



William Gabriel Bear

September 14, 1938 - February 28, 2019

William Gabriel Bear, age 80, of Willards, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Thursday, February 28, 2019 after an apparent heart attack and accident on his farm. He was born September 14, 1938 in Delphos, Ohio and was a son of the late Paul Russell Bear and Lois Adda (Brunk) Bear.

From a young age Mr. Bear demonstrated a strong work ethic, working as a carpenter and most recently a poultry grower. In 1968 he was ordained as a minister in the Mennonite Church and that was his true passion. He used his love for people to help not only those he touched in the local community and his church, but also those around the world he met through the mission work he was involved in. He was an active member and minister at the Salisbury Mennonite Church in Delmar for many years. William found simple every day joy in chatting with his children and grandchildren while sharing a cup of coffee. He loved his family with all of his heart and was an especially loving Grandpa to many. He will be remembered for his signature warm smile, firm handshake and unconditional love for all.

He is survived by his wife of over 60 years, Violet Mae (Bucher) Bear; children, Phyllis Hertzler (Dave) of Chihuahua, Mexico, Phillip Bear (Connie) of Parsonsburg, David Bear (Hope) of Willards, Steven Bear (Debra) of Midville, Georgia, Karen Mast (Tim) of Delmar, Jerald Bear (Phyllis) of Millersburg, Ohio and Jonathan Bear (Joanna) of Delmar; 48 grandchildren; 21 great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, James Bear

and a granddaughter, Jewel Bear.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Delmarva Evangelistic Church, 408 Gordy Road, Salisbury, Maryland, where a funeral service will be held on Friday, March 8, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Salisbury Mennonite Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be sent to Christian Aid Ministries, P.O. Box 360 Berlin, Ohio, 44610.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Delmarva Evangelistic Church
408 Gordy Road
Salisbury, MD 21804

Visitation

MAR 7. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Delmarva Evangelistic Church
408 Gordy Road
Salisbury, MD 21804

Service

MAR 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

Delmarva Evangelistic Church
408 Gordy Road
Salisbury, MD 21804

Tribute Wall

DT

“ *In Loving Memory Of A Very Special Friend To Many*

David Taylor - March 09, 2019 at 08:49 PM

DT

“ *David Taylor lit a candle in memory of William Gabriel Bear*



David Taylor - March 09, 2019 at 08:48 PM

VM

“ *Our hearts have been grieving with you all, Violet and each of the children. We have been close friends for many years and know that William has left a huge hole in your lives. One of the best things I can think about William is his loving, caring attitude toward people. He really cared and showed it with kindness and giving. How well I treasure looking forward to his visits to Guatemala each March. We loved his and Violet's visits whether it was in Palama dealing with a drunk man or Novillero later on. Our children loved the M&M's and Pringles they knew he'd be bringing them. One of them even quipped that he hoped the Pringles didn't get smashed when he heard that William was on board a plane that crashed on the runway in Guatemala City. :) He was there shortly after I had jaw surgery and had my teeth wired shut. He cared so much that he gave me a bag of M&M's to treat myself when I was free to eat again. He was just that way. To say that we loved him would be the understatement of the year! We are remembering you all in our prayers. We will treasure the memories of this special man. Love, Kim for the Martin family*

Vernon and Kim Martin - March 08, 2019 at 06:48 PM

VM

“ *Vernon And Kim Martin lit a candle in memory of William Gabriel Bear*



Vernon and Kim Martin - March 08, 2019 at 06:37 PM

Pam
Mast

“ *Pam Mast lit a candle in memory of William Gabriel Bear*



Pam Mast - March 07, 2019 at 09:46 PM

PS

“ *Dear Violet and family. I share in your loss. William made the world a better place for his life here. I think every day of his life was sunny!*

Paul Shenk - March 07, 2019 at 11:11 AM

EM

“ *Elizabeth Mullet lit a candle in memory of William Gabriel Bear*



Elizabeth Mullet - March 05, 2019 at 05:38 PM



“ Dear Violet and family,

I am saddened to hear of William's passing. But I rejoice with you that you can have confidence that He is in the presence of God! You are in my thoughts and prayers as you grapple with his sudden flight, and the empty spot he leaves behind.

~Kathy (Rohrer) High

Kathy High - March 05, 2019 at 03:29 PM



“ Our sympathies to Violet and all the family. William was a fine friendly fellow who loved the Lord.... Rick relates how the two of them went to Guatemala together in a semi-truck to take supplies after the 1976 (?) earthquake. Another time to help with border crossing....the stories that resulted from those trips are precious memories!
Rick and Leona Good



Leona Rick Good - March 04, 2019 at 11:59 PM

DE

“ Don't know what I'm going to do without you Its very hard. Love and miss you so very much

Denise - March 04, 2019 at 11:55 PM



“ *Touching Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of William Gabriel Bear.*



March 04, 2019 at 10:54 PM



“ *My friend and brother William you will be greatly missed on this earth but we know that you are surrounded by the love and presence of Christ, and the many souls who have been saved due to your perseverance and ever enduring concern for those around you.*

Thanks for your service in Guatemala where we met, and where you were always there for us. Your quick smile and even quicker word of encouragement meant tons to all of us as workers. You will always be remembered and my deepest condolences go out to your family and friends. You were true to the calling.....Bendiciones

Cliff Rohrer - March 04, 2019 at 06:53 PM



“ *Willie, you left without saying "goodbye"*



Violet - March 04, 2019 at 01:28 PM