

William "Bill" Farrell

Visitation:

Monday, November 14, 2011
6:00 PM until 8:00 PM
Kirsch Funeral Chapel
405 W. Thomas Ave.
P.O. Box 277
Shenandoah, IA 51601



Service:

Tuesday, November 15, 2011
10:30 AM
St. Mary's Catholic Church
512 W. Thomas Ave
Shenandoah, IA 51601

 [VIEW/SEND CONDOLENCES](#)

Special Services:

Burial will be in the Rose Hill Cemetery at Shenandoah.
Memorials are suggested to the Boy Scouts of America,
Shenandoah Fire Department or St. Mary's Catholic Church

William Walter Farrell was born January 30, 1936 in Long Branch, New Jersey, the son of Robert Emmett and Mary Lillian (Sheehan) Farrell. He passed away on Friday, November 11, 2011 at Elm Heights Care Center in Shenandoah, Iowa at the age of 75 years, 9 months and 12 days.

Bill grew up in Jersey City, New Jersey and graduated from St. Michael's Catholic High School in 1954. He then served in the United States Air Force from 1955 to 1959. He was one of the original eight members of the S.A.C. Elite Guard at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska. On June 23, 1956, he was united in marriage to Shirley Nelson of Farragut, Iowa at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Shenandoah. This union was blessed with eight children.

Following his discharge from the Air Force, Bill and Shirley made their home back east in New Jersey. In May of 1962, they moved to Shenandoah. Bill worked for Lowell Lynn Heating and Air until 1973 when he started Farrell's Heating and Air. Bill was a volunteer firefighter in Shenandoah for 25 years. In 1984, he sold his business and became a full time driver for the Shenandoah Fire Department. He was a very active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church; very involved in the local Boy Scouts where he received the Silver Beaver and St. George Award. Bill also served as Scoutmaster for more than 20 years. He was a third degree Knights of Columbus as well as an active member of the Lion's and Optimist Clubs in Shenandoah where he was honored as Lion of the Year and Citizen of the Year. He was also an proud blood donor for the American Red Cross where he has donated more than 16 gallons in his lifetime. Bill enjoyed meeting people, camping and performing magic tricks for all the people he met. The true love of his life was his family, especially his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, William; his daughter, Katrina; and 12 brothers and sisters.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Shirley Farrell of Shenandoah, Iowa; his children, Joseph Farrell and his wife Nancy of Denver, Colorado, Theresa Stevens and her husband Jerry of Council Bluffs, Iowa, Brian Farrell and his wife Kari of Jacksonville, Illinois, Gregory Farrell of San Diego, California, Stephen Farrell and his wife Carrie of Swansboro, North Carolina; Robert Farrell and his wife Amy of Shenandoah, Iowa; son-in-law, Charlie Mattice and his wife Tammy of Shenandoah, Iowa; thirteen grandchildren, Tara, Amy, Chris, Tim, Connor, Megan, Michael, Joshua, Jacob, Lance, Brock, Kylee, Courtney; a brother, Frank Farrell and his wife Helen of Manchester, New Jersey; along with many other relatives and friends.