



William "Bill" R. Mettler

December 29, 1947 - October 19, 2025

William "Bill" R. Mettler, 77, of Bluffton, passed away on Sunday afternoon, October 19, 2025, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne surrounded by his children and family.

He was born on December 29, 1947, in Bluffton to Robert E. and Virginia R. (Hughes) Mettler. Bill graduated from Bluffton High School in 1967 and continued his education at Ball State University. He worked as a mail carrier at the Bluffton Post Office for 37½ years.

"Coach Bill" loved athletics and touched the lives of countless youth in the community through his years of coaching and encouragement. He coached in the Bluffton Youth Baseball Program for over 57 years. A proud Bluffton Tiger fan, Bill also coached boys' and girls' middle school basketball, as well as high school girls' softball and junior varsity basketball, for many years.

He was a die-hard New York Yankees fan and an enthusiastic supporter of Indiana University basketball and football—he never missed a game! Bill was also a longtime member of the First United Methodist Church in Bluffton for more than 50 years, as well as a member of the Elks Lodge #796 of Bluffton, the Bluffton Moose Lodge, and the American Legion Post #111 – S.A.L. He also served as treasurer on the Bluffton Park Board.

On December 1, 1991, at the First United Methodist Church, Bill married Janis S. (Bates) Mettler.

Survivors include his wife, Janis S. Mettler of Bluffton; a son, Shawn M. Mettler of Fort Wayne; and a daughter, Marci S.I. (Spencer) Copeland of Greenwood, Indiana. He was a loving “Grandpa Bill” to eight grandchildren: Trey Mettler, Kiersten Botts, Kayla Brooks, Lindsey Biers, Ethan Mettler, Sophia Copeland, Cora Copeland, and Callan Copeland, and one great-grandson, Carson Botts. Bill is also survived by his brother, James “Jim” Mettler of Bluffton.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert E. Mettler (1985) and Virginia R. Mettler (1994); his son, Shane A. Mettler (2004); and his brother, Jack L. Mettler (2022).

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at the First United Methodist Church in Bluffton with Rev. Ed Fisher officiating. Burial will follow at Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton.

Visitation will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, October 24, 2025, at Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home, and for one hour prior to the service at the church. An Elks Lodge #796 Memorial Service will take place at the conclusion of calling hours on Friday at the funeral home.

To honor Bill’s love for his New York Yankees and Indiana Hoosiers, friends are encouraged to dress in their favorite Yankees or Hoosiers attire.

Memorials may be made in Bill’s memory to the First United Methodist Church or the Bluffton Youth Baseball Program and can be sent to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can share memories and condolences with the Mettler family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Six Mile Cemetery

4795 SE State Road 116
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **24**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Elk's Memorial Service

OCT **24**. 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Visitation

OCT **25**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
325 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN

Funeral Service

OCT **25**. 10:30 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
325 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Bill" R. Mettler*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - October 24, 2025 at 02:36 PM

SK

“ *To Bill's Family and Friends. I never knew Bill as well as many of you. I knew him best from the ballfields. We were never on the same side. That carried over to our 'favorite teams' as well. I like the Orioles and he was a damn Yankee fan. I like the boilers and he was IU. I don't know if we were ever in disagreement or not, but I know I always respected what he did for the kids of Bluffton. Unless you've coached you have no idea how much time it takes. Bill never did it 1/2 way. I'm sure he put in as much time as any other coach. I hate to say he was a legend, but he might have been. RIP.*

Steve Kunkel - October 27, 2025 at 12:15 PM

ID

“ *INARNG State Surgeon Office / Med Det purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William "Bill" R. Mettler.*



INARNG State Surgeon Office / Med Det - October 24, 2025 at 07:51 AM

TF

“ The Dedrick family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of William "Bill" R. Mettler.



The Dedrick family - October 23, 2025 at 08:03 PM

TF

“ The Dedrick family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" R. Mettler.

The Dedrick family - October 23, 2025 at 08:03 PM

BS

“ Janis and family, so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. We sure had a great time at Chicago for the Big 10 BB tournament. Always enjoyed talking with Bill. Our prayers and condolences to all.

Donna and Brian Schindler

Brian Schindler - October 23, 2025 at 06:52 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Bill" R. Mettler.



October 23, 2025 at 02:50 PM

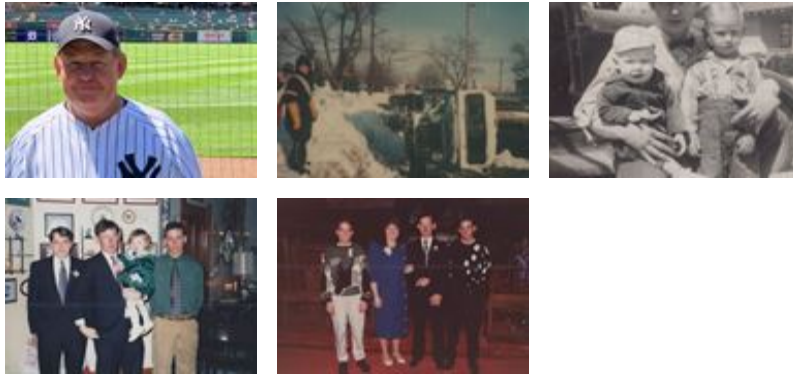
PC

“ Pitties Dog House Crew planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" R. Mettler.

Pitties Dog House Crew - October 23, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“ 153 files added to the album LifeTributes



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - October 23, 2025 at 10:31 AM

RC

“ Ryan & Jen Crist purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of William "Bill" R. Mettler.



Ryan & Jen Crist - October 22, 2025 at 10:33 PM

RC

“ Ryan & Jen Crist planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" R. Mettler.

Ryan & Jen Crist - October 22, 2025 at 10:33 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of William "Bill" R. Mettler.*



October 22, 2025 at 12:27 PM



“ *Memories of Bill? Oh so many! What a great friend who made us laugh - made us think "what the heck" - and shared so many good times with - we sure will miss our Billy Bob.*

jackwyn e johnson - October 22, 2025 at 12:03 PM



“ *Your IPPW Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of William "Bill" R. Mettler.*



Your IPPW Family - October 22, 2025 at 11:46 AM



“ *Your IPPW Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" R. Mettler.*

Your IPPW Family - October 22, 2025 at 11:46 AM

TM

“ When Bill worked at Skiles, I rode in the delivery truck with him, we would go to different factories and fill vending machines. He was a great guy to work with. He will be missed by many. My thoughts and prayers will be with Bill's family 🙏



Teresa Moser - October 21, 2025 at 03:31 PM

TM

“ Prayers and hugs to family- Here is a memory of Bill and I working the fish stand in Portland IN in 1956 🥰



Trudy Murray - October 21, 2025 at 08:36 AM