



## LaVern C. Mill

May 24, 1924 - November 12, 2019

On Tuesday, November 12, 2019, LaVern C Mill, loving husband and father of five children, passed away at age 95 at Riverside Hospital in Kankakee, IL. Vern was born in Joliet, IL, the only child of Clifford and Mary Jane (Boycott) Mill. When the Depression hit, his father felt the best way to survive would be to take up farming. Working as a tenant farmer in rural Kankakee County enabled Vern's parents to purchase the family farm in 1941.

Vern proved to be a skilled mechanic and had fond memories of his first car, a used 1921 Model A. In 1944 Vern joined the Army Air Corp European Campaign and was honorably discharged in June of 1946. A carefree bachelor, he was no match for the love struck Rita Panozzo. They were married in Joliet in October 1951, built their home in Kankakee and started their family. Vern worked numerous jobs to support his family, eventually hiring on at A O Smith Corporation. In 1965 he was promoted to supervisor, transferred, and moved with his family, to Waco, TX, returning to Kankakee in 1971. He retired as a supervisor with A O Smith in 1980, moved back to Waco with Rita, worked with Helene Labs before again retiring in 1990 and moving back to their home in Kankakee.

Vern had a passion for serving. In 1951 Vern was a charter member of the Limestone Volunteer Fire Department, serving as President of the Limestone Fire Department Directors. He could often be found at the firehouse working on the fire engines and other vehicles. While at A O Smith, he served as Director of the Credit Union. Upon retirement, he and Rita joined the Red

Cross Disaster Team, often assisting with disasters when needed. One of their most memorable assignments was in New York City helping with the 9/11 recovery on Kill's Island. Vern was also a former member of Moose International, the Elks and the Quadrille Dance Club. He was an active member of the American Legion and the Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy. Dancing with Rita and his daughters was one of his greatest joys. Vern was a master on the dance floor. He and Rita traveled up and down the Midwest and Texas attending Polka and Ballroom Dancing events. He firmly believed that anything could be repaired or repurposed and was always providing his sons teaching moments. His other pleasures were camping, hunting, fishing, reading, watching western movies, and above all, spending quality time with his family.

Vern is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Rita; sons Stanley (Glenda) Mill of McHenry IL, Steven (Linda) Mill of Kankakee IL; daughters Cynthia Mill (Bob Chambers) of Vergennes IL, Barbara (John) Dailey of New London WI; grandchildren Christina Mill, Matthew Mill, Nicholas Hurst, Andrew Hurst, Adam Hurst, Meghan Schnitzler, Bradley Mill, Joseph Dailey and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Clifford and Mary Jane Mill, and their greatly missed son Daniel Mill. Visitation will be held on Friday, November 15th, 2019 4-8pm with a Service at 12pm on Saturday, November 16th, 2019 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home 1480 W Court St, Kankakee, IL. The family would like to sincerely thank Dr. Jordan Goodman and Dr. Mario Massullo for their care in helping Vern extend his life expectancy long beyond his expectations.

# Cemetery Details

## All Saints Cemetery

1839 W. Route 102  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 933-2342

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **15**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home  
1480 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

NOV **16**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home  
1480 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall



“ I am so sorry I did not know of this at the time, I would have gone to pay my respects. While I did not know LaVern personally, I can relate to many aspects of his personality as described in this very well written tribute. Rita I do know and I will never forget her. She and I worked together many years ago. She was one of the kindest people ever, and also very beautiful. She looked a lot like Annette Funicello. She was so nice to me. I was 18 at the time we worked together and like a lot of young people, struggling to find my way. She was a kind and gentle soul and a guiding light to me. I did know even then how much she and LaVern cared about others and were the kind of people to always help whenever possible. Much love to Rita and my deepest condolences and sympathy to the family.  
Charmaine (Courville) Sims

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**Charmaine Sims** - July 29, 2022 at 07:57 AM

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“ Deepest sympathy and prayers of healing to all the family of Vern. He was a gentleman, with a great passion of life. It was a pleasure to have met him. May he rest in peace with the Lord

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**Ann Papineau Fleming** - November 14, 2019 at 10:28 AM

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“ Our prayers and deepest sympathy to the family of Vern. With his beloved Rita by his side, there was nothing he couldn't and didn't do; what an amazing life they made together. And what a fine legacy Vern has left in our world.

May your memories bring more laughter than tears as you remember this fine, kind man. Rest in peace Vern. You will be missed.

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**Rose & Gary Mitchell** - November 14, 2019 at 09:14 AM