



William J. "Bill" Ketchem

August 6, 1954 - February 21, 2024

William J. "Bill" Ketchem, 69, of Bloomfield passed away Wednesday February 21, 2024 at his residence.

Born August 6, 1954 in Washington, Indiana the son of William H. and Emily Marie (Gee) Ketchem.

Bill served 38 years in the United States Army, he was retired; he was a member of the Bloomfield Masonic Lodge # 84.

Surviving relatives include his wife Vicki Ketchem, one daughter Chrystal (Kelly) Martincic, two brothers, Carl (Mary) Ketchem, Tim (Tracy) Ketchem, three brother-in-law's, Bob Brown, Rick (Nancy) Brown, Kevin Brown and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held on Sunday February 25, 2024 from 4 to 8 P.M. at Jenkins Funeral Home in Bloomfield, and 12 P.M. Monday until the hour of service at the Funeral Home.

Services will be held at 1:00 on Monday February 26, 2024 at Jenkins Funeral Home in Bloomfield with Brother Eugene Helms officiating. Burial will follow at Grandview Cemetery with Military Honors.

The family wishes any memorial donations in Bill's name be given to the Parkinson Foundation, 200 SE 1st Street, Ste 800, Miami, FL. 33131.

Online condolences and memories can be shared at www.jenkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Grandview Cemetery

N. Washington Street
Bloomfield, IN 47424

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **25**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Lester Jenkins and Sons Funeral Home Inc. - Bloomfield
421 South Seminary Street
Bloomfield, IN 47424
(812) 384-4212
info@jenkinsfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.jenkinsfuneralhomes.com/>

Visitation

FEB **26**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Lester Jenkins and Sons Funeral Home Inc. - Bloomfield
421 South Seminary Street
Bloomfield, IN 47424
(812) 384-4212
info@jenkinsfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.jenkinsfuneralhomes.com/>

Service

FEB 26. 1:00 PM (ET)

Lester Jenkins and Sons Funeral Home Inc. - Bloomfield
421 South Seminary Street
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Tribute Wall

TK

“ *Very sorry to hear of Bill's passing.
RIP cousin.*

Tom Ketchem - February 29, 2024 at 12:41 PM

RH

“ *Bill, (BJ) as we called him was a great person, my twin brother and I spent years with him while teaching at the NCO Academy 17 years. We still have a few BJ Bucks! We knew and worked under the leadership of his father. CSM Ketchem and I served together in Afghanistan, returned and served in couple more units. We have known BJ for over 30 years. He was an accomplished Non-commissioned officer, mentor, friend and brother in arms. You will be missed and remember always. Friend first, Soldier always!! My prayers go out to the family.*



SGM (R) Roy Hamilton

Roy E Hamilton - February 27, 2024 at 07:13 AM

TT

“ *Bill was a dedicated soldier to our state and nation that always put his soldiers first. He was a valued member of the Atterbury team whose contributions continue to this day. I always enjoyed our conversations and appreciated his counsel. All my best to the family. Todd Townsend*

Todd Townsend - February 26, 2024 at 09:06 AM

TF

“ I'm sorry to hear about Bill's passing. He's been a friend for 50 years. His wife is a friend, also. He was a good man wholeheartedly in support of his family and his country. R.I.P., Bill.

Tom Franklin - February 25, 2024 at 07:27 PM

LE

“ SGM Ketchem and I worked a few years when the 76th Brigade was known to be the Blue Devil brigade. A great soldier and demonstrated a “can do spirit.” A great mentor for the Indiana Army National Guard.

LTC (Retired) David Ellington - February 24, 2024 at 07:08 PM

SM

“ Vicki & Chrystal, so sorry for your loss. We are praying for you both. The short amount of time we knew Bill, we could see that he was a wonderful guy. Keep your wonderful memories close to your heart. Love you both.



Sonny & Tonya Martincic - February 24, 2024 at 06:07 PM

RK

“ SGM Ketchem was a great role model and mentor. His loyalty and selfless service goes without mention. Rest in peace BJ.



Richard Karkowski - February 24, 2024 at 01:29 PM

RA

“ I knew Bill since the Fourth Grade. We had paper routes together, in Boy Scouts together, and graduated from Bloomfield High School together.

He was my dear friend, brother, and neighbor. I have sustained a loss that can not be measured.

When I would walk home for lunch in high school Bill was on his way to work study and he would stop and give me a ride to help me.

Bill put me down a reference for his security clearance. When the man came to interview me, I told him "Bill has only one fault, he's too good. He would give you the shirt off his back. You don't have to worry about Bill, he would rather die than betray his country."

He was a fine lodge brother and only those who attended with him will know his true commitment and sincerity to the ideals of the fraternity.

When Bill was installed as the Worshipful Master of the Lodge he was admonished to "live respected and die regrated." Which he did and is.

I know beyond a shadow of a doubt where he is. He is out of all pain and suffering, with his family and with Jesus. Because of Jesus, we will all meet again on that glorious resurrection morning.

Amen.

Roger Axe - February 23, 2024 at 05:07 PM

SC

Vicki we just found out Billy Jo passed. We all had some good memories us four and Crystal Love you 🙏😊

Schroyer - March 21, 2024 at 07:07 PM

SC

We are so very sorry 🙏

Schroyer - March 21, 2024 at 07:08 PM

RS

“ Rodney Spade planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William J. "Bill" Ketchem.

Rodney Spade - February 23, 2024 at 02:53 PM

RS

“ Rodney Spade purchased the Simply Elegant Sp athiphyllum for the family of William J. "Bill" Ketchem.



Rodney Spade - February 23, 2024 at 02:53 PM

SG

“ CSM "BJ" Ketchum was a great man. I can remember all the mentorship he gave me in my early days as a soldier at Atterbury in the 219th. He was a big part of me making SGM. Bill you're going to be missed. Thanks for all you did for that young Soldier back in early 2000's. You made a difference in my life and many others. RIH CSM.

SGM Carl Gilbert - February 23, 2024 at 02:45 PM

YF

“ Your TCI Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William J. "Bill" Ketchem.



Your TCI Family - February 23, 2024 at 02:32 PM

LO

“ Love always, Chris, Penny & Olivia purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William J. "Bill" Ketchem.



Love always, Chris, Penny & Olivia - February 23, 2024 at 02:09 PM

DS

“ David S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William J. "Bill" Ketchem.

David S. - February 23, 2024 at 09:23 AM

DS

“ To many great memories to share. Most important he was a great friend and mentor. He was with me through it all. Bill we will be missed greatly. Love you brother. : 1:🇺🇸❤️👍: 1:

Dave Swaney - February 23, 2024 at 09:19 AM

SB

“BJ”, when I first met him, was operations sergeant at the old 76th brigade in Bedford. Hard working NCO, with great attention to detail. Thoughts and prayers for the family.

Steve Brown - February 22, 2024 at 07:06 PM

MB

“ All the good times with this man, my work husband. I love you Vicki. I'm in Bloomfield now so I guess I will see you soon.

Michelle A Bensman - February 22, 2024 at 04:17 PM

NS

Bill was a GREAT Veteran. and I worked with him at Greene Co. Ambulance. He will be missed.
Norman Sullivan - retired Veterans Officer

Norman Sullivan - February 23, 2024 at 08:42 AM

MB

“ Good Memories of Bill while serving in the Guard. RIP CSM

marion bush - February 22, 2024 at 04:02 PM