



## William Paul Gattung

November 16, 1925 - October 7, 2020

William P Gattung, a life-long resident of Madison Co. IL until 2017, passed away Oct. 7, 2020, short of his 95th birthday. Bill had been residing near family in Canton GA. He was born Nov 16, 1925 to Granite City IL grocers William H. & Clotilda (LaRose) Gattung, the youngest of a large Catholic family, which included an older brother, Kenneth, and five vivacious sisters; Almeda, Bernice, Ruth Ann, Virginia, Marie.

Bill grew up during the Great Depression working in the family grocery. Four days after HS graduation, he was inducted into the US Navy. After boot camp, leaving San Francisco aboard the battleship USS Washington, "the biggest thing I'd ever seen", he looked back at the Golden Gate Bridge. "I didn't think I'd ever see home again", he said. He served proudly as a Pharmacists Mate aboard the cruiser USS Baltimore (CA-68). He and his shipmates earned six battle stars for action against the enemy, survived kamikaze attacks and a typhoon, and received a Presidential Citation for safeguarding President Franklin D. Roosevelt on his voyage to Hawaii to plan the invasion of Japan.

July 1945, Bill was assigned to Aiea Heights Naval Hospital Hawaii, tending to wounded Marines. After making PhM2C, he was issued Marine fatigues to train for the ground invasion of Japan. When the war ended, he stayed with his Marines at Aiea hospital through April of 1946.

He returned home to help run the family's grocery and married his high school sweetheart, Dorine Thweatt. They raised two boys, Jeff and Paul, and a daughter Becky, on a farm outside Maryville IL. With the untimely passing of Dorine in 1974, he retired some years afterwards to a life chasing golf balls around the Southeast with his buddies. He had a decent handicap well into his 80's and had a hole-in-one to his credit. In between golf games, he met, dated, and married Audrey Cuiferi of Collinsville IL. An avid bowler, pinochle player, and St Louis Cardinal fan, he also enjoyed an afternoon at the casino and a good Manhattan on his back porch in the evening. Sadly, Audrey passed in 2008.

He left this earth with a sharp, concise memory. His stories were a living history of the last century. He will be remembered by the families of the West Granite steelworkers where his father set up home and business, by the many young people he mentored in Maryville, and the people and politicians he served as a member of the Collinsville planning commission.

His best friends were young friends, but the people Uncle Bill loved the most were his extended family of nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.

The family will receive friends at Darby Funeral Home on Friday, October 16th from 9-10am. A graveside service will follow at 11am at Georgia National Cemetery with Deacon John Stanley officiating.

Instead of flowers, per his wishes, please send donations in Bill's name to Cherokee County Homeless Veterans Program, 130 McClure St, Canton, GA, 30114. )

# Cemetery

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## Georgia National Cemetery

1080 Scott Hudgens Dr

Canton, GA, 30114

# Events

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**OCT** **Visitation** 09:00AM - 10:00AM

**16**

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Darby Funeral Home

480 E. Main St., Canton, GA, US, 30114

**OCT** **Graveside Service** 11:00AM

**16**

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Georgia National Cemetery

1080 Scott Hudgens Dr, Canton, GA, US, 30114

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Darby Funeral Home** - October 19, 2020 at 02:19 PM



“ I will always cherish my days with your dad and John at Casino queen on Thursday's. I was lucky and proud to know him. Manhattans all around!

**Tim Donald** - October 22, 2020 at 09:58 AM

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“ You are a good neighbor for 23 years I looked for you and you looked out for me. We had a lot of good times on the back patio it was a pleasure for me to be the driver for you and John when it was necessary. I will miss you! Sympathy to all your family. Rest in peace my friend

**Pam Wrigley** - October 19, 2020 at 09:50 AM

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“ Uncle Bill---the best uncle!! Always joyful, smiling and with a great story to tell!! He was a generous man with a big heart who loved others. He was a successful man. How he will be missed by his extensive family and his friends. Susan (Kane) Hall

**Susan Hall** - October 16, 2020 at 05:55 PM

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“ Dear Bill -

I never got to meet you in person but I want to thank you for making a daughter who has enriched my life for so many years now. You did good, real good. Thank you.

**Amy** - October 16, 2020 at 02:57 PM

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“ Bill was a wonderful guy. He was the last of the bowling bunch. The Harold Klenke family sends our love and condolences.

**Barbara Unterbrink** - October 15, 2020 at 07:58 PM

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“ Bill was always a delight to talk to as my wife and I visited him at Brookdale bringing him Holy Communion from Our Lady of La Solette parish. He always had a good story to tell or just talk in general. He loved his family deeply and liked to share stories of them and his time in the Navy. Family can be very proud of him. He was an inspiration to many. He will be missed.

Deacon John and Mary Jo Campbell

**Deacon John & Mary Campbell** - October 15, 2020 at 07:27 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Paul Gattung.



October 15, 2020 at 03:37 PM

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“ It is with great sadness that I say goodbye to Uncle Bill. You were one in a million, so much fun and I loved hearing all of your stories. You will be missed but always remembered!

**Marybeth Flusche** - October 15, 2020 at 01:22 PM

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“ Susan M Hall is following this tribute.

**Susan Hall** - October 15, 2020 at 01:00 PM

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“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of William Paul Gattung.



October 14, 2020 at 04:09 PM

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“ He was the best! Treated me like one of the family! I never tired of hearing his amazing stories and just being in his presence! All my love to the family!

**Staci Lewis** - October 14, 2020 at 03:13 PM

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“ I played softball with Paul years ago and Bill always loved hangin around the team during and after the games. I'll never forget his sense of humor and the stories he always had. Always fun to be around and thats how I'll remember him.

**Tom Fults** - October 14, 2020 at 06:40 AM

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“ Paul and family!! So sorry to hear about the passing of your dad. He was a true friend to all he meet. He will be missed. Love Tammy

**Tamara Stephens** - October 13, 2020 at 10:02 AM