



William "Bill" Chigaros

August 12, 1937 - April 9, 2017

William "Bill" Chigaros passed peacefully on April 9, 2017. He was born in Chicago on August 12, 1937. Bill was preceded in death by his parents William and Marie Sullivan Chigaros, his beloved grandson David Miller and his most beloved wife Helen who passed on February 12, 2017.

He is survived by his daughters Donna (Bill) Adams and Katie Axe and grandchildren Jacqueline and William Martinez.

While not born in Kankakee, Bill was a Kankakeean through and through. He loved the city and its people and served them in continual public service as a Kankakee policeman, fireman, and assistant Fire Chief. He also served in the Illinois fire Marshall's office and most recently as the deputy director of the Kankakee County emergency management agency. Bill was the first on the scene coordinating first responders at the devastating Amtrak train wreck in Kankakee several years back.

In addition to all of this, he served his country proudly as Marine and the people of the county as the Country Club's most cordial bartender. He was truly a man for all seasons and services.

As a very active member of his parish, Saint Teresa Catholic Church, he and his beloved Helen, foundress of the Azzarelli Free Clinic, were active in every

aspect of Parish life. He loved Holy Week (He died on Palm Sunday) and will celebrate Easter, the feast of new and eternal life, with his bride Helen in heaven.

His funeral mass will be celebrated at Saint Teresa Catholic Church on Monday, April 17 at 10:30 AM. This will be preceded by a visitation in the church from 9 AM to 10:30 AM. Burial will follow at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Kankakee. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Azzarelli Clinic, 361 Saint Joseph Ave., Kankakee.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

2000 E. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 17. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Teresa Catholic Church
333 St. Joseph Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-7683

Funeral Mass

APR 17. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Teresa Catholic Church
333 St. Joseph Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-7683

Tribute Wall



“ I am so saddened to learn of the passing of Bill Chigaros. I mean i lierally just found out..ive known his daughters Donna and katie since 5th grade. Would lik you all to know you are in my thoughts and prayers. AND im just finding this obit..and going to try to hhurry to Clancys..If i dont get there on time please dall me katie..

RiP Bill

Sincerely

Alexia "Chambers" Helm



Lëxië Suë - April 17, 2017 at 09:36 AM

TW

“ Donna and Katie, I was sorry to hear of Helen's passing and now your Dad. How very sorry I am for your losses, and so close together.
Your Dad was a special person and I loved seeing him because he was always so pleasant. I can't say that I ever saw a frown on his face. My prayers for you and your family.

Teri (Menard) Worth

Teri (Menard) Worth - April 12, 2017 at 12:52 PM

CG

“ *A wonderful man, always so helpful and helpful with such concern. Bill was mentor to everyone in emergency management...never a dull moment, always learning from Bill and what he had to offer.*



Prayers to Bill's family and all his friends. He'll be missed so much !

Carl Gerdovich - April 12, 2017 at 12:26 PM

JP

“ *My association with Bill started in the late 1950's when he had started the Kankakee YMCA Judo Club. You were supposed to be 21 to participate, but when I told Bill I was planning to join the Marines he found a place for a 16 year old. We keep in contact for all the decades that have past since our first association. Bill was a whirlwind of energy and force of nature. All my sympathy to his family and loved ones. "Another old Marine going home".*

Jim Puswaskis - April 12, 2017 at 12:20 PM

JP

“ *Heaven has now gained 2 beautiful people and I'm sure Bill's humor has all the other "angels" laughing! Love this man and his bride! Two sweeter people cannot be found!
To all his loving family and grieving friends, God bless and please accept our deepest condolences.*

Jane & George Potter

Jane H Potter - April 11, 2017 at 05:24 PM

DV

“ I am writing this with a very heavy heart after finding out about the passing of Bill.



