



William Sweet Locke

November 12, 1931 - May 16, 2025

William Sweet Locke passed away with his wife, Jane at his side, on May 16, 2025 at his home in Florida.

Sharing a birthday with his mother, he was born on November 12, 1931 in Orange, New Jersey, son of Walter James and Paulyne (Sweet) Locke. He has an older sister Sharon (Locke) MacCartney who lives in New Hampshire.

He married Marianne Griffith, November 24, 1957 with whom he had his only son, Stephan James. She passed away in 1962. He married Jane Ann Eytcheson on July 23, 1967. They shared a life together with daughters Jacinda Hope and Kyla Marie soon joining the family.

William (Bill) served in the United States Army during the Korean conflict.

He was proud of being a registered professional engineer. His professional career included: Manager, engineer, International Harvester, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1956-1971; general manager, Dura Corporation, Paris, Kentucky, 1971-1982; president, Weaver Corporation, Paris, 1982-1983; vice president engineering, Knoll International, East Greenville, Pennsylvania, 1983-1986; president, Talbert Manufacturing Corporation, Rensselaer, Indiana, 1986-1992; general manager, executive vice president, Chartered Management Institute Corporation, Oklahoma City, 1992-1995.

He was most proud of his family. He shared his love of the water with all of us; swimming, skiing, sailing, kayaking, walking on the beach and looking out over the ocean. He adored his ocean view! He also shared his many and varied hobbies of tennis, Lionel trains, player pianos, ragtime music, books, Art Deco and of course automobiles (and their repair). He spent a lot of time tinkering and playing with his collections.

A long-time, ardent collector of distinctive, vintage automobiles Bill had the privilege of owning and driving the finest cars the industry could provide for over half a century. He was a member of the Classic Car Club, Auburn Cord Duesenberg Club and others for most of those years and wrote articles of automotive history including the definitive history of the Elcar automobile, his first car. His sister Sharon said it best, "second only to his family, was that love of old cars."

We pay tribute to William Sweet Locke, beloved brother, husband, father, grandfather, gentleman, decent, courageous human being.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Jane Locke, of Bonita Beach, FL; son Stephan Locke of Richmond, KY; daughters Jacinda Locke of Naperville, IL and Kyla Nelson of Naples, FL. He is also survived by his sister Sharon MacCartney of Peterborough, NH along with many nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Bill's life at Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home on July 12, 2025 at 10:00 am.

A burial service will be held in Fulton, Indiana at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Hope Hospice (directed to Bonita Springs

Joanne's House) would be greatly appreciated by the family.

To sign Bill's guest register or leave condolences online, please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

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

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home
28300 Tamiami Trail So.
Bonita Springs, FL 34134
(239) 992-4982
bonitafhbill@comcast.net

Tribute Wall



“ 29 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home - July 12, 2025 at 09:58 AM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home - July 12, 2025 at 09:20 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William Sweet Locke.

July 11, 2025 at 09:05 PM



“ 26 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home - July 11, 2025 at 06:06 PM

JC

“ He will be missed by his loving and devoted wife, amazing son and daughters and caring grandchildren!

How can one possibly capture such a magnificent life and individual in mere words?

It was the end of an epoch when we lost this fine gentleman. Thanks to his loving daughter, I was introduced to a kindred soul and during the ensuing years we got to build a deep friendship. I was blessed to hear so many of his stories and relive many of his varied experiences and cherished memories. A consummate raconteur with an ability to make the slightest detail seem enthralling, we shared several of our passions along the way and I believe made some more memories he didn't always imagine would still come his way later in life. Second only to his wife and family, cars and water were in constant contention as to what brought him the most joy.

Mr. Locke had an admirable commitment to family and his lineage. His passion for cars was our initial connection and we spent many hours discussing our comparable philosophies on life, collections, old time entertainment and the common thread that seemed to weave everything together. From his earliest days admiring and collecting his beloved trains to his eventual enviable collection of automobiles we can only dream of encountering these days, he worked diligently to always achieve ever higher standards.

An impressive author with a wealth of knowledge and experience we were barely able to explore, I never knew him to be more content than when surrounded by a house full of loving family enjoy everything around them. Whether it was the 4th of July fireworks over the lake, New Year's Eve at the beach or anything in between, he was always up for a celebration or exploration. His orbit was wide and welcoming.

He loved his family dearly and his absence will be felt by all who

knew and cherished him.

Enjoy your perpetual road, top down under a sunny sky!

Jose

Jose Castillo - July 11, 2025 at 04:57 PM

KB

“ *Keith soso Brooks purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William Sweet Locke.*



Keith soso Brooks - July 07, 2025 at 01:33 PM

KB

“ *Keith soso Brooks planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Sweet Locke.*

Keith soso Brooks - July 07, 2025 at 01:33 PM