



Willard "Bill" L. Hecht

March 31, 1948 - November 14, 2024

Willard "Bill" L. Hecht, 76 year old resident of Little Falls, MN passed away Thursday, November 14, 2024 at the St. Cloud Hospital in St. Cloud, MN surrounded by his family. A Memorial Mass will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, November 23, 2024 at the St. Francis Convent in Little Falls, MN with Father David Maciej officiating. A visitation will be held from 9-11 AM on Saturday, November 23, 2024 at the St. Francis Convent in Little Falls, MN. Caring for Bill and his family is the LeMieur Funeral Home in Little Falls, MN.

Bill, also known as Will, was born to Willard C. & Ann Hecht on March 31, 1948. His twin sister arrived first allowing Bill to surprise the family with his appearance. Bill grew-up in St. Paul in an area known as Frog Town. He attended St. Agnes Catholic School, which was just a few blocks from the small upstairs duplex where he lived with his parents, older sister Karen and his twin, Linda. Bill enjoyed a childhood filled with many adventures at a time when children were allowed to explore without watchful eyes. He and his friends would hop on their bikes in the morning and disappear for the day. We can only imagine what they got up to! When the bikes were put away for the winter, the skates got laced up for long days of hockey with his friends. He had plenty of freedom but always managed to find his way home in time for dinner. His boyhood adventures on bikes morphed into cars, music and cruising the streets of St. Paul. Again, we can only imagine these adventures. His love of music has been foundational throughout his life. Bill could name

any musician and the group they sang with from the 60's and 70's. He was a wealth of information about songs, lyrics, concerts and other musical lore. He could also identify the year and make of most cars from the 50's and 60's

Bill joined the Navy during the Vietnam war and was stationed in Hawaii. He remained on the Islands after his service and developed a love for beach life and surf culture. Bill eventually made it back to the mainland and completed his undergraduate in English Literature at the University of Wisconsin River Falls. He met his wife, Judith, in River Falls, Wisconsin and they married on October 3, 1981. Bill completed a master's degree in Library Science in 1983 at UW Madison, and upon completion he and Judith served in the Peace Corps in Fiji from 1984 to 1986. The highlights of this experience were adopting their daughter Elizabeth Roshni from an orphanage, helping to develop a library system for the country, and exploring both the Fijian and Indian cultures living on the islands. In 1987 Bill accepted the management position with the Great River Regional Library system at the Carnegie Library in Little Falls, MN. He enjoyed helping the public research information and was "the google search" before there was google. Bill eventually stepped away from customer service at the library and became a regional supervisor for the Great River Regional Library until his retirement. Judith and Will enjoyed international travel and managed to get to Ireland, Germany, Italy, and Quebec after the children had grown.

Bill had unbounding love for Judith and their four children: Elizabeth, Patrick, Noah and Stella. His love language was "gift giving" and "acts of service". The children grew up with many little surprises of sweets that he would pick-up from tasty patisseries in the cities. He also made many meals to satisfy their palettes. He regularly wanted to eliminate the weekly chores that were assigned to each child by "The Moms" saying, "Jude, we did not have children to make them work!" Judith just smiled and told the kids to "get back to work" once Bill was out of earshot. Once Grandchildren arrived Bill repeated this

pattern with the next generation. Bill became the main cook in the family once he retired. Judith enjoyed coming home from work each day with a meal on the table, although eating at 4pm always struck her as a bit early!

Poetry was a passion for Will once he retired. He devoted many hours each day to his writing and had a playful voice when presenting his ideas. Writing Haiku was a favorite, but nothing was off limits in terms of his poetic creativity. He regularly sent silly texts and emails filled with a bit of nonsense and a freshly crafted Haiku.

Bill and Judith became Associates of the Franciscan Sister when they moved to Little Falls 37 years ago. This relationship nourished Bill's spiritual life and kept him on the path of continual conversion of his Faith. His spiritual life was nurtured by the many Sisters who he called friends.

Bill is survived by his wife Judith; their children, Elizabeth, Patrick, Noah and Stella; his sister, Karen; sons-in-law, Ben Muchow and Bob Davies; grandchildren, Kiera King and Nathan Muchow. Preceding him to Heaven are his parents; Will and Ann; his loving friend, Donna, and twin sister; Linda.

