



William Carlson

July 1, 1950 - January 16, 2026

William “Bill” Carlson, 75, beloved husband and best friend of Diane (née Mierkiewicz) for 49 loving years; loving father of Mike (Kelli), Kevin (Raeanne), and Tim; cherished Papa of Zach, Natalie, and Carter; devoted son of the late Robert and Grace Carlson; treasured brother of Bob (Kay), Craig (Debbie), and Christopher Carlson; dear brother-in-law of Joey Mierkiewicz (Kyla); and fond uncle of Lynn and Brian Mierkiewicz and Grace Carlson.

Bill was born on July 1, 1950, in Highland Park, Illinois, and grew up in Deerfield, where he graduated from Deerfield High School in 1968. He attended Northern Illinois University, where he played volleyball and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1972. Bill followed in his father’s footsteps, becoming a general contractor and Master Carpenter. He began working alongside his dad at a young age, and together they built RCE Carlson Company, which served the community for more than fifty years.

In 1975, Bill made his home in Libertyville, where he met his wife, Diane, in 1977. Together, they raised their family there for nearly 50 years, and the town became very special to him. Bill devoted countless hours to the Libertyville community. He coached his sons’ sports teams and served as equipment director for the Libertyville Boys Club. For 25 years, he faithfully kept score for the Libertyville High School wrestling team. In addition, Bill volunteered his time in many other roles, including serving as one of the first board members of MainStreet Libertyville.

Bill was a passionate craftsman and Master Carpenter. He built everything

from toys for his children and grandchildren to fine furniture and entire homes. He devoted countless hours to restoring his 131-year-old Victorian house, lovingly making it cozy and welcoming while preserving its unique character and history.

An avid outdoorsman, Bill loved camping, hiking, and fishing. He shared this passion through countless camping trips with his family and especially cherished the annual fishing trips to the family cabin in Sioux Narrows, Ontario, Canada. Bill built the cabin alongside his family and served as its devoted caretaker for more than 30 years.

As Quartermaster for his sons' Boy Scout troop for a decade, Bill passed on his deep love and knowledge of the outdoors not only to his sons, but to many young men eager to explore nature. He taught them year-round, through warm summer days and even the cold, unforgiving Chicago winters, how to respect the wilderness and survive under the most challenging conditions. While he had many interests, Bill most enjoyed spending time with his family. Bill deeply cherished being a grandfather. Known lovingly as "Papa" to his grandchildren, he embraced every moment with them, from babysitting them as infants to gladly caring for them when they were home sick from school. He rarely missed a sporting event, proudly cheering them on from the crowd and celebrating each accomplishment alongside them. Being "Papa" brought Bill immense joy, and the love he shared with his grandchildren was unwavering. Bill will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Visitation will be held Saturday, January 31, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at Noon, at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Ave. (Route 176, one block west of Milwaukee Ave.), Libertyville. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. For information, please call (847) 362-3009 or share a memory or condolence at www.burnettdane.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 31. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
120 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-3009

Memorial Service

JAN 31. 12:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
120 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-3009

Tribute Wall

DE

“ Dentens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Carlson.

Dentens - January 30 at 02:04 PM

DE

“ Dentens purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of William Carlson.



Dentens - January 30 at 02:04 PM

WF

“ With Love, The Stille Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William Carlson.



With Love, The Stille Family - January 28 at 06:35 PM

WA

“ Bill and I worked together at Libertyville High School timing and scoring on the varsity wrestling mat for almost 25 years. We did get to know each other and were very good friends. I will miss him.

William Arendt - January 28 at 02:58 PM

DF

“ Dustin and Chrissy Robinson and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Carlson.

Dustin and Chrissy Robinson and family - January 27 at 05:33 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William Carlson.



January 27 at 05:33 PM

SA

“ Mr. Carlson was a friend and mentor to me growing up in Boy Scouts. We spent a great deal of time together during my teenage years and early adulthood. He opened my eyes to the joys of winter, introducing me to winter camping-something that has since grown into a family passion I now share with my two boys. Nearly every weekend, we're out on frozen lakes ice fishing and ice camping, and it all started on one Boy Scout camping trip when Mr. Carlson and I stayed behind after the rest of the troop went home because of below-zero weather. It was so windy we had to wrap our sleeping bags in Tyvek from one of his job sites.

I also had the privilege of spending June of 2000 at the family cabin in Canada, memories I will always cherish. Mr. Carlson was a mentor and a friend who helped shape me into the dad I am today. I am deeply thankful for his knowledge, patience, and the time he so generously shared with me.

Shaun Albeck

shaun albeck - January 27 at 04:23 PM

DC

“ 3 files added to the album *Bill and his family*



Diane Carlson - January 27 at 02:07 PM

SS

“ Sincerely, Titan Security planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Carlson.

Sincerely, Titan Security - January 27 at 09:16 AM



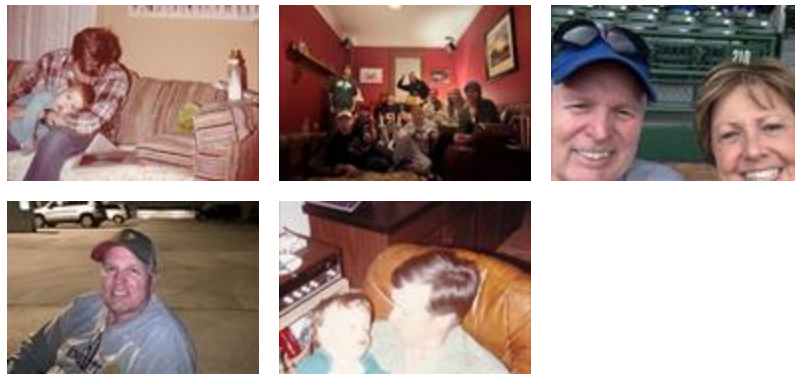
“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of William Carlson.



January 27 at 09:16 AM

DC

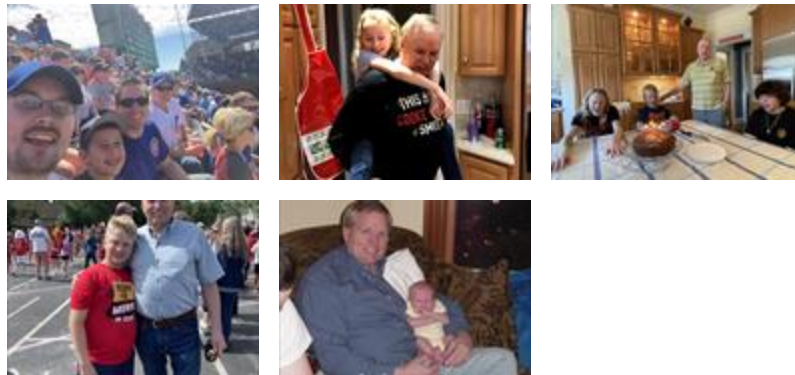
“ 22 files added to the album *Bill and his family*



Diane Carlson - January 26 at 06:00 PM



“ 25 files added to the album *Bill and his family*



Mike Carlson - January 26 at 10:55 AM

JD

“ *Joyce Dierkes purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of William Carlson.*



Joyce Dierkes - January 25 at 09:59 PM

LA

“ *Love John, Kolleen, and Alex purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William Carlson.*



Love John, Kolleen, and Alex - January 25 at 10:08 AM