



## William S. Laney

March 9, 1943 - August 25, 2022

William (Coach Bill) Shelton Laney was born on March 9, 1943 in Starke, Florida to Lorene and Shelton Laney. He spent his first 2 years of his life in Florida before moving to Arab, Alabama, then eventually to south-eastern Michigan. Along with his siblings, Naomi Ruth, Elizabeth, Linda Gail, and Debby, Bill came from humble beginnings. Bill showcased his natural athletic abilities at Fitzgerald High School by running track and playing football – even setting several long-standing school records in track events. To earn some pocket change, Bill worked a paper route and enjoyed his work at Jefferson Beach Amusement Park. After graduating high school in 1961, Bill and his friends lived their best lives by traveling around and even worked in an orange juice factory in Florida to earn some extra money to make it back home.

In 1963, Bill enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in both Korea and Vietnam. While on leave, Bill met Sue Michals on a blind date that was set up by some mutual friends. Sue was less than impressed by Bill. However, when Bill's leave was done and he left for Vietnam, he wrote Sue several letters back home, which were unanswered. But, when Bill's time in the Army came to an end in 1966, Bill ran into Sue again at a local hangout and things had changed. They began a courtship that led to marriage in October of 1967.

The newlyweds made a home in a flat in Detroit before moving to Warren,

then Centerline, then East Detroit, and finally Chesterfield. During this time, they were blessed to grow their family to 5, Monica, Steve, Jeremy, Josh & Ryan. Bill spent the bulk of his time coaching Jeremy's, Josh's & Ryan's soccer teams, attending soccer games, and traveling across the region supporting his kids' soccer exploits. He was celebrated for taking a low-level team and growing them to one of the best teams in the state.

After a career of over 30 years with Chrysler, Bill retired in 2001. His long days in the shop behind him, his life became much more leisurely, as he spent his days watching his favorite TV shows and movies, completing Sudoku and crossword puzzles, reading books, and chatting with family and friends at his favorite restaurants. As families tend to, Bill's family grew as he and Sue were blessed with 10 grandchildren over the years, Jacob, Parker, Emma, Ava (who Bill lovingly referred to as Blondie), Luke, Nick, Connor, Giuliana, Charlotte, and Violet. Bill loved his time with his grandchildren and was always incredibly proud of their accomplishments. In Bill's later years, though his mind began to suffer from dementia, he never lost his sharp wit, stories of his younger years, one-liners, and his favorite Korean phrases.

In the early morning hours of August 25, 2022, Bill took his last breath and faithfully walked into the sweet arms of Jesus while his wife of 54 years held his hand. He is preceded in his passing by his mother and father, as well as 3 of his sisters, Naomi Ruth Holmes (Wesley), Elizabeth Loffredo (Richard), and Linda Gail Ott (Roger). Bill nods a fond, "see you later" to his loving wife, Susan Laney, in addition to his children, Monica Laney (Erik Meyer), Steve (DeShawna), Jeremy (Marisal), Josh (Melissa Courtney), and Ryan (Nickie). Bill also remains in the hearts of his grandchildren, his remaining sister, Debby Holland (the late Pastor Dan Holland), as well as many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Bill's family would like to thank all their loved ones for the prayers, support,

and encouragement that were so generously sent their way during the final weeks of Bill's time here on earth. The family has great peace and comfort by faithfully leaning into Jesus's truth and promise of eternal life through Him.

Memorials may be made to Tunnels to Towers Foundation <https://t2t.org/>.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **10**. 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - New Baltimore  
35259-23 Mile Road  
New Baltimore, MI 48047  
(586) 725-0177  
<https://www.gendernalikfh.com/>

## Funeral Service

SEP **10**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - New Baltimore  
35259-23 Mile Road  
New Baltimore, MI 48047  
(586) 725-0177  
<https://www.gendernalikfh.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ 177 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - September 10, 2022 at 01:20 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of William S. Laney.



September 09, 2022 at 12:14 PM



“ *Tender Tribute* was purchased for the family of William S. Laney.



September 08, 2022 at 08:31 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of William S. Laney.*



September 08, 2022 at 03:50 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William S. Laney.*



September 06, 2022 at 08:39 PM



“ *I sure am gonna miss all of the stories he used to tell me when I would serve him his favorite Pork chops and mashed potatoes with lots of gravy at Firenzes.. I had alot of favorite customers there but Sue, you and Bill were truly my favorite people.. So genuinely sweet.. I love you guys and I will never forget him ❤️*

**Denise Kanapsky** - September 06, 2022 at 10:07 AM



*That is so nice of you to say. Thanks 🙏*

**Josh Laney** - September 09, 2022 at 03:35 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William S. Laney.*



August 31, 2022 at 07:18 PM



“ *I always enjoy Bill's Banana Pudding. I have had lots of Banana Puddings , However, No one else could ever made it as good as he did.  
He will be missed by all who knew him.*

**Tricia Haynes** - August 31, 2022 at 04:59 PM



*He was my first cousin, although we never got to visit each other, I am so sorry. May God bless his family.*

**Sue Gaither** - August 31, 2022 at 09:51 PM



*He did make a mean Banana Pudding! Thanks for sharing.*

**Josh Laney** - September 09, 2022 at 03:36 PM



“ *I have had a friendship with the Laney family for about 40 years and always enjoyed talking with Bill about childhood experiences and he liked to discuss political things. He will be missed by family and friends but we shall meet on the other side.  
Hugs and love to all the Laney family.  
Linda Evans and family*

**Linda Evans** - August 31, 2022 at 12:52 PM



*Thanks, Linda!*

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**Josh Laney** - September 09, 2022 at 03:36 PM



*Me and Bill worked many years together. We had some good times especially on the roof. aka the sugar shack. I miss you my great friend. Your partner Randy*

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**randy rasins** - October 14, 2022 at 03:50 PM