



William M. Fanning

March 1, 1941 - December 27, 2013

Age 72, passed away on December 27, 2013. He was born in Monroe, MI, the son of Jesse and Mabel (Schroeder) Fanning. Bill received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from EMU in Industrial Arts. He was an accomplished athlete at Ida High School and played football for 3 years at EMU where he was a member of the Kappa Phi Alpha Fraternity. He married Olivia (Sample) in 1964. Bill taught Industrial Arts and Building Trades in Wayne-Westland for 37½ years. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Ann Arbor. Bill was a talented craftsman, water colorist, avid reader, and golfer. He coached Little League Baseball for many years in Saline and was a supporter of all athletics, especially when family members were participants. Survivors include his wife; daughter, Shawn (Michael) LaRose; son, Grant (Andrea Paquin) Fanning; three grandchildren, William and Peter LaRose and Sophia Fanning; also sister Marilee Ball and brother Robert Fanning. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Richard Fanning. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, or Alzheimer's Association. A Memorial Service will take place Saturday, March 1st, 2014 at 12:00 noon, at the First United Methodist Church in Ann Arbor (120 S. State St.).

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 1. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor
120 South State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://www.fumc-a2.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *William M. Fanning*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *Dear Olivia, Shawn, Grant & Family,*

Our family shares your sorrow. The fond memories of Bill and you through the years . . . will always hold a special place in our hearts. With Love and Sympathy.

Dennis and Joann Pearsall, and family



Dennis and Joann Pearsall - February 28, 2014 at 12:33 PM



“ *Dear Olivia, Bill was one of the finest people with which I have had the honor to know, work, talk, laugh and take some fun trips. He was as honest and sincere as they come and deeply respected. A great loss for all. Sincerely, Gordy Cantwell*

Gordy Cantwell - February 25, 2014 at 01:20 PM



“ *My condolences to you on this sad loss. That is a great picture of Bill. It is exactly how I remember him, growing up with Grant and seeing him occasionally. I really appreciated his warm smile and sincere interest he always showed me. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.- Sincerely, Jeff Forstner*

Jeff Forstner - February 14, 2014 at 07:42 AM

BM

“ Dear Olivia, Pat Thon Drabant informed me of your husband's passing. I am so sorry to know of your loss. I have thought of you over the years, always with a sense of appreciation. Love and blessings now and always.

Beth Monteith - February 13, 2014 at 06:13 AM

PD

“ Olivia, two generations separate us since we were sorority sisters at EMU, but I still remember your smile and glow when you talked about Bill. Heartfelt condolences to you and your family.

Pat Thon Drabant - February 12, 2014 at 07:01 AM

SL

“ Dear Olivia, Shawn and Grant,
I can't imagine how you and your families are coping with Bill's passing. I've had some cards to send to each of you for a couple weeks now but I just haven't been able to write in them. Words can't express how sorry I feel for all of you. He was such a wonderful man in so many ways. Please know I'm keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers as you deal with this terrible loss.

*Much Love,
Shelley Larned*

Shelley Larned - January 10, 2014 at 03:33 PM

SM

“ Mr. Fanning was a great guy and he will be missed by his family.

Sarah McNutt - January 10, 2014 at 09:57 AM

RW

“ One of the best men I ever knew. Mr. Fanning always made an impression on me at the different stages of life with his quiet kindness and sweet warm smile. I saw him as a devoted, patient dad when Shawn and I were growing up. As a respectful, loving husband as the awareness of how precious that was dawned on me in early adulthood. And as an attentive, joyful grandpa when Will and Peter were little. What a privilege to have known you, Bill. Sending all my love to Olivia, Shawn, Grant and their families. He was truly a worthy soul.

Rebecca Williams - January 09, 2014 at 12:09 PM

SA

“ Dear Olivia and family. Bill was always, (as most of us in the class of 1959) looked at him, as our leader. We all looked up to him as the president of our class. I'm sure we all feel a deep ache in our hearts to lose him. And our hearts go out to you, Olivia and your family. May God grant you Peace to go on and live your life, always carrying his memories in your heart. He will be in our thoughts and you and your family will be in our prayers. May God Bless you with Peace.

