



Bill Hollada

June 22, 1929 - October 11, 2024

Bill Hollada, age 95 of Mattoon, IL departed his life on earth on October 11, 2024, at the Mattoon Rehabilitation and Health Care Center after a six-year battle with Parkinson's Disease.

A funeral service in his honor will be held at 1:00 PM, Thursday, October 17, 2024, at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938. Reverend Ron Dickinson will officiate. A committal service will immediately follow at Calvary Cemetery in Mattoon, IL. Military Rites will be conducted by Mattoon VFW Post 4325. The visitation will be held the same day from 11:00 AM until the time of service at the funeral home.

Bill was born on June 22, 1929, in Benton, IL to the late Glynn and Elizabeth (Flannigan) Hollada

He married Roberta Lisenby on October 13, 1957, in Mt. Vernon, IL; she survives and resides in Mattoon, IL. He is also survived by his daughter Gayla DeRosa of Ballwin, MO; brother-in-law, Gene Lisenby and wife Barbara of Columbia, MO; sister-in-law, Beverly Fullerton of Mt. Vernon, IL; aunt, Joy Meador of Carterville, IL; many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by one sister, Pat Hollada; son-in-law, King DeRosa, parents-in-law, Morris and Duvall Lisenby; brother-in-law, Rev. Merle Fullerton; and Nephew Glendell Fullerton.

To satisfy his love for news, he was hired as a reporter for the Benton Evening News at the age of sixteen. After high school graduation in 1947, he became a student at SIU-Carbondale, IL and graduated in 1951 with a B.S. in English. After graduation, Bill joined the Army during the Korean War. Upon completion of his two-year service duty, he immediately returned to SIU Carbondale in September of 1953 and earned his Master's Degree in History. With his love for sports and reporting, he became SIU's Sports Information Director from 1955-1958.

After his marriage to Roberta, he entered the teaching profession with his wife. They taught together at the same schools, East Lynn High School in East Lynn, IL, Centralia High School in Centralia, IL, and Lake Land College in Mattoon, IL for a total of twenty-five years. During his teaching years, he also worked during the summers toward a PhD in Communications which he achieved in 1974. In addition, Bill has taught at Benton and Mt. Vernon High Schools, Centralia Community College and Eastern IL University.

Bill retired from Lake Land College in May 1986, but quickly decided the definition of retirement did not fit his desire to be active and productive. Therefore, he decided to become a part-time substitute teacher, as well as reporter for the Mattoon JG-TC and Champaign newspapers.

With his enthusiasm for life, he also auditioned to be an extra for the 1994 filming of "The Babe" baseball movie in Danville, IL and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. About halfway through the movie, Bill and another actor occupied the big screen in a scene for a minute or so, if you don't blink.

Joining the staff at Lake Land College, Mattoon, IL in 1968 was the reason for the relocation to Mattoon, and Bill was forever proud of the move. With his dedication for Mattoon, he became involved with many local service organizations: YMCA Rocking Chair League Softball Coach and Player on the league until age 85, President of Exchange Club, Mideastern IL Labor

Council, High School Booster Club, President of the Babe Ruth League, UAW Local 916, Precinct Committee, and United States Census Taker for Coles County.

In addition, he was named to the Lake Land College Wall of Fame as well as the SIU (Carbondale) Daily Egyptian Wall of Fame.

Travel was also one of his major goals in life and he did accomplish that as well—all fifty states and nineteen countries. He was able to reach many goals in his lifetime because of his love for life, education, enthusiasm, curiosity, and a desire to make a difference and inspire others. Bill even taught a unique clownology curriculum at LLC and performed at various venues as “Juggler Joe”.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to American Parkinson Disease Association, PO Box 61420, Staten Island, NY 10306

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with the family.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

Mattoon, IL 61938

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 17. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.
1200 Wabash Ave
Mattoon, IL 61938
(217) 234-8828
contact@mitchelljerdan.com
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

Service

OCT 17. 1:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

MM

“ So sorry to hear the passing of "Mr Hollada" as I called hime as a Lake Land College student back in 1982-84. A true gentleman who was probably the most approachable person I could think of. I will always think of him being an instructor at Lake Land College but it sounds like he made the time for countless other pursuits and activities. His passing caught me off guard, wish I could be at the memorial service today but am miles away in Pennsylvania. The world lost a good man.

Matt Maharg - October 17, 2024 at 09:32 AM

RH

Thanks for your kind comments regarding my husband. The Parkinson's disease of six years literally consumed him. I agree he was a great manny a fabulous husband.

Roberta Hollada - October 19, 2024 at 06:29 PM

BB

“ We are so very sorry to learn of Bill's passing. He was a kind and thoughtful man. In 1984 he had a carload of King's relatives in town for King and Gayla's wedding. We wondered if the world's largest Lincoln statue was nearby and just like that, Bill said "Let's go see it!" and proceeded to drive us all to Ashmore to see Skyscraper Lincoln at night. He loved adventures like that! He also took the time to send us newspaper clippings he thought would be of interest to us. His family was everything to him and he always treated us, King's in-laws, as family. We thoroughly enjoyed trips to Las Vegas with Bill and Roberta and their visits to Massachusetts. May his family and all who loved him find comfort from knowing the positive and long lasting effect he had on so many lives. His was a life well lived.

