



William Eli Odette

January 21, 1940 - August 4, 2024

William Eli Odette, Sr., 84, of Bourbonnais, peacefully passed away on Sunday, August 4, 2024, at home surrounded by his loving family after a long illness.

William was born on January 21, 1940, in Kankakee, the son of William L. and Vivian M. (Hess) Odette. He married Linda Corby on June 20, 1960, in Norfolk, VA., and they were married for 64 wonderful years. William worked at Roper Corporation, Alliant Technology, and retired from Merisant Company in 2003. William proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1958 through 1962 in Norfolk, VA. He was a parishioner at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kankakee and enjoyed watching old western movies. Most of all, William cherished the time spent with his family.

William is survived by his loving wife, Linda Odette; son, William (JoAnne) Odette, Jr. of Gilman, IL.; 3 daughters, Patricia (Ray) Groff of Hamilton, GA., Dee (Scott) Ruhlander Fairbury, IL., Jennifer (Jonathan) Truhlar of Minooka, IL.; sister, Diana Engelman of Chatham, IL., 13 grandchildren, William Odette III, Westley Groff, Marty (Kristy) Cotter, Erica (Lamar) White, Jeffrey (Cassie) Cotter, Aaron Ruhlander, Mia Truhlar, Jacob Truhlar, Simon Truhlar, Olivia Truhlar, Isabella Truhlar, Sophia Truhlar, Bria Truhlar; 10 great grandchildren; brother-in-law, Carl (Anna) Corby of Claxton, GA.

He is preceded in death by his parents, William and Vivian Odette of Kankakee; sister, Judy Norton of Bradley; great grandson, Klark Cotter (our Little Superman) of Bluffton, OH.

A private graveside burial with military honors will take place at Kankakee Memorial Gardens.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 S 3000 E Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall



“ Love always, Myron and Judi Myrick planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Eli Odette.

Love always, Myron and Judi Myrick - August 16, 2024 at 08:16 AM



“ Father - Large Memorial Stone was purchased for the family of William Eli Odette.



August 16, 2024 at 08:16 AM



“ Carl & anna planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Eli Odette.

Carl & anna - August 09, 2024 at 02:36 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of William Eli Odette.



August 09, 2024 at 02:36 PM

RP

“ My deepest sympathy to the Family. I worked with Bill at Ropers/Aliant Tech & Merisant. And we had become very good friends. He was always kind and helpful in many ways during our friendship. I couldnt have asked for a better Friend but work wise and Private. RIP my friend you have earned you ever lasting Peace by Far.

Roland Porter - August 08, 2024 at 01:02 PM

MS

“ Dear Dad,
I figure this to be sent better in a letter form. I believe that your long times of suffering are over. I know many will miss you. I also know what we lost on Earth , we gained in heaven. It is nice to know you will be looking down from above and protecting the ones you love and whom miss you dearly.
Thank you for all the “free” dinners and Christmas gifts that were always appreciated and utilized. Thank you for not shooting me .. or having me arrested when your daughter and I sprang your first grandson on you at way too early of an age. We were just kids and the support of you and mom were always welcomed and appreciated.
As time went on and our circumstances changed, it was always good to be able to stop in and say hello. And speaking of hello, you give Klark a big hug for the rest of us up there. I’m sure he was happy to see his great grandpa
I happy you are free of all your Earthly pain and hope all who had the pleasure of getting to know you, have the opportunity to share stories and give hugs to the entire Odette families.
Love and prayers to all
Marty Cotter Sr. And all of his family

Marty Cotter Sr - August 06, 2024 at 07:13 PM

RW

“ We have had the honor and pleasure to be next door neighbor's with Bill & Linda Odette and their family for 47 years and we couldn't have asked for better neighbors if we had hand pick them, we give our prayers, love, and sympathy to the whole Odette family Bill will be greatly missed❤️

Rick & Cindi Whittington - August 06, 2024 at 04:44 PM

JM

“ I've never enjoyed the privilege of meeting Mr William Odette nor his lovely wife, Linda. However, my husband and myself have been best friends with their eldest daughter, Patricia and her husband Ray, for nearly 40 years.
I can witness the amazing, wonderful parenting that Mr. and Mrs Odette provided to Patricia (and her siblings) . They raised them to be respectful, responsible, kind and loving citizens.
I am forever grateful and very thankful to Mr and Mrs Odette for successfully raising their family as they did. If a person's life is measured by the family they created, then Mr. Odette can rest peacefully knowing his life was the pinnacle of success.

Judith Myrick - August 06, 2024 at 12:44 PM

CC

“ I don't eat leafy green stuff, I only eat meat, patotos, and milk.easy to feed sponge bob. 🍔🍟 strictly a meat and patoto man.

C corby - August 06, 2024 at 11:44 AM