



William "Bill" Oura Benedict, Sr.

07/20/1933 - 04/08/2022

William "Bill" Oura Benedict, Sr., passed away on Friday, April 8, 2022, surrounded by family at his Winneconne home after a courageous battle with kidney disease. Bill was a decorated veteran who served during the Korean War era and in the Vietnam War, spending a combined 22 years in the military.

Bill was born on July 20, 1933, in Butte des Morts, Wisconsin, to his parents, Cyrus and Pearl (Huntington) Benedict. He graduated from Winneconne High School in 1951. At 17, Bill joined the Air Force, serving over two years. The following year, he joined the Army and served for 20 years. While stationed in Germany, he met and married Gisela Damm, with whom he had three sons. They later divorced. After leaving the military in 1973, Bill chose to settle in Winneconne. He began a second career at Oshkosh Truck Corporation, where he worked for 18 years before retiring in 1995.

While pursuing a degree at Fox Valley Technical College, he met Diane Schneider. They were married on December 5, 1987, welcomed a daughter, and shared over 34 years together.

In 2001, Bill was elected to the Winneconne Town Board (Supervisor, Road Commissioner, and Noxious Weed Commissioner), on which he served until 2019.

When he wasn't working, Bill had a passion for riding motorcycles (and later trikes), watching westerns, volunteering, feeding and watching birds, putting together puzzles, and rooting for the Green Bay Packers, Dallas Cowboys, and Milwaukee Brewers. Bill was an active member of the Oshkosh Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 437), American Legion Post 234 in Omro, VFW, Knights of Columbus, and St. Mary Church.

Bill is survived by his wife, Diane; children, Bill Jr., Tom (Doreen), Jim, and Megan (fiancé Aaron Brown); grandson, Jeff (Jenny) Herbst; great-grandchildren, Hannah, Andrew, Gracie, Isabella, and Jeffrey; brother, Dan; sister, Marion Braasch; Schneider in-laws, John (Diane), Sue, Joe, Steve (Nance), Ron (Sue), Luke (Vicki), Paul, Tom (friend Sharon Halbach), Bob, and Mary; along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; parents-in-law, Luke and Nellie (Nisler) Schneider; brothers, Delos (Arlene) and Bob (Gloria); in-laws, Roger Braasch and Arlene Benedict; and grandson, Nathaniel Herbst.

The family would like to give special thanks to all the ThedaCare at Home Hospice staff who cared for Bill in recent months, especially Jolene and Kelly.

In lieu of flowers, the family is establishing a memorial in Bill's name to be donated to the Old Glory Honor Flight.

Friends and family are invited to attend the visitation on Monday, April 18, 2022, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church 210 Pleasant Drive in Winneconne, with the funeral Mass to follow. A virtual option will be available at stmarychurches.org. A private interment with military honors will be held on a later date at Lake View Memorial Park, Oshkosh. Bill had a colorful personality and fought until the end, so funeral attendees are encouraged to wear bright colors to celebrate his life. (Packers or Brewers attire is welcome.) Mueller Funeral Home-Winneconne is assisting the family.

If you wish please submit online condolences to muellerfh.net.