



## William D. "Bill" Lesh

August 4, 1941 - January 18, 2018

William D. "Bill" Lesh, age 76, of Huntington, died at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, January 18, 2018 at his home.

Bill was born on August 4, 1941 in Huntington, the son of Joseph H. and Marian (Kemmer) Lesh. He graduated from Huntington High School in 1959 and attended Huntington University and Indiana University; he also served in the United States Air Force. He married Greta Smithley on October 15, 1988 in Huntington. Bill retired in 2004 as an engineer with New Jersey Transit after 20 years of service in the northeast corridor of the Dewart District Priston Branch; previously, he had been an engineer with Erie Lackawanna Railroad. In the 1993 Railroad Rodeo Competition, he competed for NJ Transit against transit properties throughout the nation to win top honors. Bill provided transportation to and from work, the Shore, and other destinations on the railroad. He was a member of the National Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and of Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Huntington. He served as Past President of Huntington Metro Kiwanis Club and he traveled to over 44 countries. He enjoyed history, photography, music and playing the piano. Bill especially loved his family.

Survivors include his wife of almost 30 years, Greta D. Lesh of Huntington; a daughter, Leah M. Lesh of Markle; a stepson, Chad (Sandy) Shaw of Huntington; a stepdaughter, Carrie (Erik) Stecher of Marion; brothers Robert

H. Smith of Huntington and J. Harold (Vina) Lesh of Shateaufort, France; a sister, Carolyn (Richard) Mishler of Toledo, Ohio; a half-sister, Diana (J.R.) Smith of Lodi, California; a half-brother, Steven (Jennifer) Smith of St. Petersburg, Florida; and ten grandchildren. His parents preceded him in death.

Visitation will be from 3 – 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 25, 2018 at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana. A remembrance service will immediately follow at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Bailey-Love Mortuary with Rev. Russell W. Hatch officiating. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, January 26, 2018 at Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 860 Cherry Street, Huntington with Father Tony Steinacker officiating. There will be one hour of visitation at the church prior to the service. Burial will be in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Huntington.

Preferred memorials are to Young Vision Africa, a grassroots 501c3 empowering children and youth in Sierra Leone to become leaders who help others in their country. They are managed by war orphans in their 20s, have built a medical center and started a school in an isolated illiterate area, and have made incredible progress in changing attitudes regarding girls and women. They also run a church in a Muslim area. YVA was founded by a dear friend of Bill's, based on the church they attended for many years after Bill was already thoroughly involved in helping Africa. "Bill's spirit and trailblazing as an American throwing himself fearlessly and fully into West Africa helped show us what was possible and is surely a part of who we are." Donations can be made online at [www.youngvisionafrica.org](http://www.youngvisionafrica.org) or mailed to Young Vision Africa, P.O. Box 6063, Somerset, New Jersey 08875.

Memorial contributions may also be made to Neema Children's Center. Bill partnered with concerned mothers and grandmothers in Luanda village, Kenya, to extend God's grace (Neema in KiSwahili) to HIV/AIDS orphans

and other At-Risk children through education, health care, and meal programs. Donations may be mailed to Neema Children's Center, c/o Rev. Russell Haitch, 915 Hidden Valley Dr, Richmond, IN 47374.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Hope Cemetery

1700 West Park Drive  
Huntington, IN 46750

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 25. 3:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

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

## Service

JAN 25. 6:30 PM (ET)

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

## Visitation

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JAN **26**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church  
860 Cherry St.  
Huntington, IN

## Funeral Mass

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JAN **26**. 10:00 AM (ET)

SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church  
860 Cherry St.  
Huntington, IN

# Tribute Wall



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



Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary - January 25, 2018 at 01:26 PM

DF

Condolences and prayers, Greta, Leah, and to your families. Dana Flora

Dana Flora - January 28, 2018 at 03:04 PM



“ What a special guy, my dear cousin Bill.

