



## William J. Baer

May 7, 1947 - December 3, 2020

William J. Baer (Bill), 73, peacefully passed away after his courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by the love of his family, in his beautiful Florida home, on December 3rd, 2020.

With homes in both Orland Park, IL and Estero, FL, Bill loved the sunshine and warm temperatures of both homes. He was a kind and loving partner to his wife Mary Ann (nee Yore) of 54 years, and they enjoyed many social activities together as well as with family and friends. On any day you would find Bill working on his self-built (and very fast) Cobra sports car along with his son, Matt; playing cards with friends; or simply enjoying a nice dinner and wine with family.

Bill was born in Chicago, IL to the late Roy J. and Elizabeth (nee Rodkey) Baer and grew up on the south side of the city, with his siblings the late Katherine (Ernie) Dittmann, his sister Margaret Long (Richard) and his brother John (Diana) Baer. At the young age of 17, he met his loving wife Mary Ann and they began their life together.

Bill and Mary Ann raised their children Dianne (John) Kleber and Matthew (Rosemary) in Orland Park and enjoyed years of family adventures such as camping trips, sailing the 'Baer Necessity,' trips to Italy and Europe, and in the earlier years, all working together in their family business, Intec Systems, Inc.

You could also find him researching a number of topics on a given day, especially llama farms or a new innovative shooting target.

His grandchildren brought Bill great joy and he loved watching them in their activities. He will be greatly missed by Robert (Elizabeth Randle) Kleber, Thaddeus Kleber, Delaney Kleber, Sophia Baer and Noah Baer. He is now joined with his angels, the late Matthew & Richard Baer.

Aside from being loved and adored by his wife, children and grandchildren, Bill leaves behind a wonderful extended family and friends. Along with his siblings mentioned above, wonderful memories were created over the years with: Nancy (Jeffrey) Hoffman, Janet (late Angelo) Karavites, Thomas (Alan Burrall) Yore, Dona (Joseph) Gradowski, Daniel (Mary) Swan, Michael (Patti) Swan, and Gregory (Peggy) Swan. With many adoring nieces and nephews, Bill's bear hugs will be missed by all.

A celebration of Bill's life will be scheduled in the future months when all can gather safely together.

Memorial donations can be made in Bill's memory to JDRF, but honestly, his wish would be for you to schedule a dinner with your loved ones and raise a glass in his honor.

To sign his guest register or to leave online condolences please visit [www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com](http://www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com)

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home Family Owned and Operated Since 1978.

# Tribute Wall



“ *William J. Baer*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM

DE

*Hello my name is Dennis I have been looking for a Bill Baer for a long time. The Bill I knew was a great man . So caring and thoughtful.He loaned me his camper to go to a race in Georgia,I met his mother in Lexington,Ky. If this is he so sorry for your loss he was a really great person Hopefully someone will see this would love to chat for a minute*

Dennis - January 21, 2025 at 09:26 AM

EJ

“ *My condolences and love to the entire family, many years of wonderful memories.*

*Edward Janz*

*Albuquerque New Mexico*

Edward Janz - January 11, 2021 at 04:34 PM

CJ

“ *John and I are so very sad to hear about Bill. His sailboat on Lake Michigan was the first I ever went in. John and I had so much fun. He was a wonderful loving and kind person. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.*

Connie and John - December 14, 2020 at 08:51 PM

JV

“ *Mary Ann and family:  
Words cannot completely express our emotions to you all.  
You have many happy memories to support you..  
Bill was the best!*

*Our prayers for him are with you at this time.*

*with love,  
Justin & Marianne*

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**Justin Venetucci** - December 06, 2020 at 05:34 PM

TS

“ *We send our condolences and prayers to Mary Ann and the family  
on Bill's passing. Many good memories from at the Sons of Italy.  
Tom & Rose Marie Stropoli*

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**Tom & Rose Marie Stropoli** - December 06, 2020 at 02:03 PM

LL

“ *We were one of the fortunate people who traveled to Italy in 2006  
with Bill and Mary Ann. It was a memorable trip. There are many  
other memories of Bill with the Sons of Italy activities. He was a  
great person and we are blessed to have know him. Paul and Linda  
Loparco*



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**Linda Ioparco** - December 05, 2020 at 03:23 PM

DS

“ So sorry to hear of Bill's passing. Even though Bill and I took different paths after school; I fondly remember so many good times. Riding in the green machine with floor honker bell, working together at Franksville, hanging out in the forest preserves and back porch stairways. He coined the phrase Elmo- tip-top for a friend's nickname. Bill was positive, funny, and a good friend. The world was a better place because Bill was in it. He evidently, made a positive impact on so many lives.  
Denis Spencer

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**Denis Spencer** - December 04, 2020 at 04:04 PM

TS

“ My friendship with Bill has been constant for about 57 years. We met at Franksville in the Gresham neighborhood of Chicago selling hot dogs, We graduated from Calumet High School together. We double dated for the Senior Prom and picnic the next day. After he married Mary Ann we spent many nights playing games and having a few drinks together. Bill was the best man at my wedding. We watched each others children grow into fine adults. We took lessons and played golf together. To say he will be missed is a significant understatement. Terry Strong

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**Terry Strong** - December 04, 2020 at 10:28 AM

JB

“ We have so many wonderful memories of our times together that we will always cherish. Always remember that “Death leaves a heartache that no one can heal but Love leaves a memory no one can steal.”  
Love to you and the family,

John and Cindy

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**John and Cindy Bilas** - December 04, 2020 at 08:52 AM

CS

“ I am so sorry to learn of Bill death. Please except my deepest condolences and prayers for him. Chuck Salvatore

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**Chuck Salvatore** - December 03, 2020 at 11:27 PM

DK

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



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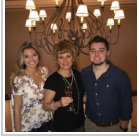
**Delaney Kleber** - December 03, 2020 at 06:58 PM

AG

“ I am so sorry for your families loss. I've known Bill because of his great friendship with my parents, John and Cindy Bilas. I will always remember visiting him at the car show in Orland Park and how he made my sons day by letting him sit in the driver seat of his cherished Cobra! Such a great man that I know will be missed dearly! You are in our thoughts and prayers. Sending hugs to you! Love, Andy, Mandy and Caden Grabowski

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**Amanda Grabowski** - December 03, 2020 at 05:31 PM



“ ❤️❤️❤️



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**Gianna Gradowski** - December 03, 2020 at 04:54 PM

AB

“ *My first, real, full time job was due to the Baer family. People always looked at me funny when I said I wired electrical control panels. Not the normal work for a high school girl in the 80s. So grateful to have grown up with such caring people. Thank you for the opportunities, laughter and memories. My condolences to the Baer family, we have lost a treasure. Rest in peace Bill. Love, Anita Byerly*

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**Anita Byerly** - December 03, 2020 at 04:37 PM

GT

“ *To the whole Baer family our deepest sympathy. Bill was one of the most wonderful men we ever met. Friends for at least 55 or more years, so lucky to have known him. A quiet, smart, kind man. So very sad this day. God bless Bill and all the Baer's. Love you Mar ❤️😭*

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**gloria tracy** - December 03, 2020 at 04:25 PM

DI

“ 1 file added to the album Family



Dianne - December 03, 2020 at 11:34 AM

WP

We had the Dad's ❤️

Wendy Pierson - December 03, 2020 at 07:00 PM

DI

“ 14 files added to the album Family



Dianne - December 03, 2020 at 11:27 AM