



William Leo Martens

April 28, 1939 - August 6, 2025

William Leo (Bill) Martens, 86, passed away on August 6, 2025 at home in Perryville, Mo. with loved ones by his side.

Bill was born in Claryville, Mo. in 1939 to Leo E. and Olinda (Huber) Martens. He grew up on his family's farm in the Mississippi River Bottom and graduated from Perryville High School. He and his high school sweetheart, Sheila Stortz, married in 1959 and raised their three children in Perryville.

Bill's successful direct sales career as an award-winning distributor of home nutrition, health and safety products spanned nearly six decades. He was fondly known by multiple generations of families throughout Perry County and numerous other southeast Missouri and southern Illinois communities.

The consummate "people person," Bill never met a stranger nor an enemy. Friendliness, optimism, thoughtfulness, generosity, and a contagious sense of humor defined him. He sought and never failed to find the best in everyone. Grudges, resentment, and negative thinking had no place in Bill's life. He was a respected mentor to many who have said he inspired them in matters of faith, integrity, work ethic, and business. Family time, his beloved dogs, the outdoors, and reading were among his greatest passions.

Bill's survivors include his wife of 66 years; daughters Lori (Scott) Fairchild of

Allen, Texas, and Lisa Leimbach of Perryville; grandchildren Erica Fairchild Lindsay of Melissa, Texas, Dustin Leimbach of Perryville, Shelbi Meyer of Perryville, Leslie Wafer of Yukon, Okla., and Will Martens of Yukon, Okla.; 10 great-grandchildren; brother, Richard (Carole) Martens of Perryville; and sister, Carol Ann Carter of St. Peters, Mo.

He was preceded in death by his son, W. Lance Martens; grandson, Shannon Mahnken; his parents; and sister, Doris Jean Keppel.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Bill's life and share their memories from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4 at the Elks Lodge in Perryville. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers that Bill be remembered with memorial donations in his name to the medical research organization of your choice.

Tribute Wall

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“ *Sheila and family, I am so sorry for the loss of your dear loved one, Bill. May he rest in peace in the arms of Our Lord. May all the good memories of him give you peace and comfort at this most difficult time. My thought and prayers are with all of you. You are welcome to call when you need to.*

Faye



Faye Amschler - August 11, 2025 at 11:56 AM