



William "Bill" James Hoffman

March 20, 1960 - September 2, 2018

William "Bill" James Hoffman, 58, of Traverse City, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday September 2, 2018 doing what he loved - working on his Centennial Farm.

Bill was born in Traverse City on March 20, 1960 to Thomas Loyd and Irene Elizabeth (Gilland) Hoffman. He graduated from Traverse City Central High School, Class of 1978. Following graduation he met and married the love of his life Monica Ann Lenard. The two were married on September 7, 1985 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mapleton. The two of them were inseparable and did everything together.

Together Bill and Monica proudly farmed the Hoffman Centennial Farm, dating back to 1879. Bill being the 4th generation of Hoffmans to do so.

Bill loved hunting especially for Mule Deer in Montana. He enjoyed visiting friends on his and Monica's annual trip there. Closer to home he enjoyed coyote and bear hunting. Because of his love for hunting he served on the Michigan Bear Hunter Association Board as a past director. He also was a proud member of the NRA.

Fishing, growing potatoes, cherry farming, having his own trout pond for the kids to fish, and especially training his hunting dogs brought great joy to Bill.

Bill smoked some great meat in his day. Smoked chicken, pork loin, salami and sausage were a few of his specialties. After his hard work of smoking the meat he took great pride in sharing it with his friends and family.

Fondly, Bill will be remembered for his quick wit, sense of humor, and true love for his family, especially all of the kids. There was nothing better to them then spending the day with Uncle Bill. He was a hardworking and generous man that will be missed deeply by all who knew him.

Surviving Bill is his wife Monica of almost 33 years; mother Irene; siblings, Sara (Doug)

Parrott, Barb (Roy) Carroll, Mary (Michael) Sletten, Susan (John) Bawden; in-laws Elmer Kolarik, Kathy (Dean) Krey, Joe (Ann) Lenard, Rich Lenard, Birdie (Ken) Brcic; Grandpa John Leonard; 17 nieces and nephews; 10 great nieces and nephews; his Walker hounds; Scooter; and many other family members and dear friends.

Bill is preceded in death by his father, Tom; siblings, Pat and John; and niece Kim.

Visitation will be held on Monday, September 10, from 4 – 7 pm with a rosary prayed at 6 pm at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. Funeral services will take place at 11 am on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 also at the Funeral Home with a visitation beginning at 10 am. Deacon Jim Krupka will officiate. Burial will take place at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be directed to the Special Olympics, St. Jude or the JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation - online at is.gd/jdrfhoffman).

Kindly share thoughts and memories with Bill's family at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

Cemetery

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

12675 Center Road
Traverse City, MI, 49686

Events

SEP 10 **Visitation for Family and Friends** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

SEP 11 **Visitation for Family and Friends** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

SEP 11 **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ I met Bill while attending Old Mission grade school for the sixth grade. My family had just moved out on the Peninsula from town just before the school year had begun. We were both students in Mrs. Happel's 6th grade class, and Bill was one of the friendly kids who welcomed me as a new-comer to this beautiful country school. I returned to the parochial school system the following year, but ended up attending Senior High School for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades, where I re-established my friendship with Bill. Always friendly, funny, and genuine, Bill was a kind soul. I lost contact with him after graduation, but will always remember him as a genuinely friendly and sincere person. My sincerest heartfelt condolences to Bill's widow and family.

Michael Dost - September 10, 2018 at 08:18 PM



“ Ahnii ChiMegwitch (Odawa greeting including many Thanks) To Bill and Monica for all they have done with their presence in the Old Mission community. They have been key players especially in providing work and work ethics for my son Andy and whomever helped them during the Cherry Harvest. Bill will be welcomed into everlasting life by our Creator. Andy Glen and Cynthia Miller

