



William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr

May 22, 1943 - October 29, 2025

William “Bill” Sullivan, Jr. of Lake Villa, IL passed away Wednesday October 29, 2025 at the age of 82.

Bill was born on May 22, 1943 in Chicago, but moved to Lake Villa as a child. He graduated from Grayslake High School and attended Devry University before starting a landscaping business with his father. He continued that landscape business in the community for over 40 years, beautifying the aesthetic landscape of homes and businesses in the area.

If you didn't recognize his car around town with the “Sully” plates, you certainly recognized his tall, lengthy stature. And those long legs gave him one speed...FAST! If you wanted to keep up with him, you had better learn to walk fast because he was not slowing down. And he never did slow down. He was always on the go. He may have been thin, but he knew the best places to get the best food, especially loving foods from his polish roots like Kolaczki cookies and potato pancakes.

Most people only find one or two hobbies that they enjoy in their lifetime, but he had numerous and excelled at all of them. In his younger days he could be found snowmobiling in the winters and RV camping in the summers. Those traditions got passed down to his children and grandchildren who continue his “glamping” tradition today. He especially loved boating and spent countless

hours with his family cruising the waters of Lake Michigan on the family boat, named "Our Second Love". He also loved model trains and built a remarkable train set adorned with every detail from bridges, ponds, trees, clouds. He left no details undone. His model train creation gained attention and was even featured in the local newspaper. His passion for model trains even led him to pursue organizing and running a model train show at the Lake County Fair Grounds for years. If trains weren't enough, one of his other favorite hobbies was racing R/C cars with his son. He not only raced the cars, but also built them and designed the bodies. He had so many talents including his ability to engineer and build things, but his artistic, creative design ability was unmatched. His youngest daughter reaped those benefits when school projects were needed as she always had dad's help to build the best models. Some of Bill's other hobbies included dabbling with remote controlled planes, helicopters and even drones. One hobby that remained consistent throughout his life was his love of photography. He was always the guy with the camera, finding the right angle, proper lighting, and capturing the most stunning photos. When he wasn't capturing beautiful pictures of his beloved grandkids, he was traveling all over the area clicking away at churches, barns, eagles, trains, and the skylines of Chicago and Milwaukee. As a board member for the Lake County Camera Club, he organized numerous events including photography excursions. He won countless awards for his photos. However, his most prized award was his family. Married for over 36 years to Karen, he always complimented how smart and hard working she was and how thankful he was for how she stepped up to help with the kids. He always told his children how proud he was of how good they turned out. His daily phone calls to check in on each of his kids will be missed dearly. He was a caring grandpa, always the one at their special events standing up in the crowd to get the perfect picture or strategically picking his seat for the best photo angles.

If he teased you and gave you a hard time, that's how you knew he loved you.

And if he didn't agree with something, he didn't hesitate to tell you "That's bullshit". He had the gift of gab, except if the Bears were playing or he was watching a NASCAR race. He will be missed dearly.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Rompella Sullivan; children Bill L Sullivan, Carrie (Steve) Richter, Denise Lersch; grandkids Dylan Richter, Alyssa and Chloe Lersch; siblings Kathy (Warren) Regnier and Marcia (George) Smart.

He is preceded in death by his parents William J Sullivan, Sr and Loretta (Bartecki) Sullivan.

A memorial visitation will be held on Friday November 7, 2025 from 3-7pm at Ringa Funeral Home. (122 S Milwaukee Ave, Lake Villa, IL 60046). For more information, call 847-356-2146.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

NOV 7. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home
122 S. Milwaukee Ave.
Lake Villa, IL 60046
(847) 356-2146
info@ringafuneralhome.com
<https://www.ringafuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

TF

“ *The Rumps Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.*



The Rumps Family - November 06, 2025 at 03:48 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.*



November 06, 2025 at 11:51 AM

NE

“ *Nielsen Family and Nielsen Enterprises planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.*

Nielsen Family and Nielsen Enterprises - November 06, 2025 at 11:51 AM

DO

“ *Don purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.*



Don - November 06, 2025 at 11:09 AM

DO

“ Don planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.

Don - November 06, 2025 at 11:09 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.



November 05, 2025 at 01:06 PM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.



November 04, 2025 at 05:39 PM

SB

“ Steve, Jamie, Ryan, Teri, and Boys purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.



Steve, Jamie, Ryan, Teri, and Boys - November 04, 2025 at 04:51 PM

TK

“ Tom Kelly purchased the Lavender Reflections S pray for the family of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.



Tom Kelly - November 04, 2025 at 12:54 PM

TK

“ Tom Kelly planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.

Tom Kelly - November 04, 2025 at 12:54 PM

JE

“ JC & Elissa purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.



JC & Elissa - November 04, 2025 at 06:37 AM

TH

“ Tom and Margie Hurwich purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.



Tom and Margie Hurwich - November 02, 2025 at 10:18 AM

MH

“ Margie H. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.

Margie H. - November 02, 2025 at 10:15 AM

TF

“ The Rees Family purchased the Pretty Please for the family of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.



The Rees Family - November 01, 2025 at 04:38 PM

TF

“ The Rees Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.

The Rees Family - November 01, 2025 at 04:38 PM

AH

“ My deepest condolences to Bills' family and many friends.

Art Hughes - November 01, 2025 at 01:45 PM

CS

“ As I got deeper into photography as a member of the Lake County Camera Club, Bill was a wonderful teacher and mentor instructing all of us in the finer points of printing wonderful photographs. He will surely be missed.

Carl Stineman - November 01, 2025 at 11:39 AM

JB

“ Jeff & Mary Ann Bott purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.



Jeff & Mary Ann Bott - November 01, 2025 at 11:07 AM

JB

“ Jeff & Mary Ann Bott planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.

Jeff & Mary Ann Bott - November 01, 2025 at 11:07 AM

TC

“ The Lake County Camera Club purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.



The Lake County Camera Club - October 31, 2025 at 10:25 PM

JD

“ Bill will be dearly missed by all of us in the Lake County Camera Club where he was a board member and friend. Bill’s enthusiasm for photography and his willingness to help others become better photographers was contagious. He was an incredible photographer who won many awards for his photos. He especially loved to photograph churches and eagles. Bill always credited his wife Karen for her critical eye and her assistance with the titles for his images. Bill taught me so much about photography and about printing images, calibrating the monitor and getting the print-monitor color match just right. He was always reading and watching webinars to keep learning with every software update. Bill always spoke lovingly of his family. Family meant the world to him. Bill would call a few of us in the camera club almost daily, encouraging us to get out with our cameras and shoot or to work on our images for competitions. I’m going to miss Bill’s phone calls and friendship. Rest in peace, friend!

Jennifer Durot - October 31, 2025 at 10:17 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.



October 31, 2025 at 07:42 PM

CY

“ Conley & Emily Yankovich planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William 'Bill' Sullivan Jr.

Conley & Emily Yankovich - October 31, 2025 at 07:42 PM