



Viril Lee Hill

September 27, 1929 - January 18, 2024

Viril “Lee” Hill, 94, of Bourbonnais, IL, passed away unexpectedly on January 18, 2024. Born in Streator, IL in 1929 to Mary “Erda” Burson and Viril Z Hill, he attended Plumb Elementary and graduated from Streator High School in 1947 where he was active in plays and musicals. He attended DePauw University for one year, then graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in marketing and commerce in 1951.

He enlisted in the US Air Force and was stationed in Germany. After his honorable discharge in 1954, he returned to Streator. He initially managed a tire store, then became manager of Viril Z Hill Chevrolet. He served as president of the Streator Chamber of Commerce from 1955-1956. He met his wife Marsha while performing in a production at Streator’s Engle Lane Theater. They married in 1962.

Lee and his family moved to Kankakee in 1966, where Lee enjoyed a variety of professions. Most know Lee as the long-time owner of Key City Chevrolet on Court Street in Kankakee. He also served on an advisory group of young Chevrolet dealers with Chicago Motor Division and opened Kankakee’s first Datsun, Volvo, and Volkswagen franchises. After 35 years he left the automobile business, purchased the Hemstreet Travel Agency, renamed it Hill Travel, and became an active member of the Midwest association of travel agents. After 15 years in the travel industry, he founded Lee Hill Farms, a successful real estate business. In retirement, he enjoyed teaching evening business classes at Kankakee Community College and Olivet Nazarene

University. He was a featured speaker for SCORE, the senior corporation of retired executives. He loved meeting for coffee with anyone who wanted advice on how to start and grow a small business.

Lee was a man of service, mentoring and giving. He volunteered with the Jaycees in Streator; Rotary in Streator and Kankakee and the Kiwanis in Kankakee. He was a 32nd degree Mason in Streator's Masonic Lodge and a member of Toastmasters. He was a member of the Kankakee Chamber of Commerce and Farm Bureau. Lee loved singing, dancing, and playing the piano. He sang in barbershop quartets, musicals at Engle Lane Theatre and Kankakee Valley Theater and the Asbury Methodist Church choir. He and Marsha were active in dance club Quadrille and enjoyed dinners with their "Gourmet Club" of close friends for decades. Lee also loved teaching friends and his children to water ski on the Kankakee River. He never missed Marsha's many theater productions or his children's sports, music, dance, and theater events and enjoyed doing the same for his grandchildren locally and on the west coast.

Lee is survived by Marsha, his wife of 62 years and their three children and seven grandchildren: Viril Z Hill (Nancy), Mercer Island WA and their sons Ryan, Brandon, and Connor; Viril Lee Hill II (Judy), Frankfort IL and sons Viril Lee III and David; and Dr. Emily Meyer (Mike), Manteno IL and their children Natalie and Jacob. Also surviving are niece Jane Kuchefski of Carmel IN and nephew Dr. Craig Hutchinson of Ft Meyers, FL.

A celebration of Lee's life will be held on January 28th at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, 295 Main St NW, Bourbonnais, IL 60914, with visitation from 12-3 pm and a service from 3-4 pm. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Kankakee Area YMCA Foundation at https://operations.daxko.com/online/2259/OnlineGiving/Donation.mvc?campaign_id=18181 or to the Kiwanis Club of Kankakee at <https://checkout.square.site/buy/2BNZSXUWVCXMYGN5YOXX4YEA>

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 28. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Service

JAN 28. 3:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Tribute Wall

DM

“ I'll always remember the positive spirit and energy. Always smiling whether it be at theatrical productions or at barbershop chorus rehearsals. Thoughts go out to Marsha and the whole family



Dustin Mann - January 28, 2024 at 05:46 PM

RM

“ My deepest sympathy to Marsha and family for the loss of this fine gentleman. I met Mr. Hill at the Kankakee County farm bureau where I worked and got to know him a bit. Conversations led me to respect this intelligent and thoughtful landowner. His loss, like so many others in receny years is a loss that will be felt by our community and he will be missed by many. Rest in peace Sir.



Rose Devine Mitchell - January 24, 2024 at 08:46 AM

LS

I will dearly miss half of the most gracious couple I've ever met. The Hills moved into our neighborhood and encouraged us to appreciate all the fine arts that Kankakee has to offer. A true gentleman, we enjoyed piano performances on his beloved baby grand, and could always find him in the audience of Marsha's many theater productions. We often giggled as he tried to sneak treats meant for our weekly neighborhood Mah Jongg games. He loved sweets! He will be remembered as a man who took civic duties seriously, and provided his family, friends and clients steadfast support. In short, he was a fine man who lived a good life. Blessings to all who are grieving him today.

Lana Shear - January 24, 2024 at 11:13 AM

JP

We shall miss this lovely man and his lovely charm, great humor. George will miss the great times he shared with Lee, starting with camping on Momence Island with Viri and Brian, and including some great road trips with Charles Leonard as well! Thank you, Marsha, for sharing this amazing man with us, and God grant you peace.

Jane and George Potter - January 26, 2024 at 11:36 PM

JB

L

jeanne benson - January 27, 2024 at 10:44 AM

JB

Lee and Marsha were the first KVT people to welcome me into the fold 50 years ago in a production of Brigadoon. Lee was the "father" of the clan, and made all of his clan members feel so good about their efforts. He made jokes, told stories, and loved wearing his kilt! Both of them were so kind and thoughtful. He was warm, witty, and always a gentle man. I know he loved his family with all his heart.

jeanne benson - January 27, 2024 at 10:53 AM

JG

“ *Joe Giacchino lit a candle in memory of Viri Lee Hill*



Joe Giacchino - January 23, 2024 at 05:22 PM