



## Huston Eugene "Bill" Howard

March 8, 1935 - April 20, 2020

Huston Eugene "Bill" Howard, 85, of Cherry Valley, surrendered to his battle with the COVID-19 virus at his nursing home in Kankakee, Illinois on Monday, April 20, 2020. He was born March 8, 1935, in Symsonia, Kentucky, the son of Charles Howard and Sarah "Pat" Howard as the youngest of three children. Bill married Nellie Mae Sheffer on July 29, 1958, at Black Grove Baptist Church in Clay, KY. Bill graduated from Goreville High School in 1953. After graduation, he worked in a factory in Elgin where they made toasters. He served in the Navy as a pipefitter from 1954-58 and then in the reserves until his honorable discharge in 1962. He earned a BS and an MS in Industrial Education from Murray State University in 1962 and 1963 respectively. They moved to Rockford, IL, and in 1978 built their new home in Cherry Valley, IL. Bill was an industrial arts teacher at Roosevelt Junior High School, East High School, Rockford Area Vocational Center (later named Rockford Area Career Center), and Auburn High School. While at Auburn High School he was named Vocational Teacher of the Year for District 211. He retired from teaching in 1993. Bill was a prolific and talented woodworker. He had a small antique business as a hobby where he collected, refinished, and sold many antiques.

Bill and Nellie enjoyed traveling throughout their lifetimes. They visited all 50 states, several Canadian Provinces, and Cancun Mexico. Bill and Nellie valued family relationships and developed special bonds with nieces and nephews and their children. Though the extended family is spread across the

United States, Bill and Nellie were always present for births, graduations, dance recitals, soccer games, and school events, as they were for their own three grandchildren. Family was always part of vacations and retirement travel stops. The extended family was loved as much as the immediate family. He was known for his love, generosity and fun-loving pranks.

Bill is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Debra Howard, of Bourbonnais, IL; three grandchildren, Wesley Howard of Grand Rapids, MI, Jenna Howard of Waco, TX, and Kendall Howard of Bourbonnais, IL; his sister-in-law Helen Hill of Morganfield, KY; a brother-in-law and sister-in-law Guy and Lois Sheffer of Mount Vernon, IN; and many dearly loved nieces and nephews and their children.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 53 years, Nellie, his sister and brother-in-law, Stella Marie Harris and Earl Harris of Lincoln, IL; his sister Evelyn Marie Howard of Goreville, IL; his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Harold and June Cherry of Sterling, IL; his sister-in-law Lucy Spiceland of Muscle Shoals, AL; and his brother-in-law Jackie Spiceland of Murray, KY. Bill had missed his wife ever since her passing in 2011 and was anxious to see her again. Due to the current public health crisis, a private service will be held for the family at Arlington Memorial Cemetery, Friday, April 24. A memorial and celebration of life service will be planned for a later date. Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais.

Please sign his guestbook at [www.clancygernon.com](http://www.clancygernon.com).

# Cemetery Details

## **Arlington Memorial Park**

6202 Charles St.  
Rockford, IL 61108

# Tribute Wall

LS

“ Mark and Deb we are sending our love and sympathy to you and all the family. We so enjoyed getting to know your dad at Kendall's party last spring.

Linda Schreck - April 27, 2020 at 04:29 PM

CW

“ I met Bill while my sisters and I were watching Mr. Ouwenga. We had several dinners together - what a nice man! So sorry for your loss.

Carol Whittington - April 26, 2020 at 10:40 PM

MM

“ MR MRS sent a virtual gift in memory of Huston Eugene "Bill" Howard



MR MRS - April 24, 2020 at 10:54 AM



“ RIP friend, you will be missed by your Miller family. Prayers and condolences to your family. 🙏

Vicki Sanford-Tousignant - April 23, 2020 at 07:22 PM

DF

“ *Uncle Bill was loved throughout his life. He made the world a better place & touched many people in a positive way. We love and will miss him; but we know he is celebrating with God and family.*  
*Sara Lynn & David Flanders*

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**David & Sara Lynn Flanders** - April 23, 2020 at 07:08 PM