To the Family of Chief Bill Chigaros, I hope that the faith that has guided you in so many difficult times will strengthen you during this big loss. He was 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. I have known Bill since late 80's - early 90's and he would have a joke to tell every time he would walk into a room. Thanks Bill for teaching MABAS 7 Fire department personnel everything you know and more! You will be missed by All and Forgotten by NO ONE!!! Until we meet again.

RIP Chief Bill Chigaros

*In Friendship & Faith,
Lt. Dan Vaughn Ret.*

Daniel Vaughn - April 11, 2017 at 12:07 PM



“ I had the honor of working with Bill for many years when I was in Peotone and he was Ass't Chief in Kankakee. Later, as I moved I connected again with him while he was working with the OSFM. He was always a class act and a great guy! You'll be in my thoughts and prayers.

*Lanny Russell, Fire Chief (Ret.)
DeKalb Fire Department*

Lanson Russell - April 11, 2017 at 09:26 AM

SI

“ Sister Inga lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Chigaros



Sister Inga - April 10, 2017 at 10:15 PM

TM

“ Bill I am so prod of the day I met you at the fairgrounds. You were running a booth for CERT. I knew right then and there that I was going to be part of that program you loved so much. Then found that you attended the same church. I miss seeing you and "picking" on you every week and at CERT. I miss you and it just wont be the same without you. I am 100% sure you are embracing your beloved Helen and you both are at peace in Heaven. Rest easy my friend. I will never forget you. Love ya

Tracie Martin - April 10, 2017 at 06:43 PM

DZ

“ Bill worked tirelessly for Kankakee County ESDA/EMA. He was on the forefront of disaster preparedness for Kankakee County. He was a roll model for me and numerous other first responders. Rest In Peace my friend

David Zinanni - April 10, 2017 at 06:23 PM

CD

“ Such a wonderful man with a great big heart and kind and humble spirit. He told the best stories and was never out for himself. What a great contribution he has made to Kankakee County. He and Helen will be sorely missed.



Chuck & Susan Draine - April 10, 2017 at 06:14 PM

BM

“ *Bill was my CERT leader since I joined in 2009 or so. I loved his stories and he will be missed by all former and present CERT Team members.*

Bebe Minton - April 10, 2017 at 05:31 PM

BM

“ *Bebe Minton lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Chigaros*



Bebe Minton - April 10, 2017 at 05:28 PM

KA

“ *daddy this is your great grand daughter that you never had the oppourtunity to meet because of your beliefs I suppose. Serenity is so much like Gail.*

Kathleen - April 10, 2017 at 05:17 PM

KA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Kathleen - April 10, 2017 at 05:11 PM

KA

“ *daddy*

Kathleen - April 10, 2017 at 05:02 PM

AP

“ *What a great man. I feel privilege to say that he taught me quite a few things may he rest in peace.*

alice pence - April 10, 2017 at 04:36 PM

BC

“ *Fond memories of sitting on the deck drinking wine, beers, and 4th of July fireworks. We will miss all the conversation, jokes and stories.*

Bill and Debbie Castongia - April 10, 2017 at 02:46 PM



“ *I have known Bill since he was teaching a self defense class to us at St Patricks Grade School. He taught me Fire classes and presided over me at State Fire Marshall exams.I was with him when he started the Kankakee County Fire Training Officers Group. We went fishing together in Wisconsin and Canada.. Bill was always quick with a story , a joke or a song. He will be deep;y missed Thoughts and prayers to Donna and Katy on your loss. Rest easy my friend you have earned it !*

Steve McCabe - April 10, 2017 at 02:37 PM

MS

To a great man, firefighter, friend , mentor. You have done so much for the community. I remember you trying to teach me rope& knots in fire class and the frustration you had 'cause I tie lt. handed and you tie right handed. RIP. Lt. Matt Stefanich Ret.

Matt Stefanich - April 11, 2017 at 10:49 AM

DB

“ *great guy, he will be missed*

dennis buhrmester - April 10, 2017 at 02:19 PM