



## William A. Garvey

June 9, 1926 - March 8, 2009

William A. Garvey, 82 of Bluffton passed away at 5:35 p.m. Sunday, March 8, 2009, at Meadowvale Health & Rehab. Center in Bluffton.

Mr. Garvey was born on June 9, 1926 in Johnston, Rhode Island to Edward George & Valeda Marie (Bernard) Garvey.

On October 25, 1952 in South Bend, Indiana he married Eileen Mary (Boeree) Garvey. She preceded him in death on November 3, 2005.

William graduated in 1944 from the LaSalle Academy in Rhode Island. He serviced his country from 1944 to 1947 as a Sgt. in the Army during World War II. He attended the MIT School for 2 years and went on to graduate from the University of Rhode Island in 1952 Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He retired from Franklin Electric in 1988 as Vice President of International Operations, after a 30 year career. He had also worked as Manager of motor design at General Electric in Fort Wayne from 1952 to 1958.

Mr. Garvey was a member of A.I.E.E. (American Institute of Electrical Engineers). He was involved with many philanthropic organizations which included Habitat for Humanity, Horizons, Bluffton Revitalization and the Wells County Chamber of Commerce. He also served on the board of Public

Television (Channel 39) and radio WBNI (89.1 F.M.) in Fort Wayne. He was very active in starting the Wells on Wheels program and raising money for the Kehoe Park in Bluffton, along with being a member of the Parlor City Country Club.

Other survivors include a son, Michael John Garvey of Carmel, Indiana along with three grandsons; Christopher William Garvey, Zachary Michael Garvey and Andrew Robert Garvey. A brother John R. Garvey of Reseda, CA, and a sister Agnes McCormick of Ormond, FL. He is preceded in death by his parents, wife Eileen, a son Joseph William Garvey, and brothers & sisters; Madeline Garvey, Bernard Garvey, George Garvey, Robert L. Garvey, Esther Clairville.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, March 12, 2009, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Bluffton, 1300 North Main Street Bluffton, Indiana. Rev. James J. Wynne, OMI will officiate. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery. Military Honors will be preformed by the American Legion Post #111 of Bluffton and United States Army Honor Guard.

Friends are encouraged to visit with the Garvey family from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at the Thoma/Rich, Chaney & Lemler Funeral Home located at 308 West Washington Street Bluffton, Indiana (260) 824 - 3850. A rosary service will be recited at 3:30 prior to calling hours. Memorials may be made to Panos Free Clinic or to Wells County Creative Arts Council.

Friends may send online condolences to [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 11. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-3850  
info@thomarich.com

## Service

MAR 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Joseph Catholic Church  
1300 N Main St  
Bluffton, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Willaim A. Garvey*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *We will miss Bill, both he and Eileen were true friends. An interesting story: Many years ago, our son Greg went to study in Greece. He departed from Chicago on a holiday weekend without his expense funds. Monday morning, the bank said their transfer would take a couple weeks - too long. We called Bill Garvey, and he had the funds delivered to Greg in Europe that same day!##imported-begin##George and Nina Rittenhouse##imported-end##*

March 23, 2009 at 10:55 AM



“ *Dear Michael and Marilyn,  
I was sorry to hear of Bill's death. Mike, you know how much I liked spending time with all of you. There were several summers when I visited your mom and dad in Bluffton when I was back. They came up to my Dad's house at Lake George once, and we had a really nice time. I think one of the most special times I can remember with the 2 of them was when I was still in Junior High, and I wanted to work on an English accent for the school play, and they were playing Noel Coward records for me. Your dad was. as usual, very animated!  
I miss them both...*

*Michael Sorg  
Siegburg, Germany##imported-begin##Michael Sorg##imported-end##*

March 20, 2009 at 08:23 PM



“ Dear Michael and family,

*Just wanted to let you know that you have been in our thoughts and prayers. Your folks were special. I remember them out at the Country Club since grade school..Bill playing cards and your mother reading a book. Yhey were friends to all.*

*Laura##imported-begin##Steve & Laura (Seagrave)  
Sawyer##imported-end##*

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March 14, 2009 at 02:39 PM



“ Dear Michael and Family,

*I'm sorry to read of the death of your father. I became acquainted with both your father and mother around 1980 through the Arts Council and they befriended me immediately and without reservation. I will always remember both of them with great fondness and admiration. They were always so kind to me, even when I would drop in unannounced or do other crazy things! In addition, they were great teachers about living life to the fullest and I admired them both for their examples.*

*I was an English teacher at times, but I never, ever, met anyone who loved the English language like your father. I hope he will have the latest edition of Fowler at his disposal now. I'm sure that, for him, heaven wouldn't be heaven without it!*