Sincere Condolences,
Sharon Lowry Antoine (classmate from Ida High)

Sharon Lowry Antoine - January 08, 2014 at 11:34 PM

TC

“ *Dear Oliva and Family,
We are so sorry to hear about Bill's passing. It was indeed an honor to have had Bill as a fraternity brother and to be on the EMU football team together. he was an excellent athlete and a true gentleman. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Sincerely,
Tom and Donna Cava*

Tom and Donna Cava - January 07, 2014 at 08:25 PM

GS

“ *Very sorry to hear about mr fanning my heart goes out to mrs fanning grant and shaun i remember hanging out at the fanning household growing up and all our sporting events i will never forget.
Gregg Swanson*

gregg swanson - January 07, 2014 at 08:03 PM

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Gregg Swanson*

gregg swanson - January 07, 2014 at 08:03 PM



“ *The entire Karpinski Family sends our thoughts and prayers to all. Like many others, I had a great deal of respect for your dad Grant. He was a good man and touched alot of lives, I know he was, and still is, very proud of the man that you have become. Hug and kiss Mrs. Fanning(Olivia) for me. Please contact me for ANYTHING.*

The Karpinski Family

Diana Dingman Karpinski - January 07, 2014 at 01:50 PM

BG

“ *What a surprise. We were just talking about our ailments. Your response was "They're treatable." Your positive nature will be missed by all.*

Bob Grosshans - January 02, 2014 at 02:28 PM

GW

“ *Cheryl and I send our prayers and love to Shawn, Mike, Will, and Peter. May they find comfort in the great memories they have of Shawn's dad. - Greg Wulf*

Greg Wulf - January 02, 2014 at 01:40 PM

KM

“ *Our thought and prayes are with Olivia, Shawn, Grant and their families. We were so lucky to have the Fannings as neighbors on W.McKay for a few years. Bill was so kind and caring as a neighbor and a friend. We hold his memory close to our heart.*

David and Kristi Morris

Kristi Morris - January 02, 2014 at 01:29 PM

BR

“ I remember my little league days and Mr. Fanning as one of the first coaches I ever really admired and looked up to. He was demanding, but always fair and wanted us to enjoy ourselves. And I remember seeing the family in Church and thinking what a very classy family. Prayers and thoughts to you all in your time of need. He will be missed. God Bless you Mr. Fanning - Brad Redmond

Brad Redmond - January 01, 2014 at 06:40 PM

SH

Olivia, I was so sad to see that Bill passed away. I am thinking about your family, and you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.
Sue Hagood

Sue Hagood - January 02, 2014 at 10:23 AM



“ Grant, my thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family during this time of sorrow.

Craig Rathfon

Craig Rathfon - January 01, 2014 at 04:13 PM

DA

“ Bob, I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of your brother. Love, Dawn
xo

Dawn - January 01, 2014 at 03:18 PM

BM

“ *Many great memories of Bill as a fellow team member and friend at EMU. Many times we were roommates on game road trips. Will miss seeing him and his family at homecomings. A fine man that will be greatly missed. Rest in peace, Bill. You will be remembered. Our deepest condolences to his family.*

Bill and Sandy MacGillivray

Bill and Sandy MacGillivray - January 01, 2014 at 03:03 PM

JH

“ *Wow....what a loss....thoughts and prayers from the Hoefts to Grant and the rest of the family.*

Jerrod & Theresa Hoeft

jerrod hoeft - January 01, 2014 at 02:27 PM

JG

“ *Our sincerest condolences to Olivia, Shawn, Grant, and their families on the passing of husband Bill, father and grandfather. Olivia, we met Bill on a couple of occasions and thought highly of him. We are so very sorry for your loss.*

Jim & Marilyn Goodsman

Jim Marilyn Goodsman - January 01, 2014 at 09:40 AM

LC

“ I had the great good fortune to know Bill as my teammate and fraternity brother at Eastern. There were lots of great guys there but Bill was special. My life will be less knowing that I cannot shake that strong hand and see that great smile at another Homecoming. Olivia, cherish the memories.

