



William "Bill" T. Modrak

October 20, 1941 - December 27, 2024

William T. Modrak, age 83 of Hobart passed away December 27, 2024. He was born October 20, 1941, to Julia Fary and Walter Modrak. He married Susan Konechni on June 2, 1962, and was married for over 62 years. Bill was a graduate of Hammond Tech High School, class of 1959. He was a member of the Hammond Riverside Park/Optimist Baseball and Hammond Tech Golf Teams. At the age of 14, in 1956 Bill started working at 175th & Indianapolis Blvd, Hammond, IN McDonald's Restaurant. Ray Kroc, the founder claimed this was the 14th McDonald's Restaurant built. In 1970, Bill became Owner Operator of the 54th & Broadway, Merrillville, IN McDonald's Restaurant. He built, owned & operated 9 McDonald's locations in Merrillville, Hobart, Crown Point & Lowell, Indiana.

Bill is the youngest person in the McDonald's System with the most years of service to the McDonald's Brand. He was a member of Gary Country Club, now known as Innsbrook Country Club. In 2007 he was presented the Hammond Tech HS Lifetime Achievement Award.

He was involved with Pirates4 Kids, Trade Winds. Boys & Girls Clubs of NW Indiana, Share Foundation, Meals on Wheels, In-Pact, & Ronald McDonald House Children's Charities.

Bill loved playing golf w/ Innsbrook friends & his Hammond Tech buddies and enjoyed introducing family & friends to the mountains of Mesa, Colorado.

He loved designing & building things, woodworking & construction projects.

He could fix & repair anything! His hobbies included: skiing, ping pong, and

winning at pool.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents: Walter & Julia Modrak; brothers: Thomas & Robert Modrak. He is survived by his loving wife: Susan Modrak; daughters: Sherri Ashby Modrak; Nikki (Jeff) Templin; Jamie (Clint) Henry; grandchildren: Erica Ashby, Aubrey Ashby, Brooke Templin, Ashlynn Templin, Chase Henry, Cole Henry & Dexter Henry; brother-in-law: Tom Richards (Theresa, deceased); sister-in-law: Dorothy Duray (Chris, deceased).

The visitation will be held on Saturday, January 4, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Service to follow at 1 p.m. with Father James Wozniak officiating. Burns Funeral Home and Crematory, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point. A luncheon to follow: Innsbrook Country Club, 6701 W Taft St, Merrillville, IN at 2:30 p.m. www.burnsfuneral.com. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to: Pirates 4 Kids Organization www.pirates4kids.org.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 4. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Funeral Service

JAN 4. 1:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
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Tribute Wall

RL

“ I grew up hearing the stories of my dad (Billy Loudermilk) and Billy Modrak (how my dad referred to him) working at the first McDonald's in the area. My favorite memory was of the inground trampoline in the yard at their beautiful family home we visited when I was quite young. My dad was a fan of Billy and enjoyed keeping in touch over the years! He has left his mark on the world! His kindness and generosity lives on through memories and his family!
~Robin Loudermilk Lawson

Robin Lawson - January 13, 2025 at 10:10 AM

RB

“ I met Bill through working for the business these last few years. As I read his biography, I had to share it with my family and friends. My family only knew who Bill was by me talking about him. As my family read his biography, I was watching their facial expressions. Their eyes brows rose up as they read it. Upon reading it, they only had three words to say.. "wow" and "very impressive." I explained to them that's the results of being focus and hard work. Yes Bill, you're still making a difference in people's lives. My family's condolences to the Modrak family.
Roger Bowles

Roger Bowles - January 04, 2025 at 12:02 PM

DF

“ Bill was a legend as a McDonalds operator but more importantly, he was a kind and caring man. I appreciated his coaching and how he made me feel. My condolences to the Modrak family and his organization which loved him also.

Dave Furman - January 04, 2025 at 07:01 AM

NW

“ Nick Wright purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of William "Bill" T. Modrak.