*My Sincere Condolences,*

*Steve Smith*

*Darlington, IN.##imported-begin##Steve Smith##imported-end##*

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March 12, 2009 at 08:31 AM



“ *Family of Mr. Garvey,  
Please accept our condolences on the loss of your dear father. We knew him as a fellow parishioner at St. Joseph. Bill was always friendly and ready with a smile and warm greeting. My husband Bob has known your family since childhood, and has fond memories. His father, U. John Bender, was good friends with your parents. The Garveys were truly two of God's good people. Our prayer is for Bill and Eileen and for your family, that you may be comforted, knowing that Mr. and Mrs. Garvey are reunited in paradise. Bob is working out of the state right now; he asked me to send his apologies to you for not being able to attend your father's visitation services.  
God Blessings and Comfort to you,  
Robert and Lori Bender###imported-begin###Lori Bender###imported-end##*

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March 12, 2009 at 06:53 AM



“ *Dear Michael, Marilyn and the all the Garvey cousins,  
  
We share your sadness with the passing of Uncle Billy. I wish I could be there with you for a last good-bye. I always felt a special bond with Uncle Bill, an engineer in the water industry, same as me, we knew some of the same business people and though not quite the world traveler as Uncle Bill, I had my share of that too.  
I miss him already. Hope to see some of you this summer in NJ.  
Tom, Cathleen, Caitlin & Sarah###imported-begin###Thomas F. McCormick###imported-end##*

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March 12, 2009 at 05:16 AM



“ *Michael, Marilyn and family:  
I love the photo of your Dad on the memorial page - it is him to a "T". What a loving, generous and talented man he was, I am sure many people will miss him. Your parents were so open hearted, and their home was always warm and welcoming. We are sad for ourselves, but what great happiness and peace for Uncle Billy to be free of illness and sorrow, reunited with his loved ones and safe at home in heaven. My sister Kate will be in Bluffton tomorrow - I wish I could be there also. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your boys.##imported-begin##Gail Garvey##imported-end##*

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March 11, 2009 at 04:13 PM



“ *Dear Michael and Marilyn and Garvey Grandchildren,*

*Our heartfelt condolences to you in this time of sadness and loss.*

*Our memories of Bill and Eileen Garvey are many and span the years since 1974 of their leadership, interest and devotion to the arts in their home community. They expended their creative planning, innovative concepts, countless hours of energy, advice and advocacy to the arts. They were models of good will and generosity. It was an honor to derive the benefit of their talent and intellect for art programs and projects. They will be truly missed and always remembered.##imported-begin##Maureen Butler, Director, Creative Arts Council##imported-end##*

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March 11, 2009 at 02:57 PM



“ Dear Michael,

*It is forty years ago that I met “Bill” in Austria the first time and it is 25 years we cooperated very closely. I always admired his personal and lively activity, his tolerance and engagement in the interest of the company and their people. He balanced positively in conflict situations.*

*There are so many happy memories over these years and I personally have to thank him so much for his understanding cooperation and personal help.*

*Charlotte and myself also remember thankfully including your mother Eileen and appreciate that our son Karl-Heinz and daughter Birgitta could be in your family some weeks during their school-vacation.*

*I regret so much that during the past years - after we both retired from Franklin Electric – we had less contact and lately I was kept informed about your father by Sieg Schach.*

*We often remember the good times we had had together and it is my real wish to let You and your families know, how much I appreciate his friendship and being thankful for all what he had done for us. I feel sorry that due to the distance I cannot accompany and honour Bill on his last way. You lost a great person and we a good friend.*

*Please accept and transmit my, Charlotte’s, Karl-Heinz’s and Gigi’s sympathy and grief also to Marilyn, your children and the Garvey families.*

*Yours*

*Horst Baumgarten##imported-begin##Horst and Charlotte  
Baumgarten##imported-end##*

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March 11, 2009 at 12:57 PM



“ *Michael and Marilyn,*

*My heart goes out to you both and to your children as I've just learned of Bill's passing. He was such a great person and so very proud of you all. It was a real privilege for me to know him and work for him for 14 wonderful years at Franklin. I am in Florida until April 1; I would otherwise be in Bluffton today to extend my personal sympathy to you all and to say goodbye to your dad. May you be comforted in knowing how much you were loved. God bless.*

*Lynne (Bierie) Straney*

*Clarkston, MI###imported-begin###Lynne (Bierie) Straney###imported-end##*

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March 11, 2009 at 12:23 PM



“ *Dear Michael and Marilyn,*

*We are very sorry to hear about the death of your father, his courage and determination are great inspiration to us, and we are sending you our deepest sympathies and condolences. With Bill we lose a dear friend whose memory we will always cherish.*

*Our prayers are with you and your family.*

*All our love and best wishes from Germany*

*Gisela and Gunter Ludwig###imported-begin###Gisela and Gunter Ludwig, Wittlich/Germany###imported-end##*

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March 11, 2009 at 11:41 AM



“ *Dear Michael & Marilyn,  
We are truly sorry to hear about the loss of such a great man. We have many dear memories of both Bill & Eileen. We were blessed to know them. It is comforting to know that they are now home together at peace with our Father. God Bless you all...friends forever. Much love.##imported-begin##Kevin & Marci Crozier##imported-end##*

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March 10, 2009 at 10:55 PM