



Mr. Harlan "Jake" Hill

AUG 4, 1923 - NOV 10, 2012



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Mr. Harlan "Jake" Hill

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Mr. Harlan "Jake" Ray Hill, age 89, of Spring Lake passed away Saturday, November 10, 2012. Harlan was born in Cambridge, Iowa, on August 4, 1923 to John and Etta (Emery) Hill. He served in the Army Air Corps and is a veteran of WWII. His military story was chronicled in a book, entitled "I Wanted Wings, A Tail Gunner's Story", written by his son, Gary and published in 2009. His WWII experiences found him serving as a tail gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress. His crew, based in Foggia, Italy, flew 27 bombing missions over Europe before their plane sustained flak damage resulting in the bombers engines catching fire and the crew bailing out over German held Northern Italy. He and four of his crew spent three months evading capture and then when captured on October 19, 1944, they were sent to German Prison Camps where they spent the last 7 months of the war. Following the war, he married Beatrice King in 1946. She passed away in late July of this year. Jake retired in 1985 from Bastian Blessing. He is a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church of Grand Haven. He enjoyed riding motorcycles, flying his 1938 Piper Cub, restoring antique cars, hunting and fishing, gardening and being a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He is survived by his daughter Nancy Boothby (John) of Paw Paw, Michigan; his son Gary of Boston, Massachusetts, and a daughter Kimberly Toth (Jeff) of Nunica, Michigan. He has four grandchildren: Mark Boothby (Janelle) of Kalamazoo, Philip Boothby (Julie) of Chicago, Illinois, Megan Toth of Nunica and Matthew Toth of Chicago, Illinois; and three great-grandchildren Hannah, Jack and Ethan. Other survivors include his brother Thomas Hill (Hertha) of Spring Lake and sister-in-law Amy Hill of Grand Haven. He was preceded in death by his wife Beatrice; brothers, Oliver Hill and Glen Hill; twin sister Helen Voss and sister Catherine Ingersoll. The Funeral Service will be 2:30 PM Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at VanZantwick Bartels Kammeraad Funeral Home in Grand Haven. The Visitation will be Tuesday, November 13, 2012 from 2-4 and 6-8 PM at



Obituary

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VBK Funeral Home in Grand Haven. The interment will be 1:30 PM Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at Lake Forest Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to Seventh-Day Adventist Church Building Fund or Wounded Warrior Project, 230 W. Monroe St., Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60606 630-522-4774, www.woundedwarriorproject.org. Please sign the family's online guest book at www.vbkfuneralhome.com. The family is being served by VanZantwick Bartels Kammeraad Funeral Home of Grand Haven.



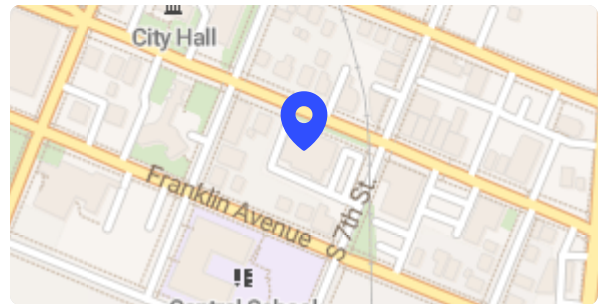
Events

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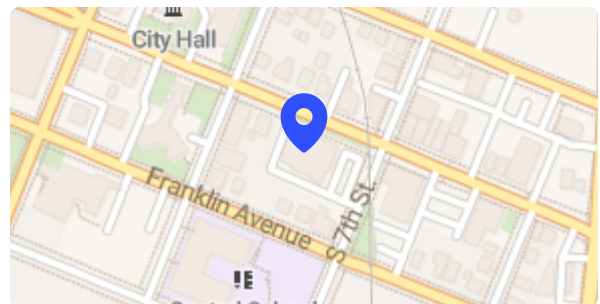
Visitation

- Tuesday**, November 13, 2012
- 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET
- VBK Grand Haven Chapel**
620 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven MI



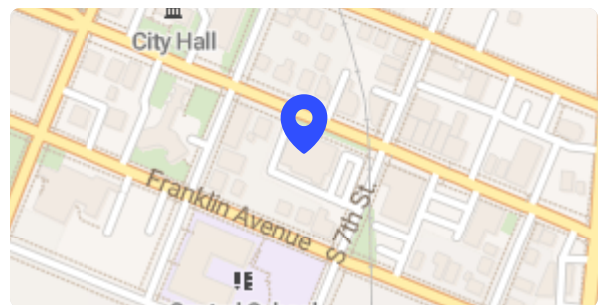
Visitation

- Tuesday**, November 13, 2012
- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET
- VBK Grand Haven Chapel**
620 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven MI



Service

- Wednesday**, November 14, 2012
- 2:30 PM ET
- VBK Grand Haven Chapel**
620 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven MI



Cemetery Details

- Lake Forest Cemetery**
Grand Haven MI 49417





Tribute Wall

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WC

William Collison posted:

To the Hill family, Mom and dad are now both gone, but you must have good feelings for both of them. We will miss them too. GHHS Class of 1944. (Beatrice")Bill Collison

November 13 at 4:56 PM

BC

Beverly Creasey posted:

To the Hill Family, Am sending my love as I will not be able to be there. How I would love to be. I feel like I have lost another family member. The Hills were family even if not blood. What a wonderful reunion we will have in heaven some day soon I hope. You are laying to rest a wonderful son, husband, father, uncle, brother and friend. My love and prayers are with you today. Beverly & Cliff Creasey

November 13 at 11:06 AM

MY

Mary Youker posted:

Dear Hill Family, my sympathy and prayers go out to you. It was my honor to have known Jake and Bea, if only briefly. Jake was a true hero and I am so grateful I have a copy of his book that I watched him sign for me. He made it to Heaven in time for Veteran's Day. Again, my sincere condolences Mary Youker

November 13 at 4:54 AM

GK

Greg And Lee Koning sent a Basket of Memories to the Hill family.



November 12 at 9:24 AM



Tribute Wall

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Sally Hill Mecker posted:

"My Uncle Jake"Here's a man who only wanted wings,Flying was his most favorite thing.He took to the sky his freedom he did seekUntil Uncle Sam said he wanted to meet.The war was his life and his plane was shot downThe Germans caught up to him and marched him to town.He entered the prison camp his life had been sparedIt didn't appear that the Germans cared.His mother, his brothers and sisters tooPrayed for his life that he would come through.Jake didn't give up, he took what was givenHe knew in his heart he would escape this prison.It was days, then months or close to a yearWhen soldiers marched in, with all of their gear.The prisoners were free, the gates were opened wideThey celebrated, they cried they were so filled with pride.Once again he took to the sky in a military birdThinking, praying and not saying a word.He knew this experience would never leave his headTelling his parents was something he dread.This is not very easy nor was this a testWe know in your heart you did your very best.It's really hard to let you go and not to cryAs we say our final Good-byes.Your life and soul is now at peace Uncle Jake, I will miss you from your loving niece.You are lovedSally Hill Mecker11/10/12

November 12 at 8:31 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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