Mark Riseborough - June 20, 2021 at 04:47 AM

DL

“ May Bill rest.in peace. He as one of my husband's cousins that kept in touch with David over the years. He and Hal both did. Hal would call, ask for David and announce he was David cousin from Gay Parie. He always wanted us to come and stay. They were both wonderful cousins.



David Iris Lesh - April 06, 2019 at 04:22 PM

LN

“ Lynda Neals lit a candle in memory of William D. "Bill" Lesh



Lynda Neals - February 01, 2018 at 09:12 AM

SO

“ Bill sang in the "schola" (choir) with the Sisters at Victory Noll for a number of years. He was faithful to our practice times and also enjoyed socializing with the Sisters and Father Fahey as well. I remember a number of us Sisters enjoyed an afternoon at Bill's home with refreshments and happy conversation. He was truly a brother-in-song with us, and a brother to us with his missionary heart and pursuits for the good of others in need. God bless him now as he enjoys the reward of his generous giving! I am blessed to have known him! Sister Rita Musante

Sister Rita Musante olvm - January 28, 2018 at 07:19 PM



“ Sympathy Chocolates was purchased for the family of William D. "Bill" Lesh.



January 26, 2018 at 04:50 PM



“ Hi Greta,  
 I am so sorry for your loss, I was looking forward to seeing you guys again next year. I have a couple of piano rolls that I meant to give to Bill. I would say he was the best surprise in our class to find out at the reunions how much we had in common. I didn't know him well from school. We didn't have any classes together, I just knew him to say hi to. I was so impressed with the flowers around your house and the variety of players he had.  
 May the good Lord grant you and your family His Peace and Comfort! I pray in Jesus name. AMEN

*Leonard Janetzke*

Leonard Janetzke - January 26, 2018 at 04:33 PM



“ 29 files added to the album LifeTributes



Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary - January 25, 2018 at 12:15 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William D. "Bill" Lesh.*



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January 25, 2018 at 10:07 AM



“ *Thinking of your family during this difficult time. Bill enjoyed conversations with many friends and acquaintances. May you be comforted by the many warm thoughts of those who care.*

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**MARY MACHALL** - January 25, 2018 at 09:05 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of William D. "Bill" Lesh.*



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January 24, 2018 at 03:19 PM



“ *Don And Ann LaPan lit a candle in memory of William D. "Bill" Lesh*



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**Don and Ann LaPan** - January 23, 2018 at 08:11 PM

LY

“ To the Lesh family and Tim and Leah,

*I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers for you all.*

*Lynnette Fisher*

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**Lynnette** - January 22, 2018 at 12:25 PM

LY

“ *Lynnette lit a candle in memory of William D.  
"Bill" Lesh*



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**Lynnette** - January 22, 2018 at 12:22 PM

HL

“ *Even though far away and physically unable to make such a trip, we  
are thinking of Bill and of your (and our) great loss.*

*- Vina, Hal, Alix, and Gigi*

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**Hal Lesh** - January 22, 2018 at 09:45 AM

GO

“ *Leah, I have you and your family in my  
prayers.*



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**Goody** - January 21, 2018 at 01:39 PM

RK

“ 1 file added to the album *FRIENDS*



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**Rhonda Bauer Kattau** - January 20, 2018 at 08:45 PM

PW

“ *Peggy Wells lit a candle in memory of William D. "Bill" Lesh*



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**Peggy Wells** - January 20, 2018 at 10:09 AM

DF

“ *Daniel & Mary Fisher lit a candle in memory of William D. "Bill" Lesh*



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**Daniel & Mary Fisher** - January 20, 2018 at 09:32 AM

CJ

“ *Cathy Johnson lit a candle in memory of William D. "Bill" Lesh*



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**Cathy Johnson** - January 19, 2018 at 08:32 PM

CJ

*Keeping the family in thought and prayer.*

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**Cathy Johnson** - January 19, 2018 at 08:32 PM

JM

“*Jame And Deanna Mills lit a candle in  
memory of William D. "Bill" Lesh*



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**Jame and Deanna Mills** - January 19, 2018 at 07:51 PM