *Bill was a wonderful man and was a great friend to my brother while at Heritage. They shared each meal together and Bill will certainly be greatly missed. Rest in peace, Bill. The world is a better place because of you.*

Kate Stuart, on behalf of Tony Scheiber - February 25, 2020 at 08:11 AM

CK

Thank you, Kate and Tony. Dad enjoyed having Tony at his table, he was always able to give everyone at least one good chuckle each meal.

Connie Kruzan - February 28, 2020 at 02:51 PM

BW

“ *Rest in peace Bill, and God Bless you.*

Brad Welty - February 24, 2020 at 07:19 PM

CK

Thank you, Brad.

Connie Kruzan - February 28, 2020 at 02:52 PM

DS

“ *Our condolences and love to You Connie. Your parents Bill and Joan meant so very much to us and were wonderful friends. They were very receptive to us. We still have that great Party Mix recipe that your mother Joan gave us. Our love goes out to You.*

Don and Jane Shilts 🤔🤔🤔

Don and Jane Shilts - February 24, 2020 at 11:30 AM

CK

Thank you, Don and Jane. Mom, Dad and I shared a lot of good times with you. After Mom passed, he sure enjoyed talking with you and catching up.

Connie Kruzan - February 28, 2020 at 02:56 PM

DS

“ *Don And Jane Shilts lit a candle in memory of William L. "Bill" Kruzan*



Don and Jane Shilts - February 24, 2020 at 11:23 AM

 Julie Mckinzie

“ *Julie Mckinzie lit a candle in memory of William L. "Bill" Kruzan*



Julie Mckinzie - February 21, 2020 at 09:40 PM

CK

Thank you, Julie.

Connie Kruzan - February 28, 2020 at 02:56 PM

JK

“ *My sympathies for your loss of this dear man.*

Joanna Kline - February 18, 2020 at 03:31 PM

CK

Thank you, Joanna.

Connie Kruzan - February 28, 2020 at 02:56 PM

KC

“ *Mr. Bill will be missed. He was such a kind and gentle man who was always dedicated in coming to see his wife at the Heritage. I miss his sweet conversations and his heart he had for everyone.*

Karen Cook - February 17, 2020 at 03:32 PM

CK

Thank you, Karen.

Connie Kruzan - February 28, 2020 at 02:57 PM