



## William R. Demmer

September 30, 1933 - August 5, 2021

William Roy Demmer 87, of Bonita Springs, FL died unexpectedly in his sleep on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at his residence. Bill was born on September 30, 1933 in Newark, NJ a son of the late William and Lillian (Yaeck) Demmer. He had been a resident of Bonita Springs since November of 1993 coming from Concord, MA.

He was a graduate of Columbia High School in Maplewood, NJ and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Right after graduating college, Bill began his career in the computer industry with IBM. As an electrical engineer, he helped in the design of the first mainframe computer, IBM System/360. He would spend 18 years with IBM and in 1974 he joined Digital Equipment Corporation where he led the development of the revolutionary VAX/VMS computer system which was one of the first distributed mini-computers created. He retired in 1995 as their Executive Vice President. Since retirement Bill has sat on multiple Board of Directors through 2020.

On June 11, 1955, he married the love of his life, Marie F. August and they had four loving children.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Marie F. Demmer of Bonita Springs, FL; Karen D. Viscariello and her husband, Scott of Concord, MA, Laurie A.

Demmer and her husband, Robert Slade of Cornelius, NC, Daniel W. Demmer and his wife, Helene of Boston, MA and James S. Tarvin of Bonita Springs, FL.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Nancy D. Tarvin who died August 13, 2017.

Bill also is survived by his 12 beloved grandchildren, Michael S. Viscariello, Alyssa M. Peracchi, Mikala A. Viscariello, Angela M. Rayburn, Gina L. Monafo, Dominic J. Monafo, Jessica S. Demmer, Eric D. Demmer, Jessica E. Slade, Casey P. Reinhart, Sarah T. Slade and Mackenzie P. Slade and two great-grandchildren, Gianni L. Peracchi and Penelope J. Rayburn.

A Celebration of Life service is being planned for later this year on Lake Winnepesaukee, NH and will be announced at a later date.

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

The family suggests that any memorial donations in his memory be made to the American Diabetes Association or online at [www. https://www.diabetes.org/](http://www.https://www.diabetes.org/)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *William R. Demmer*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *I worked for Bill for 10 years at DEC. I think he was the person most responsible for the success of the VAX product line. He was always honest & straightforward: a great leader and manager. He always had my utmost respect.*

**Don McInnis** - September 02, 2021 at 09:51 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to Marie and her family.*

**Jackie Roland** - August 16, 2021 at 11:17 AM



“ *I worked with Bill when he was trying to keep DEC alive with a version of Unix and Ken Olsen would only support VMS and a failed mainframe strategy. Bill was smart, kind, and courageous and a wonderful leader. RIP*

*Joel Goldstein*

**joel goldstein** - August 15, 2021 at 11:32 AM

DL

“ Please accept my condolences for Bill's passing. My name is Demetri Lignos. I knew Bill for many years at DEC and I was fortunate to work in his VAX systems engineering group for two years back in the early 80's. I respected him for his technical expertise, his leadership and fairness as a boss and as a manager of a large organization. Coming from the peripherals (hard drives and tapes) environment, the systems world was new to me and I learned a lot from Bill, which helped me later on as I re-joined the peripherals development groups. God bless his soul.

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**Demetri Lignos** - August 11, 2021 at 08:58 AM

JP

“ Bill was a kind, intelligent, thoughtful man. Best wishes from your neighbors, the Parsonnets.

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**Jeffrey Parsonnet** - August 10, 2021 at 07:26 AM

TL

“ Bill is the kindest and most gentle executive I have known. I recalled him visiting Hong Kong office briefly in the mid 80s while I was away and sat in my cubicle marveling the Victoria harbor scenes and jokingly said why my office had a better view than his. I was a lowly marketing guy and he was the VP. Later on I worked under his team in Boxboro for the Alpha program. I am forever grateful to his support.



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**Tony Leung** - August 09, 2021 at 10:28 PM