Glen Miller - September 07, 2018 at 08:26 PM



“ IRENE, MONICA and Family I was shocked and very sad to here about bill. He was a wonderful man , I took care of the old mission school retiring in 2017 Bill would let me cut up dead sweet cherry trees and trimmings in all of the orchards , I burn wood and bill and Jerimiah warren would make sure I had enough, I cut after school and on weekends clearing trees for replant and piling the brush, He was tough , but kind!!! Early this year I started cutting early ,Bill called and ask if I wanted some wood , we started in the orchard next to the school and moved to the orchard next to his mothers house, By this time I had a lot of wood laying next to all the trees. I went on vacation to visit my daughter in Colorado, and would be back to load and move all the wood , Well i didn't know it but i had graves disease , losing 40 pounds and no strength , I showed up to pick up the wood and bill asked if i wanted any wood off the Santucci farm ,i said yes, so we went there to cut, After cutting 5 or 6 rows, and down to the last four trees, I had to call bill and tell him that i just cant finish, and that the trees were laying on the ground, So he came over and took one look at me and said I need to see a doctor, my heart was beating out of my chest, I was worn out, He even offered to drive me, i said i will be all right, He said don't you worry about the trees and the wood i will take care of it for you ,you just get better, he said, He would call almost everyday to see how i am feeling, I said i would get the wood out of there as soon as i could, He said don't worry about it, So bill and Monica and the Jeramiah warren family pick up all the wood and piled it on the farm for me ! I stopped to see him about a two weeks ago, he was sitting in that blue truck we all know, He said Randy you just get better, You see , he was so worried about me and he was the one in danger, I miss him very much, I am going to miss all the jokes, the talks the beers in the orchard and that blue truck!! Monica my from the bottom of my heart you have my sincerest condolences , I cant come to the service, they have me on radioactive iodine , I LOVE OLD MISSION AND I LOVE YOU GUYS, WITH LOVE ,RANDY LEARMONTH OLD MISSION SCHOOL RETIRED

Randy learmonth - September 07, 2018 at 03:12 PM



“ We were shocked to hear about the loss of this wonderful man. For the past 10 years we have had the privilege to share some time with both Monica and Bill during the Cherry harvest at Santucci 's farm across the street from Bill's. Bill was 'THE' farmer of their orchard. He was meticulous with his craft. Every year we would brag that the cherries were the best on the peninsula. I watched Bill work with young adults during the 'shaking of the trees'. When Bill said “be there at 7am”...he made it clear that it didn't mean show up at 7:05! He was tough but he was also kind, generous and a great teacher. He had a great work ethic. Every morning while we were setting up the stand he would already be busy at work. He always had time for a wave and smile as he went by in his blue truck. That vision is what I see and will miss. When the day came to an end we looked forward to happy hour with Monica and Bill... sharing stories, laughs and sometimes meals together. It just will not be the same without him. He will be sorely missed. RIP Bill. Monica, our sincerest condolences. We share in your loss and pray that the memories of Bill will lift you during this difficult time.

Kathy and Larry Bozyk - September 07, 2018 at 12:16 PM



“ Monica and family,
To all you are in my thoughts and prayers! Monica there are no words to express my sympathy, just know my prayers are with you.
Linda Stark, NLCMH

Linda Stark - September 07, 2018 at 08:27 AM



“ To Monica especially, and to the entire Hoffman family I would like to pass along our sincerest condolences on the loss of Bill. Bill and Monica have always been the best friends and neighbors that anyone would want to have, and I am sure I could never count the number of kindnesses extended to my parents and family by Bill and Monica over the many years we have known both of them. Bill helped my dad with the farm for many years, and both he and Monica have always been thought of as an extension of our family. My dad was a contemporary of Bill's dad Tom, and his mother Irene, and they grew up together on the Peninsula. If my dad were here I know he would have lots of stories to tell, but most of all he would tell us how much he enjoyed having Bill with him on the farm all those years. Being a lifelong hunter himself I am sure those Western mule deer and elk hunts Tom, and Bill and Monica made were always prime topics of conversation. My son Brian was particularly saddened by Bill's passing as he spent many summers at my parents home "helping" my dad and Bill on the farm when he was anywhere from 5 to 10 years old or so. On one memorable occasion Bill took us up to his pond to let Brian fish. He was probably no more than 5 or 6 years old, and he caught a beautiful trout that day, probably the first fish he ever caught. Just one of our fond memories of Bill. Though we are far away, the Old Mission Peninsula community is still near and dear to our hearts, and Bill's passing hits close to home for us all. So please know that the Tennessee Kelly's share in your loss and we send our thoughts and prayers to you all at this difficult time.

