



## William J. "Bill" Balthun

September 3, 1943 - March 20, 2017

William J. "Bill" Balthun, 73, of Kankakee, passed away Monday (March 20, 2017) at his home.

He was born September 3, 1943, in Kankakee, the son of William Albert Edward and Rita Denault Balthun.

Bill began his career at 8 years old pumping gas and working with his father at the Sinclair Station on Kankakee's Southside in 1951. He continued working in gasoline, towing, and automotive services by becoming owner-operator of the Shell Station at the corner of Station and Wall. He serviced thousands of happy customers over the years, many of whom followed him to his last business endeavor at Balthun's Automotive on South Schuyler. While always focusing on his customers' automotive needs first, Bill still made time to be a longtime member of the Kankakee Valley Boat Club, Aroma Park Boat Club, The 100 Club, The ATA (Automotive Trade Association), and, respectfully, he was a Shriner. Bill also loved to hunt and fish.

Surviving are his longtime companion Jan Bolling, of Kankakee; one daughter and son-in-law, Tammy and Lance Hatting, of Kankakee; one daughter and fiancé, Donna Balthun and David McCombs, of Reno, Nevada; one grandson, Caleb Hatting, of Indianapolis, Indiana; one brother and sister-in-law, Wayne and Laura Balthun, of Canyon Lake, Texas; one nephew and his wife, William

and Amanda Balthun and their 3 children Kaylee, Weston, and Wayne and one niece, Amanda Balthun, of all Texas. Bill was also survived by many, many close friends who either did business with him, played euchre with him, dine with him, had coffee with him at work, or “sat” with him at Born’s/Smitty’s.

Preceding Bill in death were his parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial visitation will be from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Kankakee Valley Hospice, Kankakee Historical Society, Shriners Local, or River Valley Animal Rescue.

A special thank you to CNAs Eduardo, Jackie, Jasmine, and Kankakee Valley Hospice for your excellent care during Bill’s illness.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

MAR **22**. 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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Prayers for the family. We send our condolences. From The Howell Family*



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**Deb Guerra** - April 19, 2017 at 02:00 AM



“ *Prayers for the family.*



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**Deb Guerra** - April 19, 2017 at 01:58 AM



“ *Sorry for your loss.  
Ron Ramsey*

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**Ron Ramsey** - April 07, 2017 at 02:32 AM

BM

“ Deepest sympathy from the fellow southsiders the Maass family; Bill sr, Bea, Pat, Joan, and Billy. My oldest sis Pat was friends with Bill and Wayne throughout school but lost contact with them over the years. She would bring me over to their house sometimes when it was her job to watch me that day. I was young but like the Wasser family, they were all good solid pillars of the southside and kind to me as a child. I had a classmate, mike benscooter who went to work for them for nany years out of high school and always had good things to say about them as employers as well. May family and criends be left with nothing but the best of memories of him as we have. Good kid that grew into a good man.

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**Bill Maass** - March 28, 2017 at 03:26 PM

LO

“ I worked for Bill off and on for about 8 years. Between Bill, Harvey, Jr., Ray and many, many others, I got a lot of "education" cleaning windows, pumping gas, changing tires and replacing exhausts and engines at either the Sinclair or Shell stations. And then once the station was closed it was off to rehab the apartments bought and sold along the "tracks" south of town.

One of the more memorable events for me involved the 1963 green Rambler that sat on the used car lot behind the Sinclair station for a couple years. It just wouldn't sell even at the low price of \$400. Bill often let me use one of the "used car fleet" when I was home from school and "car less." I was in a wedding that Saturday evening and the Rambler was the only car left on the lot and Bill said take it. On the way home the next morning around sun rise, I fell asleep and rolled the Rambler. Of course I had to call Bill to bring the tow truck to retrieve the wreck.

It sat behind the station for about a week when a guy stopped in and said, how much for the wrecked Rambler? Bill said, "What will you give me for it?" He said \$500! Bill quickly exclaimed it's yours and I'll throw in free towing.

When I came home from school the next weekend, Bill handed me a crisp \$100 and said I'm glad you didn't get hurt preparing the Rambler for sale!

My condolences but hope you all remember all the great times and laughs that Bill always provided. He taught me a great deal and for that I'm forever grateful.

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Lyle E Orwig - March 27, 2017 at 09:13 PM

PV

“ Going to *Bill's* garage accomplished two things: my car got taken care of and I had a great visit with *Bill*! He always had a funny story to tell. People were always stopping in just to have a laugh with him. There was a certain charm about him . He will be missed!

