



## William Lee Pennington

August 23, 1945 - May 31, 2019

William Lee Pennington, 73, of Rockford died on May 31, 2019. Born on August 23, 1945 in South Bend, IN; son of Willis and Doris (French) Pennington. Graduate of Edwardsburg High School in Michigan. United in marriage to Deborah Kohl on July 5, 1969. Served in the United States Army. William was the owner of Consumer Marketing and Advertising in Rockford. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and loved his dog, Blossom. Survived by wife, Deborah; son, Christopher Pennington; grandchildren, Marcus Alexander Pennington, Hannah Christine Pennington; special friends, Darlene and John Hamaker; and dog, Blossom. Memorial visitation Thursday, June 6, 2019 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Grace Funeral & Cremation Services, 1340 S. Alpine Rd. Rockford – at Colonial Village. In lieu of flowers, memorials in William's memory may be made to PAWS Humane Society, 7828 N. Cherryvale Mall Dr. Rockford, 61112 or Rockford Rescue Mission, P.O. Box 1958; Rockford, IL 61110. Share a memory or condolence at [www.graceFH.com](http://www.graceFH.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JUN 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services

4301 N. Main Street

Rockford, IL 61103

(815) 395-0559

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<https://www.gracefh.com>

# Tribute Wall

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“ It is with heavy heart that I am leaving this message many years too soon. I was working at Swedish-American Hospital in the Labor & Delivery Department the day that Chris was born. Upon learning that he had a son, Bill became ecstatic. He phoned everyone he knew and invited them, including the hospital staff, to his house that evening to celebrate the birth of his son. I, along with a co-worker decided to go since we were off the next day. Now, Debbie was exhausted and in those days new Moms usually were in the hospital for 5 days. By, the time we arrived at their home, the party was in full swing. Unfortunately, I fell in the pool in my uniform. Bill said, "No problem, just change into some of Debbie's clothes". Which I did. Two days later, I now have to walk into this patients room and return her clothes to her. Really?? But, Debbie knew all about the party and just knew it was something that Bill would do. From that awkward beginning. started a good friendship. Now, Bill was a true salesman. He could instantly make you trust and like him. He was funny and always made you smile. Bill became involved with a woman's skin care line called Milk Mist. Along with my regular job, he thought I could sell it, kind of like Avon. I would drive out to their house and the entire garage was full of Milk Mist products. I didn't last long selling it, but to this day, I still have a large jar on my dresser where I hide, in plain sight, some jewelry I think of Bill every time I pick up that jar. I enjoyed many cookouts, swimming parties at their lovely home. In 1980, I moved to Ft. Lauderdale and we kept in touch over the years with our annual Christmas cards and letters. I have watched Marcus and Hannah grow up via the photo cards they would send me. Debbie and Bill were a perfect team. He loved his wife, his son, his grand-children, and always the family dog more than anything. When I think of Bill Pennington, I think of a kind, loving man who just makes me smile to this day. I have always wanted to thank Chris for being born on that 18th day of August, so I could meet his parents and be just a small parts of their lives. Debbie, you and Bill have had a special place in my heart for almost 50 years, and you always will. My thoughts and love are with you and your family at this time. Sincerely, Diane Schanes

**Diane Schanes** - June 05, 2019 at 12:40 PM