Nick Wright - January 03, 2025 at 11:18 PM

JZ

“ The Zaley family extends our deepest condolences to the Modrak family.

I last saw Bill and Sue at Aunt Fran's birthday party that I attended with our daughter Melissa and her boyfriend (now husband) David. That was his introduction to the Fary clan. My wife, Mary, had her introduction to the clan at the Modrak picnic in 1984.

Bill was always interested in what everyone was doing in their lives, and so kind and generous with his time.

Thank you Bill!

Mary, Jason, Jack and Melissa Zaley, and son-in-law David.

Jason Zaley - January 03, 2025 at 03:51 PM

WJ

“ Bill was an outstanding person with a heart of gold. He will be missed by many. Thank you for all your knowledge and experience throughout the years at McDonalds. Our prayers are with you.

Wayne & Marsha Jarosh

Wayne & Marsha Jarosh - January 03, 2025 at 02:22 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William "Bill" T. Modrak.*



January 03, 2025 at 12:45 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" T. Modrak.

January 03, 2025 at 12:45 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of William "Bill" T. Modrak.*



January 03, 2025 at 11:17 AM



“ *With deepest sympathy to the Modrak Family.*

Susan Wolf Ward

Sally Wolf

Mary Ellen Wolf

Ann Wolf Rankovich

We were all fortunate to work at 54th Broadway McDonalds years ago.

Ann Wolf Rankovich - January 02, 2025 at 06:02 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William "Bill" T. Modrak.*



January 02, 2025 at 05:32 PM



“ *Lubeznik Family Restaurants purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of William "Bill" T. Modrak.*



Lubeznik Family Restaurants - January 02, 2025 at 04:32 PM



“ *Lubeznik Family Restaurants planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" T. Modrak.*

Lubeznik Family Restaurants - January 02, 2025 at 04:32 PM



“ *From Mark and Rosemary Peschke,*

Rosemary and I send our heartfelt condolences to the Modrak Family. We have fond memories of spending time with Bill and Sue at family reunions.

MARK PESCHKE - January 02, 2025 at 04:21 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" T. Modrak.

January 02, 2025 at 09:30 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of William "Bill" T. Modrak.



January 02, 2025 at 09:30 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" T. Modrak.

January 01, 2025 at 08:56 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of William "Bill" T. Modrak.



January 01, 2025 at 08:56 PM

JF

“ On 21 August 2011, Bill and Sue held a Fary Family Reunion at their home in Hobart, beginning at noon. Activities included tractor/wagon pull rides, riding horses, swimming, paddle boat, kayaks, zip line, rope swing, trampoline, singing group “Remember When,” and really good food. Many Fary relatives attended and enjoyed this event, including our family. We send our love and sympathy to the Modrak family.

Dan and Jane Fary



Jane Fary - January 01, 2025 at 01:11 AM

MP

My Mom really enjoyed visiting with everyone.

MARK PESCHKE - January 02, 2025 at 04:23 PM

JW

“ Bill and I grew up together and worked together at the first McDonald's in the area. That was Bill's start of lifetime of work, while I went in a different direction in a different part of the country. We kept in touch over the years. When we got older and had more free time, Charlotte and I visited Bill and Sue a number of times. Our conversations were perhaps entertainment and certainly amusement for Sue. I will always remember about Bill: he never forgot where he came from, remembered old friends, and over the decades I knew him was always a good guy.
Jerry Woodworth

jerry woodworth - December 31, 2024 at 07:24 PM

FF

“ From Aunt Lorraine and family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of William "Bill" T. Modrak.



From Aunt Lorraine and family - December 31, 2024 at 04:26 PM

LB

“ Love Barkers, Ramirezs, Shihs, Trivettes purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of William "Bill" T. Modrak.



Love Barkers, Ramirezs, Shihs, Trivettes - December 31, 2024 at 12:21 PM