Lowell Crandall, KOA

Lowell Crandall - January 01, 2014 at 09:00 AM

PM

“ Mr. Fanning always had a warm smile for two little neighbor boys running around his house. He will be remembered as a patient, kind man - the perfect neighbor.

Pat Morris

Pat Morris - December 31, 2013 at 06:04 PM

DM

Patrick and I were extremely lucky to have "The Fannings" as next door neighbors when we were little. It is impossible to picture Mr. Fanning any other way than with a kind smile because that's all he ever showed us, even when we would "run away" to his house.

Dan Morris - January 03, 2014 at 04:10 PM

ML

“ Bill Fanning was a great example to our children of what it means to be a real man. His example of love, kindness and mental toughness I expect will live on in our two children. They were blessed to have had Bill in their life. May his soul rest in peace.

Mike LaRose

Mike LaRose - December 31, 2013 at 08:15 AM

JO

“ *My condolence go out to the Fanning family. What a great mentor. You will be deeply missed.*

John Warra

john - December 29, 2013 at 07:53 PM

WL

“ *He was the best grandfather anyone could ask for and I can't imagine a life without him*

will larose - December 29, 2013 at 06:21 PM

RG

“ *We are so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. He was such a sweet man who loved his family very much! He will be missed! We send our love and prayers to Olivia, Shawn, Grant and their families! With love and sympathy, The Boldman Family*

Robyn Boldman Girbach - December 29, 2013 at 05:53 PM

TF

“ *The Boldman Family lit a candle in memory of William M. Fanning*



The Boldman Family - December 29, 2013 at 05:47 PM

ML

“ *Michael Lange lit a candle in memory of William M. Fanning*



Michael Lange - December 29, 2013 at 05:04 PM

DS

“ *Bill's sweet smile, gentle voice and loving personality are imprinted in my memory.
With love & sympathy to Olivia, Shawn, Grant and Family
Debby Desbrough Schneider*

Debby Desbrough Schneider - December 29, 2013 at 03:38 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William M. Fanning .*



December 29, 2013 at 02:37 PM

MB

“ I was so sad to hear of William Fanning's passing and my deepest condolences go out to Olivia, Shawn, Grant and their families. What a WONDERFUL man, Husband, Father & Grandfather he was and I'm so privileged to have known him. I have such good memories of hanging out with all the Fanning's and spending New Year's Eve's together playing "spoons" and other games. He was one of the sweetest and kindest human being's I've ever met and he will truly be missed by many. God Bless him and all who loved him. Love, Mindy (Larned) Ballard ??



Mindy Ballard - December 29, 2013 at 11:26 AM

 Carol Freeman

*My heart breaks for my friend Shawn and her entire family. I send my love to Olivia, Grant, and Shawn and their families!
Love, Carol Freeman*

Carol Freeman - December 30, 2013 at 05:22 PM

RI

I'm so privileged to have had Mr Fanning as my 8th grade woodshop teacher back in the 70s, at Nankin Mills Jr High. he was a great man. God Bless. RIP. Richard Prestia , Brooklyn Mich.

richard - January 01, 2014 at 01:39 PM

GB

Olivia,

On behalf of the Wayne-Westland Community School Family and the William D. Ford staff, I'd like to express our deepest sympathy on Bill's passing.

It was an honor to know and work with Bill over the years. He was a gentleman and an outstanding educator.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

God bless!

*Greg Baracy
Superintendent,
Wayne Westland Community Schools.*

Greg Baracy - January 13, 2014 at 01:37 PM

DC

I worked with Bill as a counselor @ Nankin Mills & later as Principal @ Glenn when Bill was @ the Voc center. He was truly one of the nicest people I ever met in my many years in Wayne Westland. I consider it an honor to have known him.

Dennis Connolly

Dennis Connolly - February 24, 2014 at 04:45 AM