



William O. "Bill" Kennedy

JUN 17, 1929 - SEP 24, 2019



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 4
Tribute Wall	Page 5



William O. "Bill" Kennedy

JUN 17, 1929 - SEP 24, 2019

William "Bill" Owen Kennedy age 90 of Muskegon, MI passed away September 24th, 2019 at his home in the presence of his family. He was born June 17, 1929 to William R. and Dorothy A. (Hartzell) Kennedy in the Bronx, New York. William enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17 and was discharged in 1947 due to an injury to his knee. Later he lost most of the fingers on his left hand in an industrial accident. That did not stop him from learning to play the steel guitar. He played with "The Rainbow Rangers" which played on all three of the radio stations in Muskegon, MI. His talent with the steel also led him to back up Audrey Williams and Hank Williams Jr on a national broadcast shortly after Hank Williams Sr had died as well as other artists such as Johnny Carver, Connie Kato, Charlie Walker, Kenny Price, Red Sovine and Patsy Cline. He was also inducted into the Michigan Steel Guitar Hall of Fame on April 6th, 2003 alongside Gary Morse. William continued to play in a country music band up until 2019. He is survived by his sister Mary A. Kennedy, his daughters Dorothy (Rodney) Phillips, Paula VanWormer (her daughter Angela VanWormer), Marie (Bob) Lewelling, stepdaughter Dawn (Todd) Dumas, stepson Douglas (Lucia) Morgan along with several grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his stepson Robert Zane Dempkey in 1975, his brother Raymond Kennedy in 1978, his son Joseph Lee Kennedy in 1994, his son-in-law Richard VanWormer in 2014, his granddaughter Tera Mitchell in 2014, and his grandson Glen VanWormer in 2015. According to his wishes, a celebration of life in William's honor will be held at 2:30PM on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at the VFW Derezhinski Post #7729, 6285 E. Apple Ave, Muskegon, MI. Any friends or family that had the honor to play with William; the family invites you to bring your instruments and play a tune to celebrate his life. Arrangements entrusted to The Sytsema Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 737 E. Apple Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442.



Events


William O. "Bill" Kennedy

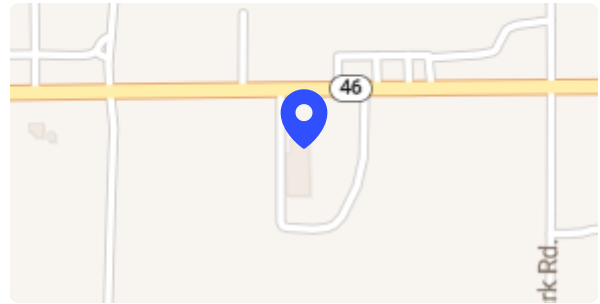
JUN 17, 1929 - SEP 24, 2019

Celebration of Life

 **Wednesday**, October 16, 2019

 2:30 PM ET

 **VFW Derezsinski Post # 7729**
6285 E. Apple Ave., Muskegon MI





Tribute Wall

William O. "Bill" Kennedy

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BN

Bonnie Hall Nichols lit a candle in honor of William .

October 15 at 8:26 AM



DD

Dawn Dumas lit a candle in honor of William .

October 15 at 4:55 AM



Angela Vanwormer lit a candle in honor of William .

October 8 at 7:13 AM



JV

Jaimie Vote lit a candle in honor of William .

October 8 at 6:23 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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