



## William Lawrence Klei

February 12, 1945 - July 22, 2023

William L Klei, born on February 12, 1945, in Detroit, MI, to Roy and Virginia Klei, passed on July 22, 2023. Bill, as he was affectionately known to his friends and family, was not one to seek the limelight, but his life was marked by quiet excellence and precision in all that he did.

Bill graduated from Charlotte High School in 1963, where he was a standout on the baseball team, earning the admiration of his peers. Following high school, he pursued higher education at Western Michigan University until he joined the Army and served during the Vietnam war.

After his military service, Bill worked for DBI Office Furniture in Jackson and Lansing. As a salesperson and designer, he put his meticulous nature to good use, ensuring that his work was always of the highest quality.

After he retired Bill spent his time fixing everything from household odds and ends to the tractors on his farm. In his earlier years he excelled in cross country motorcycle racing in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, earning awards and trophies for his accomplishments. He also was a great Dart player - throwing darts at competitions throughout Michigan.

When not busy with work or fixing things, Bill loved spending time with his

friends, often gathering around his BBQ and smoker to prepare mouthwatering delicacies. Whether it was a family birthday celebration or any other festivity, Bill was the go-to person for orchestrating the food, making sure that everyone left with full hearts and satisfied appetites.

Bill was an active member of the community, dedicated to serving and supporting his fellow veterans and neighbors. He was a proud member of the Charlotte Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3552, where he found camaraderie and a sense of belonging among like-minded individuals. Bill's commitment to honoring and remembering his fellow service members led him to be an esteemed member of both the Maple City VFW Post 2406 in Charlotte and the Charlotte American Legion Greenawalt-Flaherty Post 42.

Bill is preceded in death by his mother, Virginia; and his step-father, Ed Simek; his father, Roy Klei of Detroit, MI; and his loyal dog, Becky. Bill is survived by his sister, Marilyn Uhl; fiancée, Nancy Granger; his beloved dog, Sammy; and numerous cousins, and many friends, all of whom will cherish the memories of this remarkable man. His legacy will continue through the lives he touched and the memories he left behind.

A Memorial Life Celebration will be held at the Charlotte Eagles 3552 on August 6, 2023, 1:00 pm as we come together to honor the life of this humble yet extraordinary individual. Those who wish to pay tribute to Bill's memory can make contributions to the Charlotte Eagles Aerie 3552, or share memories on his tribute page at [www.PrayFuneral.com](http://www.PrayFuneral.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial

AUG 6. 1:00 PM (ET)

Eagles Aerie 3552  
116 Lansing Street  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall

TM

“ Bill and I met in the fall of 1952 when we attended elementary school. Through the years our lives took us in many different directions but we remained friends. Over the past 15 years our friendship along with that of Jack Raymond was renewed. We have enjoyed our get togethers at the Bird, here in Indiana and at Bill's farm with our annual cook out with our wives and Nancy. Bill will be missed by all those who had the privilege of his friendship. My wife Nancy and I send our love and prayers to Bill's Nancy and his family.  
Terry and Nancy Moore

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**Terry Moore** - July 30, 2023 at 10:32 AM

CL

“ Bill and I were best friends as kids in the fifties when he lived on Johnson and I lived around the corner on Warren. I don't think there was anywhere we didn't ride our bikes as fast as we could. It was tough keeping up with him on his 26" Schwinn. From Bennett Park to his Grandparents farm. I'll never forget his dog named "Spot". I ran into him in Lansing quite often over the years. Since I moved there too, and then back to Charlotte, also. He was a great man and will be missed. My condolences to his family.

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**chris laverty** - July 28, 2023 at 08:15 PM

BO

“ Bill, bill, bill... I was really looking forward to seeing you again at the upcoming 60th in Aug. No doubt you will be missed by many. I only saw you at reunion's being as I live on the West Coast of MI next to the "pond", but those occasions were always memorable as we relived the many awesome times at CHS. There is no doubt we lived during the very best of times growing up in Charlotte. I will miss you a bunch my friend.

RIP.

Bill Otto

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Bill Otto - July 27, 2023 at 05:00 PM

DS

“ Dear Nancy, we are so very sorry to learn of Bill's passing. He was a great neighbor. We always enjoyed our conversations with him and Becky. Over time we discovered that I new Bill's Mom & Ed and was very good friends in school with his cousin Patty. The minute he discovered that I knew Patty he called her so we could reconnect for a moment. That was so special. We were sad when he moved back to Charlotte but knew that is where he really wanted to be. Please know that our hearts are with you. We know that Becky was waiting for him, tail a wagging.

God Bless,

Debbie & Don Stahl

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Debbie & Don Stahl - July 27, 2023 at 08:56 AM

TR

“ So glad I was able to go to the cookouts with my brother and old friends from Henry Street and School. Bill and Nancy were always the gracious hosts. Such great memories now, God bless Bill's family and especially Nancy with comfort and peace.

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Thomas G Raymond - July 25, 2023 at 04:51 PM

KA

“ Oh Bill you will be forever missed by so many of us. We had so many goofy memories and way too many laughs to share. RIP sweet friend.



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**Kati** - July 25, 2023 at 09:33 AM

JR

“ Good by my friend. I will never see you again. Bill, Terry Moore and I would walk to Southridge from Henry street. Three of us are lifelong friends. Bill will be missed beyond words. Hard to keep back tears remembering all of our time together. Bill is gone too soon. Terry, myself and Nancy are heart broken. Good by my friend, love you. Jack Raymond 😭

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**Jack Raymond** - July 24, 2023 at 08:07 PM