



## William "Bill" August Mann

June 21, 1936 - October 21, 2024

William August Mann, age 88, passed away peacefully October 21, 2024, surrounded by his loving family after a long illness. Born June 21, 1936, in Woodlawn, Maryland, Bill was the son of late Lorin Lockhart Mann and late Edith Adeline Mann (nee Clark).

After moving to Bluffton, Indiana in 1954, he met and married the love of his life Elizabeth "Betty" (nee Barnes), with whom he celebrated 52 years of marriage until her death in 2008.

He is predeceased by sister Diane Isenock, brother Lorin "Jake" Mann, and sister Mary Ellen Biddle.

Surviving are his four children: Monica Kim Mann, Kami Jo Osborne (Tom), Kelli Renee Beisel (Jim), and William August "Chip" Mann II (Kim).

Bill is a proud and wise grandfather of 13 grandchildren: Marshall Parr Durr (Laura Zanotti), Ti Mikkell Allen (Rob), Palmer Douglas Durr, Kai Elizabeth Louis (John), Kamann Rae Ravan (JT), Thomas Keenan Osborne, Emma Beisel Ferrell (Charlie), Courtland James Beisel, August Liam Beisel (Brittany), Josephine Lorin Beisel, Adeline Grace Mann, Sadie Clair Mann, and William August Mann III.

He is also blessed with 8 great-grandchildren: Kamden Patrick Louis, Elizabeth Klaude Louis, Osborne Kasey Louis, Molly Lou Ravan, Markley Jean Ravan, James William "Bill" Ravan, Maci Rae Ravan, and Elizabeth Grove "Betty" Ferrell.

Bill is a veteran of the Indiana National Guard and was an active and devoted

member of his church and community. He enjoyed golfing, reading, cruising with family, anything to do with pretzels, golfing, golfing, and golfing— and, most of all, he loved telling stories and being surrounded by his loved ones. And golfing.

Bill was a compassionate, determined man with a laser-sharp wit and a big heart. These characteristics, along with a fierce work ethic, allowed him much success in his life and business ventures.

Since 1954, Bill helped establish, manage, and operate Bluffton's pretzel manufacturing businesses, including Duchess Pretzels Corporation with his father, Bachman Foods in 1970, and finally, he partnered with his life-long friend, Bill Huggins, to establish Pretzels, Inc. in 1978. The two won the Circle of Honor Award for the Snack Food Association, and Bill served as chairman in 1993.

The same dedication that Bill had for the pretzel business could only be matched by the loyalty he showed to his many employees over the years, many of whom enjoy a meaningful relationship with him to this day; namely, Luann Garton worked alongside Bill in the pretzel business for over 50 years. Bill's role as a successful businessman was indeed rewarding, but he considered his starring role to be that of a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. Bill always cared for others before himself— he was generous with his time, offering advice and wisdom. Bill observed and absorbed the activities of his loved ones, acting as the 'eyes' of his late wife, Betty.

The family would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to Bill's caregivers: Cheryl Buckland, Barb Gray, Jodi Guntle, Linda Hedrick, Starr Jojola, and Nikki Philippe. He loved you all as family, and we always felt secure that he was being so lovingly cared for and loved by all of you.

The family would like to thank the staff and caregivers at Christian Care Retirement Community, and memorial donations can be made in his honor. Funeral services will be held on Friday, October 25, 2024 at 2 P.M. at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Tony Garton will officiate. You

may livestream the service using Zoom ID Meeting #838 5808 8061. You are welcome to logon after 1:45 P.M.

Visitation will be Friday (Oct. 25, 2024) from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the funeral home, prior to the service.

Private family burial will be held at Stahl Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorials may be made to Christian Care Retirement Center and directed to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home. Friends can send online condolences to the Mann family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Stahl Cemetery

3191 E 700 S  
Bluffton, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 25. 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

## Funeral Service

OCT 25. 2:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Bill" August Mann*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - October 25, 2024 at 02:50 PM

LV

*I really enjoyed watching this wonderful tribute of Bills life and all the people and things that he loved. He was a wonderful man and will definitely be missed!*

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**Lori Vetter** - October 27, 2024 at 11:14 AM

NC

“ *When I was in the snack industry, Bill was one of the people I admired most. He was warm, funny and wise. I was privileged to have known him. Nick Chilton*

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**Nick Chilton** - December 15, 2024 at 03:01 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William "Bill" August Mann.*



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October 28, 2024 at 10:54 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" August Mann.

