



## William H. Griffin

January 23, 1926 - June 23, 2012

William H. Griffin went home to be with the Lord on Saturday (June 23, 2012) while surrounded by his loving family at his bedside. Mr. Griffin, 86, was born in Galatia, on Jan. 23, 1926, the son of George Wiley and Blanche Harris Griffin. He married Delores Berkel on June 17, 1950, and the couple just celebrated their 62nd anniversary.

William and Delores had three children, Deborah Kay (James) Riordan, Darrell (Debbie) Griffin and Diann (Lane) Carman, all of Kankakee; seven grandchildren, Chris (Staci) Riordan, of North Hollywood, Calif., Elicia Riordan, also of North Hollywood (and her fiance, Gregg McClurg), Jeremiah Riordan, Joshua Carman, of Kankakee, Caleb (Hannah) Carman, of Peotone, Jennifer (Kevin) Schroeder, of Palos Heights, and Matt Morel, of Kankakee; and four great-grandchildren, Micah and Samantha Riordan, of North Hollywood, and Emma and Benjamin Schroeder, of Palos Heights.

William Griffin served in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1944 to 1945. Stationed in the Philippine Islands as part of the Pacific theater, he was wounded in battle and was awarded a Purple Heart. He was a baker and operated a poultry processing business in southern Illinois. He later worked as a prison guard in Joliet and then for Birmingham Bolt in Bradley, where he was employed for 22 years and became a foreman.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Edith Lassater and Gleeda Smith; his brother, George Griffin; and his grandson, Jeremiah Riordan.

He is survived by his wife, Delores; his sister, Dorothy (Frank) Seripin, of Sulligent, Ala.; his brother, Joe (Mary Lou) Griffin, of Alton; and his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as many loving nieces and nephews.

He loved to do woodworking and home handyman projects to benefit his family. William was a dedicated Christian who helped build Friendswood Christian Church. He served God there as a deacon and Sunday school superintendent. Later in life he served the Lord at Herscher Christian Church. William's life was centered around God and his family. He loved having the family come together and, while grieved by his passing, the entire family now rejoices over his glorious life now in heaven and looks forward to a joyous reunion there.

Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee, and from 9 a.m. Thursday until the 10 a.m. funeral services at the Herscher Christian Church. Memorials may be made to the family wishes.

# Cemetery Details

## Pilot Cemetery

Herscher, IL 60941

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 27.** 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

## Visitation

**JUN 28.** 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Herscher Christian Church  
30 Tobey Drive  
Herscher, IL 60941  
(815) 426-2908  
<http://www.herscherchristian.com/>

## Funeral Service

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JUN **28**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Herscher Christian Church

30 Tobey Drive

Herscher, IL 60941

(815) 426-2908

<http://www.herscherchristian.com/>

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ Dear Delores and Family, I want to let you all know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. I have many fond memories of your family. I praise my heavenly father every time He puts you folks on my mind. I pray that the God of mercy and Grace blesses each and every one of you as you both grieve and celebrate the life and passing of William and pray for the Joy that comes only in knowing that in Christ we will all see William again in Heaven.

*Love in Christ*

*Chris Coney*

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**Chris Coney** - June 27, 2012 at 09:21 PM

DK

“ Dan&Marsha Kulwiecec lit a candle in memory of William H. Griffin



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**Dan&Marsha Kulwiecec** - June 27, 2012 at 07:53 PM

CR

“ Grandpa and i went fishing in Southern Ill. when i was about 13 in a resevoir near the farm where he and my grandmother were raised in a town called Elorado. i remember my Great Grandmother saying we weren't going to catch anything and that it was too hot and was noon and they wouldn't be hungry at that time, but we didn't care we just wanted to hang out relax and be father and son for bit. When we got to resevoir we picked a spot next some downed trees and didn't no more that cast our poles into the water and the catfish started nailing the night crawlers we were using as bait. we couldn't stop catching the biggest catfish i've had the pleasure of fighting. For about an hour we would pull one in and have to run to the other pole before it went under with another fish. I love that day, and sooooo many more we had together. I miss you and Im glad your home. Don't worrie we'll take care of Grandma...



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**Chris Riordan** - June 26, 2012 at 01:28 PM

SP

“ He was part of my "family" and while I haven't seen him in a while, that doesn't mean that he was out of my thoughts and prayers. I will miss him and the kidding we used to do with each other. He is with my mom and dad now, waiting for the rest of us to show. My prayers are with Delores and the rest of the family.

Yours in Christ  
Sharon Perkins.

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**Sharon Perkins** - June 26, 2012 at 01:05 PM

MP

“ *Melissa Post-Boatman lit a candle in memory of William H. Griffin*



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**Melissa Post-Boatman** - June 26, 2012 at 12:34 AM

MP

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Melissa Post-Boatman** - June 25, 2012 at 07:38 PM

ER

“ My Grandpa was a good man, we will all miss him very much. I have many memories of him from painting wood crafts he would cut out on his wood saw, to helping me create my Venus Flytrap 7 or 8th grade science project.

I thought it was so great, I came up with the idea and he helped me create it.. It was two wood blocks with a spring and rubber band connecting them, you put a little honey or peanut butter on the bottom half to attract the flies... Once you saw the flies land and they were stuck you cut the rubber band and snap the top wood block came down to meet the other... Smash! Looking back at it now it was all pretty silly but none the less a memory of my Grandpa!

I remember him singing "there's a hole in the bucket" and would look at me and I would giggle and sing "dear liza, dear liza". haha

We will miss you Grandpa but are Happy that this is not the end and we will all see you again!

<3 Elicia

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**Elicia Riordan** - June 25, 2012 at 03:42 PM

JP

*Dear Delores and her dear family,  
I have known you folks for many a year and we have grown up together. I can remember back when Bill was getting his first heart surgery and we walked into his hospital room in Chicago and the doctor asked us if we were a praying family because Bill and the doctors who were going to do the surgery needed prayers. That was many years ago and Bill was a fighter then and has lived a life that he never gave up on. I can remember every Sunday morning he and Delores would sit in their pew and would be such a pillar in the church. Bill never said alot but when he did we listened. We have enjoyed our time with Bill but look forward to being with him in heaven again. We all have been through alot but we are always there for each other. Even though I was not able to be with you all my heart and prayers are with you. God bless you all through this tough time, your faith in God is truly displayed. Jeanette (Zurisk) Pickett.*

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**Jeanette (Zurisk) Pickett** - June 27, 2012 at 04:18 PM