From Tim, Jean, Brian, and Lori Kelly, in Tennessee

Timothy F Kelly - September 06, 2018 at 09:17 PM



“ Monica we are so sorry to hear this news our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time Mel , Rhonda Guntzviller

Rhonda Guntzviller - September 06, 2018 at 08:35 PM



“ We are so sorry for our friend, Susan, and all the Hoffman family and will be thinking about you. In early August, we stopped to see Mrs. Hoffman and Bill came over to check on who was visiting his Mom, as he always watched out for her. It was nice to chat a bit with him before he returned to his work. He did a great job running the cherry farm. We send our prayers to all of his friends and family! Lynn Halton & Jerry Balogh

Lynn Halton - September 06, 2018 at 08:27 PM



“ Even when you were on the receiving end of one of Bill's sarcastic remarks, you couldn't help but laugh along as the twinkle in his eye and sheepish grin let you know it was just in good fun and that he cared about you enough to let you know it was just a jest. As neighbors we would often pass Bill driving by on his tractor or in his truck, and he always took the time to wave or if near enough chat a while.

I always loved that he referred to me as "Sis" after I once mentioned I'd always wanted to have a brother in my family between my sister and I in age, and he volunteered; so it became our inside joke that if and when he and my sister were in the same room he and I would announce that he was indeed the long lost brother my mother had birthed but they misplaced at the hospital and no one had told us about until now. It would have been a good offbeat situational joke that I know Bill would have pulled off in excellent fashion!

And in cases of a difference of opinion, Bill definitely enjoyed playing a bit of the devil's advocate; not only for fun I think but to help you clarify your own reasons for the belief you held. Most of all he was honest and true to himself, what you see was who he was; and we will definitely miss that more than we can acknowledge in this time of shock at his sudden passing. Fond thoughts of condolences go out to all of his family, but of course mostly to our friend Monica. Cindy and Jay Ruzak

Cindy and Jay Ruzak - September 06, 2018 at 09:17 AM



“ Unbelievable! We are so very sorry for this Hugh loss to the entire Hoffman family. Such a missing link to the whole community. May God take you all by His right hand and guide you all through these difficult times. The Myers, Roger and Martha

Martha Myers - September 06, 2018 at 08:15 AM



“ Monica and family-- I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Keeping you in my prayers, and sending hugs to you.

Lisa Ataman (Orchard Manor AFC)

Lisa Ataman - September 05, 2018 at 10:36 PM



“ Monica, we are so saddened by the loss of Bill. You two have become family to us. I will always treasure the memories of laughing and visiting with you both. Our heartfelt prayers go out to you. Remember you've always got "family" in Montana.

Love, Bill Lane

Bill - September 05, 2018 at 10:22 PM



“ Oh Monica, I am so very sorry to see this. I pray God's peace and comfort carry you through this most difficult season. Much love to you-Bert V.

Roberta L Viegelahn - September 05, 2018 at 09:11 PM



“ Sending love, hugs and prayers!! We enjoyed every moment spent with Bill hunting, camping or hanging out at the Bear Convention!!! He will be sorely missed!!

Alicia McVannel - September 05, 2018 at 06:27 PM



“ Charity Sawyer lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" James Hoffman



Charity Sawyer - September 05, 2018 at 03:06 PM



“ Kathy Kelly lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" James Hoffman



Kathy Kelly - September 05, 2018 at 02:13 PM



“ The shock of Bill's sudden passing is so hard to handle. Another important piece of our old time peninsula family fabric has been torn away. Our hearts are filled with sadness for all of you. His friendly wave from his little blue truck and his willingness to lend a hand will be greatly missed. We hope he is chasing some critter with one of his favorite old hounds as we share this time of sorrow with all of you. Irene, you have had more than your fair share of loss and Monica, you are much too young to lose your best friend and husband. Know you are in our hearts and prayers and we are here for you anytime you need us. With all of our love and sympathy, Jeff and Marcia

Jeff & Marcia Leggett - September 05, 2018 at 07:30 AM



“ Much love to you Monica in this very sad time. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Betty Tezak - September 05, 2018 at 07:30 AM



“ Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.
Rusty, Cindy, Blake, Leah, Harper, Hannah and Brandon Huff

Cindy Huff - September 04, 2018 at 11:22 AM