Paul DeRosa & Barbara Beech

Barbara Beech - October 16, 2024 at 04:08 PM

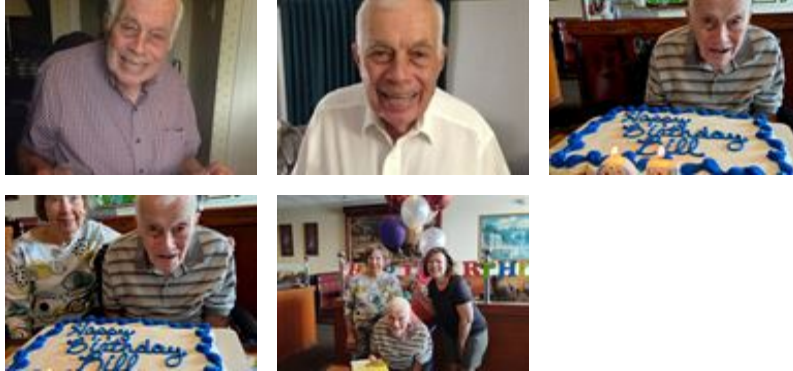
RH

Thank you for your kind words as well as the thoughtful reminder of great memories.

Roberta Hollada - October 16, 2024 at 08:49 PM



“ 48 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - October 16, 2024 at 03:47 PM

LS

“ *Linda Stover Shumaker lit a candle in memory of Bill Hollada*



Linda Stover Shumaker - October 16, 2024 at 02:43 PM

RH

Thanks for your beautiful act of kindness!

Roberta Hollada - October 16, 2024 at 08:45 PM

KC

“ *Kathi Janssen Cobble lit a candle in memory of Bill Hollada*



kathi janssen cobble - October 15, 2024 at 11:44 AM

RH

I appreciate your act of kindness!

Roberta Hollada - October 16, 2024 at 11:32 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bill Hollada.*



October 15, 2024 at 10:49 AM

BP

“ *I met bill and Roberta at the Mattoon health Care I'm a patient there she was taking bill out for a fresh air I said hello and then we started talking and then I kept praying for bill I never really got to talk to Bill but he will be missed by many*



Barbara Phillippi - October 14, 2024 at 11:44 PM

RH

Thanks for caring!

Roberta Hollada - October 16, 2024 at 11:30 AM

PL

“ Bill will forever be a loving memory for me! What a very special man! Happy go lucky funny witty charming and full of knowledge! I will miss him! My memory is when Glendell and I along with Ryne and Britt lived in Mattoon! Ryne and Britt were very adventurous always on the go! This momma had a hard time wrangling them when we went out! Not Bill! He took the boys many places! I asked Bill how do you do it what is your secret? His words were you just keep going and don't look back and they will follow! Well he never lost them not once so he knew what he was doing! I will forever be grateful how he impacted all my kids lives! Love you Bill!!!!

Peggy Lamczyk - October 14, 2024 at 09:27 PM

RH

Love your kind response.

Roberta Hollada - October 16, 2024 at 11:33 AM

JL

“ I've always admired how positive and loving Bill was to those around him. He focused on the blessings and goodness in life. With his courageous and loving heart, he made everyone feel welcome and cared for. He had a special gift for making others laugh and a true passion for journalism. I always cherished how he would give me newspaper clippings on topics he knew I was interested in; it was one of the ways he showed his love and support for me & my interests. I feel incredibly blessed to have had him as an uncle. I love you, Uncle Bill.

Jadyn L - October 13, 2024 at 09:02 PM

RH

What a loving description of your Uncle Bill.

Roberta Hollada - October 16, 2024 at 11:35 AM

LG

“ *LaVonda, Lendell & Carla, Malea & Bobby, Bo and Gabe purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Bill Hollada.*



LaVonda, Lendell & Carla, Malea & Bobby, Bo and Gabe -
October 13, 2024 at 08:41 PM

PV

“ *I would always look forward to seeing Bill and Roberta at the Centralia Holiday Basketball Tourney in years past. Bill would always bring newspapers from other cities with sports information for me. We would always discuss their past travels and he always ask about all of my family and how they were doing. Great people.*
Phillip Venezia

Phillip Venezia - October 13, 2024 at 04:19 PM

DP

“ *When I was hired as Mattoon Bureau Chief of the Decatur Herald & Review, Bill was invaluable as a resource to me, filling in the background of who, what, when, where, why, and how that might have taken me far longer to research. I cannot say enough good things about how generous he was with his time and knowledge, how courteous he always was with sources, and how enthusiastic he was about life, Mattoon, and humankind. Please accept my deep condolences on your loss -- his passing leaves a void no one can fill.*

Debbie Pierce - October 13, 2024 at 01:40 PM



“ *Uncle Bill, you were the most enthusiastic and encouraging person in my life. As I recall my most important memories, you were there, sacrificing your time and agenda to be the first person to congratulate me and to share in the happiness of the moment. Your sacrifices for your family, your friends, the mattoon community, and your country will always be remembered. I cherish our final conversation at your 95th birthday celebration this summer and miss you dearly. Kyle*

Kyle Lisenby - October 13, 2024 at 10:30 AM



“ *I remember Bill as my English teacher when I attended Lake Land College. He was such a good teacher than engaged us in our academic endeavors-my sincere condolences to his family.*

Sue Meyer - October 13, 2024 at 09:23 AM



“ *I remember Bill teaching me how to be clown and making animal balloons*



Melanie Farmer - October 13, 2024 at 08:25 AM