



Willard C. "Bill" Kohler Sr

April 30, 1928 - August 3, 2014

Age 86, died August 3, 2014, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital after a short illness. He was born on April 30, 1928, in Saline MI, the youngest child of seven children of Herman Sr. and Amanda (Guenther) Kohler. On January 1, 1949, in Milan, MI, he married Lois G. Holcomb. Bill is survived by his wife, Lois and their six children, Willard C. (Bonnie) Kohler, Jr., Janet (Tim) Jarratt, Suzanne (Burl) Ives, Russell Kohler, Ronald (Nancy) Kohler, and Grace-Anne (Kurt) Greaves, fourteen grandchildren, eight great grand-children as well as several nieces and nephews. Bill was preceded in death by his parents as well as four of his sisters and one brother. He was a lifelong member of St. James United Church of Christ in Saline Township, Saline, MI. Bill lived on the family farm most of his life with the exception of a few years when he lived at Shepherd Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX, and in Saline after first being married to Lois. The family farm was everything to Bill. The main bedroom in the farmhouse was the birthplace for him and all of his siblings. He and all of his siblings went to a one-room schoolhouse that went through the 8th grade. He enjoyed working with parents, siblings and hired hands on the farm and with his father's teams of horses while growing up. As he grew up and got married, he and Lois acquired more property and started farming with their three boys, who continue to run the farm today along with their spouses and families. Year after year, Bill would plant, watch the crops grow and then harvest. He would sit on the porch in the summer, overlooking everything and admire all the hard work that he and his family put into the farm. He also had

many dogs that he loved over his lifetime. Most of those dogs helped to herd the many head of beef and dairy cattle that were raised on the farm. Willard loved the family farm until the day he died. He would tell the nurses and doctors it was half way between Saline and Clinton and show off the pictures to all who came into his hospital room. He was also very proud of his family and noted that Christmas stands out as a favorite holiday because all of the kids and grandkids came home. His most rewarding memories were working with his parents and his own children on the farm. After retiring from full time farm work in the late 1980s, Bill and Lois purchased a cottage in the Irish Hills area on Cambridge Lake. It was there that they hosted many family parties and reunions. He and Lois also enjoyed vacationing and traveling around the country and into Mexico. Bill will be remembered for his love of farming and hard work. Even in his 80s he still had a great love of life and his family. His laugh, spunk and willingness to give you his opinion will not be forgotten by those who knew him. Visitation will be held at St. James United Church of Christ in Saline Twp, MI on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 from 4:00 to 9:00 P.M. and Thursday, August 7, 2014 from 10:00 A.M. until the time of service at 11:00 A.M. with Rev. Wallace Tatara, officiating. Burial will follow at the St. James United Church of Christ Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to St. James United Church of Christ, Saline Township, MI. and envelopes will be available at the church. To sign Bill's guestbook, to leave a memory or for more information please visit www.rbfhsa.com. Arrangements entrusted to the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home in Saline.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 6. 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

St. James United Church of Christ
11005 West Michigan Avenue
Saline, MI 48176
<http://stjamessaline.com>

Visitation

AUG 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. James United Church of Christ
11005 West Michigan Avenue
Saline, MI 48176
<http://stjamessaline.com>

Service

AUG 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. James United Church of Christ
11005 West Michigan Avenue
Saline, MI 48176
<http://stjamessaline.com>

Graveside Service

AUG 7. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St. James Church Cemetery
11005 W Michigan Ave
Saline, MI 48176

Tribute Wall



“ *Willard C. "Bill" Kohler Sr*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss, Janet. You're in my thoughts.*

Steve Krebs - August 08, 2014 at 07:27 AM



Uncle Billy and Aunt Lois were hosts to several Christmas gatherings as I grew up, the daughter of Wilma, now the last living sibling of Uncle Billy's.

I am glad Sharon and Keith could attend the service representing Wilma's family.

God bless Lois and the children. I have fond memories of you all.

Janice Goodell - August 08, 2014 at 03:35 PM



“ *Mike and I want you to know that you are all in our prayers! He lived a long, successful life on the farm. Mike was happy to build them their new house, and he and Bill had a good time telling each other how it was gonna go!!! God Bless. Mike and Ann Osburn*

Mike and Ann Osburn - August 05, 2014 at 09:26 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss. Sue, Eric and Steve Robinson*

Eric Robinson - August 04, 2014 at 07:54 PM