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**Patricia Velatini** - March 27, 2017 at 07:39 PM



“ Thank you for everything over the years, *Bill*. Love you, *Jan*!

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**Joyce Volkmann** - March 24, 2017 at 12:58 PM

PV

“ Pat Vincent lit a candle in memory of William J. "Bill" Balthun



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**Pat Vincent** - March 23, 2017 at 08:30 PM

PV

Fond memories of getting a dinosaur soap at the Sinclair Station. *Bill* was a great friend to my father Jerry Benscoter, they drank a lot of coffee together. Sorry for your loss.

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**Pat Vincent** - March 23, 2017 at 08:35 PM



“ Doug Schnell lit a candle in memory of William J. "Bill" Balthun



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**Doug Schnell** - March 23, 2017 at 07:43 PM

LY

“ Thanks Bill for everything over all the years, we will miss you.  
*Mary & Larry Yarno*

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**Larry Yarno** - March 23, 2017 at 10:23 AM

PZ

“ I remember Bill's dad Bill, his mother Rita and of course Bill. Both my Dad and my Grandfather had their cars serviced at "Bill Balthun's Service Station" when it was located two blocks south of the Washington Avenue bridge at the corner of West Charles and Washington Avenues. I remember Bill's mom would always give me a piece of Bazooka Bubble gum when ever we stopped in for gas. It was a fun place to visit in the 1950s as there was always something going on "at the gas station." When I started driving in the 1970s, the service station had moved to its new location at Station and Wall streets. The same quality of service and friendship continued there as well. Three generations of drivers from my family were served well by Bill Balthun's Service Station.

*Bill was a great guy and will be missed by many.*

*Paul Ziemer  
WA state*

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**Paul Ziemer** - March 23, 2017 at 12:54 AM

TK

“ *Deepest sympathy to his family*

*Tommy and Debbie Kroll*

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**Tommy Kroll** - March 22, 2017 at 05:15 PM

RB

“ Roger Bias lit a candle in memory of William J. "Bill" Balthun



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roger bias - March 22, 2017 at 03:54 PM

RD

“ All the fun we had growing up, our hunting trips, plus all the family meals and races we used to go to.  
your cousin Dick Dill and his wife Pat

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Richard and Patricia Dill - March 22, 2017 at 03:15 PM

JH

“ Bill was a great man to say the least. A good friend, and a real hard worker. Im gonna miss him, and never forget him. Rest in peace my friend. Joe Harvell

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Joe Harvell - March 22, 2017 at 02:42 PM

TV

“ The Family of Bill, I hope that the faith that has guided you in so many difficult times will strengthen you as you mourn the loss of Bill. He was a such a good man and a servant of God in all that he did. Our faith teaches us that those that mourn are blessed. I know that is true and that you will receive the special blessings that you so richly deserve. Please know that I will be praying for you and that you will all find the peace and comfort in this tragic time. I know that God will answer our prayers. May you be guided by your faith.

*In Friendship & Faith,  
Dan Vaughn and family*

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The Vaughn's - March 22, 2017 at 12:43 PM

CS

“ *Carla Scheppler lit a candle in memory of William J. "Bill" Balthun*



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**Carla Scheppler** - March 21, 2017 at 11:12 PM

KP

“ *Bill was a good friend during the 35 years my family and I were his neighbor in Kankakee. I look back at all the great times I sat with Bill first at his Shell Station and then at the office in his shop on South Schuyler telling jokes, swapping stories and catching up on all the local news. Bill loved a good practical joke and I was his target a couple of times myself, once coming home from vacation with my wife to find two old store mannequins neatly tucked into our bed. He was a kind man with an enormous heart always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. We send our deepest sympathy to his family.*



*Keith and Jeanie Perry (Baker)*

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**Keith & Jeanie Perrt** - March 21, 2017 at 09:08 PM

BZ

“ *I grew up going to Bill's station with my dad Jim Zopf and I have very fond memories of him. It was always fun to go there and he and my dad were always joking around with one another. Going there had a "Mayberry" feel - where everyone knew one another and had a kind word to say to one another. Dad always told me how good Bill was to police officers. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends.*

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**Beth Zopf** - March 21, 2017 at 08:34 PM

CS

“ *Very sad news. He and my Uncle were best hunting buds. They are now together in heaven. I know Bill missed him. I will miss Bill.*

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**Carol Sperry** - March 21, 2017 at 07:16 PM

JE

“ *Julie Enright lit a candle in memory of William J. "Bill" Balthun*



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**Julie Enright** - March 21, 2017 at 05:28 PM