October 28, 2024 at 10:54 AM



“ I have so much respect for Mr Mann. I say have because I will always remember how well he treated my sister during her cancer battle. That doesn't happen except through incredible human beings. The world will miss such a fine leader. We will always remember. Paula Rogers family.



**BRENDA WILES** - October 26, 2024 at 12:13 AM



“ Chip, Kim, Kami and Kelli,  
Just heard today about the passing of your dad. Sorry for your loss!  
Lots of memories.

**Blaine Imel family Carmel, IN** - October 25, 2024 at 08:59 PM



“ So sorry to see where Bill Mann past!! But the good thing about it he will be back with Betty!! Loved them both!! They were kind loving just plain nice people!! Enjoyed their children and their families!! So fun when Bill and his golfing buddies would come into Richard's for breakfast before golfing!! They loved being ornery!! Or when Bill and Bill Huggins came in for meetings!! I will always have fond memories of them both!! Thanks guys for being my friend!! Love you!!! Elaine (pace) Line

**Elaine (pace) Line** - October 25, 2024 at 02:05 PM

JB

“ Chip and all family,

*Bill was fantastic. My father, Jay Shumaker, loved him so much. He has many fond memories and an lots of respect for Bill and all of your family. Thank you for these great moments and for making my father a part of your family. God bless Bill.*

*Jane Shumaker Bowers*

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**Jane Bowers** - October 25, 2024 at 11:14 AM



“ 8 files added to the album LifeTributes



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**Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home** - October 25, 2024 at 10:35 AM

MD

“ I was saddened to learn of Bill’s death.

*Our firm worked with “The Bills” for many years, even after I retired as Managing Partner.*

*Among the things that I remember most about Bill was that he was absolutely dependable. If he said it was going to happen, it did. Other people say “yes” but do “no”. When Bill said “yes” you knew that was how it was going to be.*

*Another thing that I admired Bill for was the relationship that he had with so many of the people who worked at the plant. He really had a genuine concern for them I think that this was best demonstrated by his ensuring that as many of the employees as possible had an income through the rebuilding period following the Christmas fire many years ago.*

*Rest in peace, Bill.*

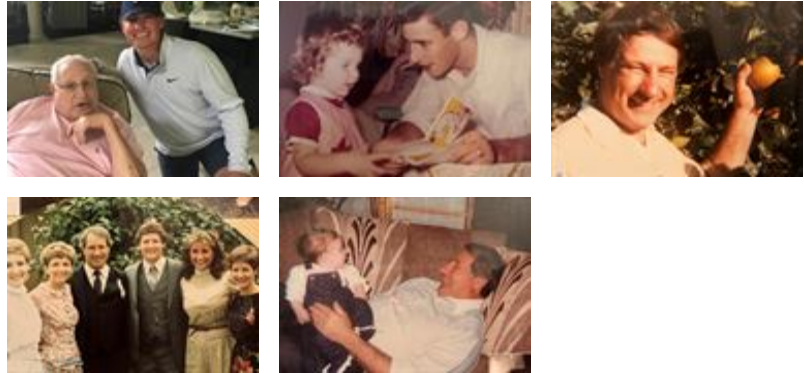
*Mike DeWald*

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**Michael DeWald** - October 24, 2024 at 08:51 PM



“ 15 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - October 24, 2024 at 05:25 PM



“ SNAC International Team purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William "Bill" August Mann.



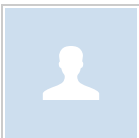
SNAC International Team - October 24, 2024 at 04:50 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" August Mann.



October 24, 2024 at 01:32 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" August Mann.

October 24, 2024 at 01:32 PM



“ From Marilyn and Mike Harper planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" August Mann.

From Marilyn and Mike Harper - October 24, 2024 at 12:38 PM



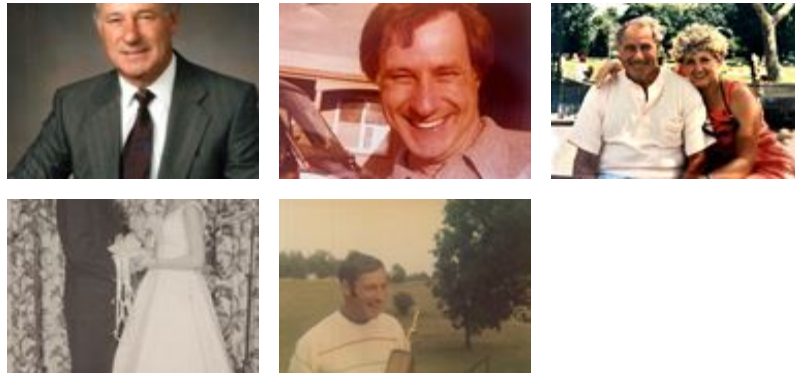
“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of William "Bill" August Mann.



