



William "Bill" Ward

March 19, 1954 - February 25, 2026

William "Bill" Ward, 71, passed away on February 25, 2026.

Bill was born to Henry and Catherine Ward. He spent over 30 years working at M&D Printing as a master printer and, later in his career, as an electrician. He was known for his strong work ethic and reliability.

A simple and quiet man, Bill found his greatest joy in spending time with his family, close friends, and especially his life partner, Soraya Ortega. He had a great laugh, a quick wit, and a steady presence that brought comfort to those around him. Though he was not one to seek the spotlight, his kindness and humor left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him.

He is survived by his loving partner, Soraya Ortega; his children, Lisa Ward, Billy Ward, Buba and Jennie Ward, and Soraya and Mario Zambrano; and his cherished grandchildren, Drew DenDekker, Coal and Bella Ward, and Caleb, Ethan, and Benjamin Zambrano; brothers and sister, Peggy and Wes Horeni, Pat and MaryPat Ward, Brian and Kathy Ward, Joe Ward, and numerous Nieces and nephews.

Bill's memory will live on in the laughter he shared, the quiet strength he carried, and the love he gave so freely to his family.

Tribute Wall

SN

“ Bill Ward was my childhood friend. Used to walk with him at times to St. Denis grammar school. We shared a lot of friends growing up. Rest in peace. Prayers to the family.

Sally Norton - March 13 at 10:26 AM

TS

“ Prayers for Bill and the Family.

Tom Kotek Sr - March 12 at 02:12 PM

CH

“ I first met Bill on June 12th 1978. It was my first day(actually night) I began working at M&D back on the Southside of Chicago. The man who hired me Werner Reule introduced me to the night foreman Bill Ward. I said Bill Ward that's the name of the drummer for Black Sabbath how cool. He just gave me a funny look and quipped oh nice and walked away. We would go on to work with each other for nearly 25 years. I started as a press helper that day for Bill and finished under him as a supervisor. He was a no nonsense kind of guy when it came to work but outside was friendly and kind. One of favorite memories was going with Bill to Italy to inspect a new printing press for the company. I was honored that he wanted me to go with him. Although Bill had a sense of humor I think after 5 days with me with my sense of humor was more than he could endure. He left M&D in 2002, one year before they closed for good. He placed alot of trust in me and I will always be grateful. It's just a shame the company closed up and we didnt get the chance to retire together at M&D. Farewell Bill I look forward to seeing you on the other side.

Chris Henrichsen

Chris Henrichsen - March 11 at 11:23 PM

MT

Chris this is mark teske and that was a great story! Specially the black sabbath part!!! Bill was also my boss at work and friend outside of work. A great stand up guy/straight shooter! Gloddbless bill!

Mark teske - March 12 at 05:56 PM

JM

*I worked with Bill at M&D printers in Chicago and Manteno
Bill was a awesome guy to work with and great guy to sit with on my parents porch which was right across from M&D in Chicago and have a couple of beers Chris Steve Tom Guy Joe Terry Tom Ray Bob and I know I missed some of the guys
I will have one for old times and the memories
See you on the other side*

John Martin - March 12 at 07:13 PM

MD

“*When the children of the Irish (sisters), Catherine Ward and Lorraine DiFrank, were growing up, often at holiday family gatherings the eight children of the moms, James, Margaret Mary, Margaret Anne, William, Peter, Patrick, Brian and Joseph, would all line up by height for family group photos. I'll never forget how, as the years went forward, I moved from standing tall behind Bill, to standing in front of Bill. Bill would make sweet sarcastic remarks about my height, as eventually, I ended up being first in the line, i.e. the shortest cousin, to my dismay. One day, much later as adults, Bill stopped by husband Marv's and my newly built home in Lansing, IL, by surprise. We hadn't seen Bill since our wedding of three years before, Bill was predictably charming, and very endearing, as usual. He stayed for a short beer and some talk and then was off as quickly as he had appeared. Bill was a wonderful guy, a fun kid and a loving cousin. I'm happy to know he's out of pain. May you rest in total peace, dearest man.*

Margaret DiFrank - March 11 at 03:09 PM