



Bill Kennelly

August 17, 1967 - February 3, 2026

Bill Kennelly, 58, passed away on February 3, 2026, at 7:39 a.m., leaving this world the same way he lived—on his own terms, with Black Sabbath playing and family by his side.

Bill was born to Jeanette (Broadhurst) and John Curtis Kennelly and grew up alongside his sister, Ruthie (Kennelly) Olson, who can confirm that Bill had strong opinions from an early age. Among his friends, he developed a reputation for selflessness, creativity, and legendary stubbornness. A proud non-conformist, Bill believed there was a right way to do things and had little patience for shortcuts.

In his younger years, Bill lived fast and fearless—racing dirt bikes, slalom skiing, and rarely backing down from a dare. As he got older, he found comfort in the quiet of his home, helping his mother, spending time bird watching, photographing nature, listening to his police scanner, and keeping friends and family informed of local happenings via Fakebook.

Although he grew up before personal computers were common, Bill was a self-taught computer genius and the unofficial “Geek Squad” for friends and family, firmly believing most problems could be avoided if people simply read the owner’s manual. His talents extended far beyond technology; he was naturally gifted in photography, videography, graphic design, and stage lighting—though he rarely gave himself credit for how talented he truly was. Bill never married but shared meaningful relationships throughout his life and maintained lasting friendships. The great love of his life, however, was

Schoop, his black lab. Schoop came to Bill as a favor for a friend and quickly became his constant companion. They were inseparable.

Fourteen years ago, Bill was diagnosed with renal cancer and chose to live without aggressive treatment. He remained healthy until November, when the pain became unbearable and he entered hospice care. He faced his illness with the same resolve that defined his life.

Bill's loyal companion Schoop, who was also facing cancer, was gently laid to rest the day after. Their ashes will be scattered together at one of Bill's favorite places.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held when warmer weather arrives, bringing together family and friends to remember a man who lived authentically, helped without hesitation, and never—ever—took the shortcut. Burns Funeral Home & Crematory, Crown Point, IN, entrusted with arrangements. www.burnsfuneral.com

Tribute Wall

SR

“ I grew up with Bill in Valparaiso I went to the Lutheran school we became friends in the 4 th grade. We actually stayed friends and dated our junior year in high school. (He was my prom date)I went with him and his mom and Ruthie to a horse show. Bill drove the RV. It was such a great trip! Ruthie was amazing on that horse! I'd never seen anything like it!

When we were growing up I went to a bike race or two. He was like Evil Knievel! He had no fear! Especially on those bikes!

He loved working with the band and taking pictures. He was a wonderful photographer . He told me not to long ago, he would love to buy a nice camera, but it was at least \$1000 to \$2000 for the one he wanted.

We stayed in touch all these years and he reached out to me this fall. Shared his illness and I couldn't take away the pain but I was always there to talk to him anytime he needed a friend. He made me laugh. I made him laugh. I learned a lot about gaming systems. Bill was so smart in electronic and built his gaming systems and was proud of it. He screen shot a picture of something he bought to make it better. He felt like that was his BMW car. He loved gaming. He loved his family and mostly his dog. I'll miss our friendship chats and glad I could be there for him. I send my love to his family during this hard time. He will be missed and left way to soon

Shari Welch Rankert - February 26 at 08:24 PM

BK

“ I'm so sorry for your loss, my condolences 🙏

Brett Kolarik - February 17 at 09:11 PM