October 24, 2024 at 12:38 PM



“ 147 files added to the album LifeTributes



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - October 24, 2024 at 12:27 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of William "Bill" August Mann.*



October 24, 2024 at 12:10 PM



“ *Love, Your Island Eyecare Family purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of William "Bill" August Mann.*



**Love, Your Island Eyecare Family** - October 24, 2024 at 09:43 AM



“ *Love from Ruthann, Betty, and Brenda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" August Mann.*

**Love from Ruthann, Betty, and Brenda** - October 24, 2024 at 07:11 AM



“ *Love from Ruthann, Betty, and Brenda purchased the Purple Violet Yellow Wildflower Mix (Silk Cemetery Flowers) for the family of William "Bill" August Mann.*



**Love from Ruthann, Betty, and Brenda** - October 24, 2024 at 07:11 AM

LR

“ Lorene R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" August Mann.

Lorene R. - October 23, 2024 at 11:45 AM

MM

“ Sad to hear of his passing, Bill will be missed. I have many great memories of times spent with the entire Mann family. All my love, thoughts and prayers for the family.

Mark Melick

Mark J Melick - October 23, 2024 at 11:36 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of William "Bill" August Mann.



October 23, 2024 at 11:28 AM

RD

“ Riverstone Dental planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" August Mann.

Riverstone Dental - October 23, 2024 at 11:28 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" August Mann.*



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October 22, 2024 at 04:47 PM



“ *Carin Malanowski planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" August Mann.*

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**Carin Malanowski** - October 22, 2024 at 12:06 PM



“ *Carin Malanowski purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of William "Bill" August Mann.*



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**Carin Malanowski** - October 22, 2024 at 12:06 PM



“ *SYM Financial Advisors planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" August Mann.*

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**SYM Financial Advisors** - October 22, 2024 at 09:37 AM

SA

“ SYM Financial Advisors purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of William "Bill" August Mann.



SYM Financial Advisors - October 22, 2024 at 09:37 AM

SW

“ Seth and Cari Whicker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" August Mann.

Seth and Cari Whicker - October 22, 2024 at 09:34 AM

SW

“ Seth and Cari Whicker purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William "Bill" August Mann.



Seth and Cari Whicker - October 22, 2024 at 09:34 AM

LV

“ Mr. Mann (Bill) was one of the most humble and kind gentlemen that I had the pleasure of caring for and work for at Pretzels. He always told me I got to work for him double! We had many conversations about “The bakery” as he called it and how much he missed it. He was definitely one-of-a-kind and will be sadly missed by so many. My Condolences to Chip and the entire Mann family during this difficult time. ~Lori Vetter

Lori Vetter - October 21, 2024 at 10:52 PM

DM

*Deb Miller Bill was a kind hearted man, he would go thru the plant and try to talk to as many people as he could, always with a smile I got to work at his business for over 30 years and glad to know him and his son Chip. My Condolences to the Mann family*

**Deb Miller** - October 23, 2024 at 09:25 PM

BW

*“ Mr Mann was so incredibly kind to my sister as she battled cancer while she was working for Pretzels. He was a good man...She respected him and he respected her.*

*Sister of Paula Graves Rogers*



**brenda wiles** - October 21, 2024 at 10:13 PM

GP

*Bill was truly the most kind, caring, humble gentleman I ever worked for!  
Prayers to all the Mann family!*

**Glenna Plummer** - October 23, 2024 at 08:57 AM

TH

*I was so saddened to hear of Bill's passing. In the years I did work for Pretzels, it was apparent that Bill's practical approach to difficult problems facing Pretzels was only exceeded by his honesty and integrity. The "Bills" were true partners and ran a great company. To Chip and all the family, I hope the deep sadness you now feel in your heart is soon replaced by all the loving memories of the times spent with Bill throughout the years. Thoughts and prayers to the Mann family. Tuck Hopkins*

**Tuck Hopkins** - October 23, 2024 at 11:33 PM