

Bill Clifford Etherington, 89, died January 14, 2021 at his home in Jamestown, ND after many years

of living with dementia. He was surrounded by his family and loving wife.

Bill was born in Sanger, ND on Christmas Eve 1931 to Frank and Ruth (Hickie) Etherington. He

worked on his uncle Ralph Hickie's farm for many years as a boy. In 1950 Bill enlisted in the US Army

and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. Bill made multiple jumps in airborne

training, but never jumped again after he was assigned to the headquarters section because they learned

that Bill "could drive anything on wheels". On the eve of his deployment to the Korean War, the troop

movement was called off after an armistice was reached. Bill was honorably discharged and returned

to work on his uncles farm near Center. In 1956 he married Bernice Zahn at St. Martin of Tours parish in

Center, ND. They were married 64 years. The story of how the two met was told fondly by Bill—if not

always appreciated by his wife. Bill was driving through Center when he spotted Bernice alongside the

road wearing white. Undeterred, he turned around to intentionally splash mud onto her white outfit and gain the excuse to talk

her. Bill always had a story to tell and a way of telling it that captured a room and entertained those of all ages. Bill converted to

Catholicism and was baptized William—since his given name of Bill was not considered a Saint's name—prior to his marriage. Bill

remained a member of St. Martin parish for over 60 years. He was also a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus. Bill and

Bernice were blessed with five children—Timothy, Lucinda, Clifford, Anthony, and Rosalie. In 1975, Bill left the farm and built a home

outside Center. He joined BNI Coal Mine and worked there for 23 years as a welder and scraper operator, retiring in November of

1998. After starting work at the coal mine Bill found he had too much idle time, so he built a shop onto his house and worked on diesel

engines for area farmers. He also started gardening, which became his passion and hobby. He would often bring Bernice flowers

gathered from the garden and surrounding prairie. Bill and his son, Tim, also restored a Model-T Ford truck

which was bought decades prior as father-son dream project. The truck was completed and included in the

Old Settler's Day parade in 2016.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Jean Krank, Alice Hutchinson, Rose Lumpkin,

Jack Etherington, and Frank Etherington; daughter, Lucinda (Cindy) Berg; granddaughter, Carrie (infant);

and daughter-in-law, Kari Etherington.

Bill is survived by his wife, Bernice; children, Timothy (Karen) Etherington of Hampton, VA,

Clifford (Lori) Etherington of Deadwood, SD, Anthony (Catherine) Etherington of Lincoln, NE, and Rosalie

(Christopher) Dodson of Jamestown, ND; grandchildren, Nikki, Stacy, Jessica, Michael, Miranda, Matt, Holly,

Rachael, AJ, Liana, Jaron, Billy, John, Thomas, Joseph, Daniel, Anne, and Michelle; great grandchildren

and great-great grandchildren; brother, Walter Etherington; and many nieces and nephews.

A special thanks to his grandchildren, John and Anne, for helping with his care over the years and

as well as the home health care and hospice-care workers.

Please go to www.BuehlerLarson.com to share memories of Bill.



Bill Etherington

DECEMBER 24, 1931 ~ JANUARY 14, 2021



Death is nothing at all. I have only slipped away to the next room. I am I and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other, that, we still are.

Call me by my old familiar name. Speak to me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone. Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me. Pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without effect.
Without the trace of a shadow on it.

Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same that it ever was. There is absolute unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?

I am but waiting for you. For an interval. Somewhere. Very near. Just around the corner.

All is well.

Nothing is past; nothing is lost. One brief moment and all will be as it was before only better,
infinitely happier and forever we will all be one together with Christ.

~Henry Scott Holland



Funeral Liturgy

Thursday, January 21, 2021; 11:00 am
St. Martin's Catholic Church, Center, ND

Celebrant

Fr. John Guthrie

Musician

Joletta Schmidt

Special Music

Tim Etherington & Rosalie Dodson

Cantor & Reader

Tim Etherington & Tony Etherington

Casketbearers

Michael Berg, AJ Etherington, Billy Etherington, Jaron Etherington, John Dodson, & Thomas Dodson

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR BILL ETHERINGTON

Opening

"Be Not Afraid"

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading

Wisdom 3:1-9

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23

"The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."

New Testament Reading

Romans 6: 3-9

Gospel Acclamation

John 11:25a, 26

Gospel

John 14:1-6

Homily

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Consecration of Eucharist

Communion Song

"I Am The Bread Of Life"

Meditation

"Parable"

Final Commendation

Closing Song

"On Eagles Wings"