



William J Burke Jr

DEC 17, 1946 - JUN 29, 2015



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William Burke Jr.

Died June 29, 2015 at 68 of natural causes. Bill started his law enforcement career as a patrolman for the Chicago PD and moved on to be an instructor/administrator at the University of Illinois Police Training Institute. He then served as Chief of Police in Richton Park, St. Charles, Tinley Park, Cook County and finally as the Chief of Police for the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System. He was a strong, respected leader with an open and welcoming personality. His big heart went beyond the love he felt for his family—he touched more lives than he realized. Bill was an inspiration to all who knew him and he will be missed. He was preceded in death by his parents William and Elayne and his brother Michael and is survived by his wife Janice, children Bill (Sarah), Megan (Ken) Gerber, Melissa Burke, five grandchildren, brother Dennis (Debbie) and sisters Donna (Roger) Young and Janis (Rick) Rampage.



Tribute Wall

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Laurie Gaffen-Meyer lit a candle in honor of William.

Billy and his family, was our neighbor on Oglesby when we were growing up. My sister Barb fell in the playground and got hurt. Billy picked her up and carried her to our house where the doctor was called and she got several stitches in her head. I'm guessing he was only 16 years old at the time, but was caring and strong and took care of my little sister. There was also a time when the little kids were playing softball on the playground, but the bigger kids wanted to play and kick us out. Billy, very nicely explained that we should go and we did. He was nice about it, so we didn't mind. I'm sorry that the Gaffen and Burke kids never met up after we all moved from Oglesby, especially since we live and lived in San Diego, CA. I offer my heartfelt condolences to the whole Burke family. Laurie Gaffen-Meyer



July 5 at 4:42 AM



Laurie Roche posted:

Bill and I worked together at the Cook County Sheriff's Office. He was a great resource for all things law enforcement. Bill enjoyed a nice sense of humor and was always a gentleman. He will be missed. My condolences to the Burke Family. Laurie Roche

July 4 at 4:11 AM



Dennis Burke shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I will miss our telephone calls. We either dissected the White Sox or talked about Pensions in Illinois. Bill's sense of humor always made it a pleasure to talk to him. His family always came first and you could not find a more honest person than Bill Burke. He was the best person I knew and I will forever miss him. With Love, your brother
Dennis



July 3 at 3:09 AM



Carl Chutro posted:

My deepest condolences to Bill's family. Bill and I were Chicago Police Cadets together working in the reproduction and graphic arts section at 11th and State 1965-1966. He was a great guy and will be missed. Carl Chutro Indian Head Park. IL

July 3 at 12:34 AM



Sandy Sass December 17 at 2:58 AM

Oh my, I was so saddened to learn of Bill's death through a post on FB from his sister - I was his secretary (and nemesis) at Richton Park Police beginning in 1982 and kept in touch with he and Jan over the years including visits 2006-2012 when I spent time in Coronado during the winter. His humor was understated and his laugh infectious. I know how much he will be missed by his loved ones - my condolences to Jan and their family. Happy birthday, Bill! Sandy Sass - December 17, 2016



Ceil Barclay July 5 at 6:00 PM

Jan, I sent my personal information, including: email address, to the contact person at this site. I'm hoping that they will forward this information to you. I would love to hear from you at a later time. I forgot to mention in my note, above, that Paul retired after 35 years as a Police Officer. Prayers are coming your way for Strength to endure, Patience on those tough days, Courage that I know you have to get through this with Faith in your Heart, Love from many, many, many loved ones and friends. Love, Ceil Barclay



Ceil Barclay July 5 at 5:43 PM

Dear Jan and family: We were most shocked to hear of Bill's journey into heaven. God must have needed a Police Chief to control the roads that lead to heaven. I first met Bill at one of the Police Academies. Wayyyy back then, it was mandatory, for all the wives, or girlfriend, or fiancé's to attend a meeting to better understand the new life we would be facing in law enforcement. It was a mandatory question and answer session. Bill wrote a small hand book for Police Wives, etc. It is pink and I still have that handbook to this day. I married that Police Officer, whose name is Paul. That session opened my eyes to the world of Law Enforcement where I learned: You marry the MAN first, then the job! I grew to understand the world that they lived in and years later, found myself working for Bill at the Police Academy as one of his instructors. My topic of training was Police Suicide; Suicide. I loved that job!!! I continued my work as a Counselor, including working with our Law Enforcement Community at NEMERT (Law Enforcement Training Board). Later, I was the Counselor who worked with Bill when he was Chief of Police at Tinley Park Police Dept, then Chief at CCSPD. I met Bill, and partly because of that class, and the words in that Police Wives Handbook, I decided to marry my Police Officer that I was dating. Paul and I have been together for 42 years this year, and married for 39 years. Jan, and family, my heart goes out to you. I send my love, prayers and shoulder to you when you need an old friend to talk to. I am here, Jan, for you. SSACOP knows how to get a hold of me. Jan, I'm here for you! Love and Prayers to all of you. God has his reasons. Ceil Barclay.



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Don Slazinik July 5 at 3:23 PM

Sending prayers and condolences to Jan and family. We have many good memories of Bill and Jan from our days at IACP conferences in Illinois. A great guy! I know he will be missed by many. Don and Debbie Slazinik- O'Fallon, IL



Barbara Gaffen Mckown ~ Poway, Ca July 5 at 1:56 PM

Sending condolences to Bill's family. I remember him as Billy Burke ! He was one of my childhood hero's. Helping people was his destiny. I remember him carrying me when I was hurt. He seemed larger than life. I hope your wonderful memories help you as your grieve. I am sorry I was never able to reconnect with Bill.



Sandi Kawanna July 4 at 12:03 AM

My condolences to Jan, Megan, Billy, and Melissa and their families. I will never forget how graciously both Bill and Jan opened their home to my granddaughter and myself. You will truly be missed. A true gentleman and a scholar. Ron, Kristi, and Sandi Kawanna



Dennis Burke shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

July 3 at 3:09 AM



Angels Game 2014 This one is for you Bill



Memories only last if you share them

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



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