EB

“ *As a kid, I grew up on the west side and was always hanging around his station Many of my friends worked there and I went to school with Donna He was friends with my grandfather . Great man and person. Prayers to the family .*

*Eric Beach*

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**Eric Beach** - March 21, 2017 at 03:19 PM

OS

“ *Bill was a true friend,who went out of his way to help. I will miss him more than I can say. Good bye for now till we meet on the other side.*

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**Oran Skeldon** - March 21, 2017 at 01:06 PM

PM

“ Sonny and I met Bill at the Washington Avenue station in early 1960's. He quickly became a good and dependable friend who certainly took good care of our vehicles. We moved to Manteno and lost contact for a while but about 4 years ago we reconnected and it was like we had never been gone. Our car service man quickly became Bill again for us as well as our children. We knew he was honest and fair. I would usually visit with him while the car was being serviced and one thing I observed was how much he loved his girls and especially Caleb. His face would light up the minute I asked. I have missed him the past year and was sorry to hear of his passing. But Tammy and Donna, you had a fabulous one for a father and Caleb, grandpa adored you. Our sympathy and love goes out to all of you. Sonny and Phyllis Manker

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**Phyllis Manker** - March 21, 2017 at 12:19 PM

PS

“ i knew Bill since the early 1970's. what a great guy!! i remember the time my family and i were stranded near frankfort because our car broke down. Bill drove his tow truck all the way to frankfort and picked us up. somehow all 5 of us fit in the cab of the tow truck. he drove us back to k3 dropped our car at his station and then took us to our home. just a typical day for Bill but a day i will remember for ever God bless Bill! PAUL SCHMIDT

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**paul schmidt** - March 21, 2017 at 11:34 AM

AC

“ We knew Bill and his family for a long time. Were our neighbors on the south side on 6th Ave in Kankakee many many years ago. Great neighbors. We also knew him from his repair shop he worked on all my parents and siblings cars bill was good to us our condolences to his family. R.i.p.Bill. Andy Coy and family

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**andrew coy** - March 21, 2017 at 11:21 AM

JS

“ *Janice Shenk lit a candle in memory of William J. "Bill" Balthun*



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**Janice Shenk** - March 21, 2017 at 10:39 AM

RW

“ *Robert Washington lit a candle in memory of William J. "Bill" Balthun*



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**Robert Washington** - March 21, 2017 at 10:10 AM



“ *Have been a friend of Bill and his family for 60 years. Grew up together on the "Good Old SouthSide" along with his brother Wayne. Bill had a heart of gold and a soft loving heart for kids, animals, Veterans but especially Older People. He plowed many a snow filled driveways for the older folks especially our mom and dad. Had many laughs with Bill and had the pleasure to go on two bear hunts with him. He will be truly missed by many but never forgotten. May you Rest In Peace my life long friend. As we say in the military. "Bravo Zulu "(Well done) to a man who helped many and was a true friend. Our mother used to say a True Friend is a Gift from God. Bill was truly one of those men. Thank You for being our Family's Friend. As we say in the Navy. I wish you Fair Winds and Following Seas on your journey to eternal rest and peace. Love You Man. With heart felt sympathy and sorrow for the loss of "The William Balthun Family". The James R. Wasser Family*

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**Jim Wasser** - March 21, 2017 at 06:31 AM

TM

“ Tom Mallaney lit a candle in memory of William J. "Bill" Balthun



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**Tom Mallaney** - March 21, 2017 at 04:48 AM

FM

“ Knew Bill since childhood & went to school together !! Really great guy !!!  
Prayers to Jan and family

*Fred Mancuso and family*

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**fred mancuso** - March 20, 2017 at 10:06 PM

JR

“ Bill was a great guy to hang out with, really got to know him when my parents bought gas at the station many years ago. Then later in life got to hang out with him at Borns, was always fun to have around. RIP Bill

*Jason Russow*

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**Jason Russow** - March 20, 2017 at 05:53 PM

MW

“ The day Bill ask me if I had ever thought about owning my own Shell station changed my life. I bought the store from him 19 years ago. He always had an encouraging word when he came in. He also serviced my cars when I owned Reliable Limo. He was a great guy. We will miss him. Our prayers go out to Jan and all the family.

*Mike and Cara Wheeler  
Mike's Corner Shell*

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**Mike Wheeler** - March 20, 2017 at 03:48 PM



When I Lived in Kankakee, I would take my car to his station for repair. He treated every customer as if they were family. Bill was a model citizen. My prayers we'll be with family.

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**Doug Schnell** - March 23, 2017 at 07:42 PM