In Lieu of Flowers, Memorials are Preferred and will be donated to local charities in Will's Honor.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **23**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Francis Convent
116 8th Avenue SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Memorial Service

NOV **23**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Francis Convent
116 8th Avenue SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Willard "Bill" L. Hecht*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - November 21, 2024 at 03:57 PM

CS

So very sorry for your loss! Gods blessings to you all 🙏 Liz please know I am always available for a hug our shoulder to lean on 💜

Connie Spanswick - November 22, 2024 at 04:58 PM

DT

“ *Judy and family...very sorry to hear of Bill passing. You were all so blessed to have such a seasoned and adventurous husband and father. I'm sure he will be missed by many but the memories you share will be forever treasured. 💙*

Diane Thill - November 25, 2024 at 01:39 PM



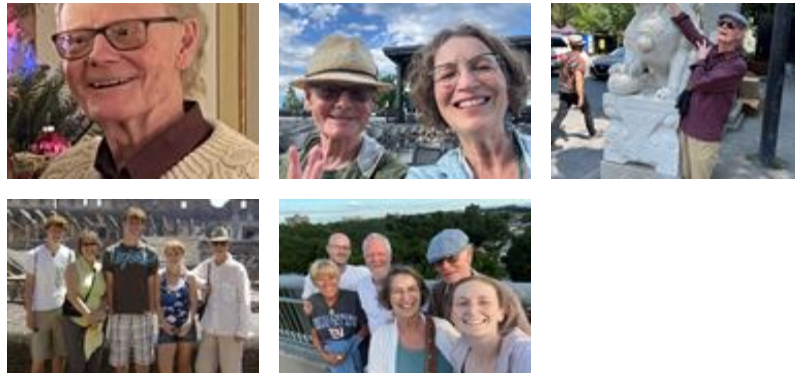
“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Willard "Bill" L. Hecht.*



November 21, 2024 at 02:24 PM



“ 68 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - November 21, 2024 at 10:54 AM

CS

“ So sorry for your loss Judith and family. I have all good memories of working with Bill.



Cheryl Seelen - November 20, 2024 at 09:25 PM



“ I've known Bill since his arrival in little falls. We would bring our kids to library nite @ tuesday. Trying to instill the value of knowledge, I didn't get to know him on a personal level but as a patron and professional. He was a learned man and dedicated to his craft ie; knowledge

Richard Berg - November 20, 2024 at 02:43 PM

KT

“ So sorry on your loss Judith and family. May God wrap his arms around and comfort you.



Kelly Voltin Thomsen - November 19, 2024 at 03:19 PM

CM

“ Gentle hugs, prayers, and condolences go out to Judith and family. Blessed be Will's memory .



Claudette Moran - November 19, 2024 at 01:07 AM

AD

“ Godspeed to you Bill... I hold you in my heart and remember fondly our times together chatting and laughing... Judy and family please know I am with you, and sending peace and love.

Anne Marie DesLauriers - November 18, 2024 at 12:28 PM



“ Judith and family so sorry to see of Bill's passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers.



Renae Schneider - November 17, 2024 at 12:32 PM

MO

“ *Judith, my sympathy to you and your family.*
🙏



Michelle Olson - November 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM

LL

“ *So sorry to hear about Bill. Our sympathies and prayers to the family.*

Lola Lilga - November 16, 2024 at 09:36 PM

CS

“ *Only worked with Will in Archives at hospital once or twice. Very nice gentle soul. So sad to hear he died. Rest in peace Will. My sincere prayers for his family.*

Carol Sweeney - November 16, 2024 at 05:06 PM

PC

“ *Judith & Family, I'm so sorry to hear about Bill. Our thoughts and prayers are with you with during this difficult time. Hugs*

Pamela Czech - November 16, 2024 at 02:52 PM

GS

“ *In the loving and enthusiastic style of our Bill, a haiku -*

*We love you, Billy.
We love your family too.
We will care for them.*

greg spofford - November 16, 2024 at 10:05 AM

DC

“ Judith and family, so very sorry for your loss!
You are all in our thoughts and prayers 🙏



Denise Czech - November 16, 2024 at 01:20 AM

DL

“ Brad & I want to send our sympathies to the
entire Hecht family. We are saddened to hear
of Bill's passing & know he will be greatly
missed. Keeping you in our thoughts &
prayers- 🙏❤️!



Dawn Laager - November 15, 2024 at 07:42 PM

JH

“ I'm so sorry to hear of this news, Judith. My Liz has kept me
updated. May God give you and your family great comfort at this
very difficult time.

Joan Hardie - November 15, 2024 at 06:19 PM

JK

“ Judith and family, my sympathies to each of
you.



Judi Kosbau - November 15, 2024 at 03:20 PM

SN

“ *Sandy Nelson lit a candle in memory of Willard "Bill" L. Hecht*



Sandy Nelson - November 15, 2024 at 03:09 PM

RS

Judith, so sorry to hear of your loss. May you and your family find strength and comfort now and forever. Prayers to all.

rozanne sobania - November 18, 2024 at 06:50 PM