



William R. Wiebenga Jr.

OCT 2, 1953 - APR 23, 2023



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It is my duty as a Pararescueman to save life and to aid the injured. I will be prepared at all times to perform my assigned duties quickly and efficiently, placing these duties before personal desires and comforts. These things we do, that others may live.

William R. Wiebenga, Jr., age 69, passed away Sunday, April 23, 2023. He was born October 2, 1953 in Grand Haven, MI to William R. and Evelyn (Broersma) Wiebenga, Sr. He graduated from Grand Haven High School in 1971. Bill was a proud veteran of the U.S. Air Force where he served 1971-1976 as a Pararescueman. He also served 2 tours in the Vietnam War 1972-1974 and with the SAC Elite Guard out of Nebraska 1974-1976. Bill later received his Bachelor of Criminal Justice Degree from the University of Nebraska- Lincoln. Bill enjoyed a 35-year career in law enforcement, having received numerous accreditations and awards throughout his career. Bill worked as a Road Patrol Deputy at the Omaha Police Department and the Box Butte Sheriff Department. He later worked at the Iona County Sheriff Department. Bill came to the Muskegon Police Department where he worked Road Patrol, ID Bureau, WEMET, Detective Bureau, Traffic Bureau, and finally rose to the rank of Captain. Bill completed his law enforcement career as the Chief of Police for the City of Roosevelt Park. He also worked as a paramedic for Bud's Ambulance and was a supervisor for the Prisoner Reentry Program at Goodwill Industries. In 2018, his wife, Julie, finally let him retire. Bill was described as a "gentle badass". He was so humble about his life in the military as a PJ and law enforcement. "Hero" is a word he never attributed to himself, but those who knew him did. He could regale you for hours with the most amazing stories and with each story you learned more about the man. On April 26, 2003, Bill married the love of his life, Julie A. Huisman. Theirs was a love story for the ages. Bill was incredibly proud of his children, Bill and Kacey and grandkids, Mia and Billy, and loved to tell everyone about them. Every Saturday



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in the Fall, Bill could be found in front of the television watching his beloved Nebraska Cornhuskers. Go Big Red! He is survived by his wife, Julie A. Wiebenga; daughter, Kacey (David) Romanes; son, William R. (Valeria) Wiebenga III; sister, Lin (Terry) Westra; brother-in-law, Chris (Lynne) Huismann; sister-in-law, Mary (John) Woods; grandkids, Mia and William Wiebenga; nieces and nephews, Charissa Arman, Kyle and Alec Huismann, Bryan Woods; and special 4-legged kids, Fancy, Winston, Hunter and Stillwell. He was preceded in death by his parents. A Celebration of Life will be held 1:00-5:00 PM Saturday, May 13, 2023 at Julie Wiebenga's Residence. A Graveside Service with Military Honors by the U.S. Air Force will take place 1:30 PM Monday, May 15, 2023 at Fort Custer National Cemetery, 15501 Dickman Road, Augusta, MI 49012. For those wishing to make an expression of sympathy, please consider the Harbor Hospice Foundation or the Guardian Angel Medical Service Dogs of Williston, FL. Arrangements handed by The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 Harvey St, Norton Shores, MI 49444. Sign the online guestbook at www.sytsemaf.com




Events

William R. Wiebenga Jr.

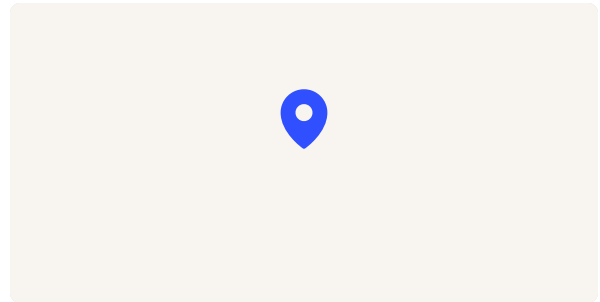
OCT 2, 1953 - APR 23, 2023

Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, May 13, 2023


 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET


 **Family's Home**
MI

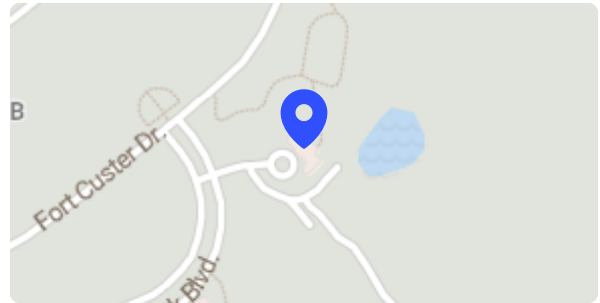


Graveside Service


 **Monday**, May 15, 2023

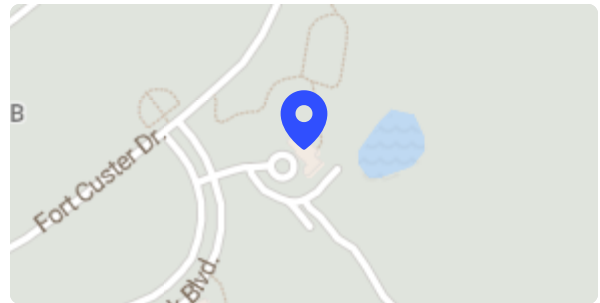
 1:30 PM ET

 **Fort Custer National Cemetery**
15501 Dickman Road, Augusta MI 49012



Cemetery Details

 **Fort Custer National Cemetery**
15501 Dickman Road, Augusta MI 49012





Tribute Wall

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David Alexander posted:

To Julie, family and friends. God's peace. I remember Bill from community events as a man with a wide smile and big handshake. Dave Alexander.

May 15 at 5:24 AM



Sheldon Ewers posted:

I wasn't sure I was broken enough to deserve a service dog from Guardian Angels. I was put in contact with Bill and out of the blue this man poured out his love for a fellow Veteran. He showed me that we are all individuals and I shouldn't compare my pain. He showed me how to live and I could heal from my pain. Bill was like a second father to me. He was a best friend and a guiding light in the darkness. Thank you Bill. Through your last days you saved lives.

May 15 at 4:49 AM



Anonymous sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Wiebenga family.



May 12 at 8:18 AM



Bridget lit a candle in honor of William.

Bill was my "BFF" from the moment we met. He and Julie kindly took me in as one of their own when I was in college, and Kacey quickly became one of my closest friends. His humor and sage advice are unmatched. He possessed a talent to make an entire room of strangers feel like his friends, and his laugh was boisterous and contagious. He is such a blessing to so many in the community, and to so many more that we'll never know about. He sure is one of a kind and will be greatly missed. I'll forever think of him when I see road flares, when we play Cards Against Humanity on New Year's Eve, when I hear "dancing in the streets", and when I drive by the Ramada in Marquette. I'm thankful for the Wiebenga's and their hospitality when I moved to Muskegon. They make this place feel like home. Much love to all of you.



May 5 at 5:45 AM



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LM

Liz Mcclintic posted:

May God bless your family and loved ones during this time. The Pathway of Hope team at The Salvation Army appreciates the positive attributes that you had instilled in your daughter, Kacey, because she made a significant difference in the lives, she served through our program. Praying for comfort and strength.

May 4 at 10:37 AM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Wiebenga family.



May 2 at 8:28 AM

RJ

Robert Jackson posted:

My condolences to Julie and the family on the loss of your beloved Bill. I know he is lovingly watching over you all. Bill was one of those men who had a major impact in my life when I went through a season of change. I am forever blessed by his friendship and positive influence.

April 30 at 2:19 AM

LW

Lin Westra posted:

Bill was the best brother one could have! No matter how busy he was or where he was he was always there for me. We had such a great childhood together and our closeness remained always. He could certainly make me laugh and helped me find joy in times of sorrow. He is dearly missed and will remain in my heart always.

April 26 at 6:10 AM

DH

Diane Hawkins lit a candle in honor of William.

Julie and family, I am saddened to hear of Bill's passing. I remember him as being very kind and empathetic. Before we worked together I met him when he worked security at small grocery store in my neighborhood. I pray that God gives you joy and peace in your memories.



April 25 at 3:14 PM



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CH

Christine lit a candle in honor of William.

Bill was kind, funny and loved his family so deeply, and I'm honored that I had a chance to know him, through his Service Dog, Fancy. He'll never be forgotten. - Christine Patrick, Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs

April 25 at 9:21 AM



SW

Scott C. Wade posted:

Bill was a great guy! I always enjoyed talking to him. My deepest condolences to his family and many friends. He was one of a kind!

April 25 at 5:05 AM

SD

Samantha Davis posted:

My heart goes out to the family. I got the pleasure of working with Bill for a few years and he was an incredible man.

April 25 at 4:24 AM

JE

Jean posted:

There are no words at a time like this, I pray your memories will warm your heart and carry you over the tough times. Prayers

April 24 at 12:06 PM

DN

Dean Nash posted:

My sympathy to the Wiebenga family.

April 24 at 10:39 AM



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Kelly Foreman posted:

What an honor and privilege it was to be an acquaintance of Bills. I'm pretty sure it came to be through my father or my uncle. But they'll reminded me so much of my own dad who was my personal hero. As I know Bill was yours. It is with great sympathy that I send my thoughts and prayers to you. Julie and your entire family. Bill was an amazing man and made such an impression on this world and the hearts of more people than you will ever realize. Thank you for sharing him. May God be with you all.

April 24 at 10:13 AM



Michael G Wash April 24 at 1:28 PM

Bill was a colorful man, a gentle giant, who cared deeply for people. He'll be missed.



Kelly Foreman April 24 at 10:14 AM

*But "Bill" reminded me



Memories only last if you share them

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



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