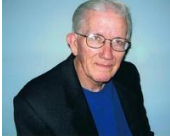


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**William "Bill" Burke(1936 - 2016)**

Burke, William "Bill"

Oct. 04, 1936 - Aug. 18, 2016

William "Bill" F. Burke, 79, of Sarasota, FL, passed away on Thursday, August 18, 2016, at the Tidewell Hospice House in Sarasota, FL. He was born in Zeigler, IL and moved to Florida in 1962 from Pennsylvania. He served his country as a member of the [United States Air Force](#). Bill's favorite sport growing up was baseball. He played from a very young age, in high school and in the Air Force. Following his time in the service, Bill played minor league baseball in the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankee organizations. He also had an opportunity to meet the Red Sox Legend Ted Williams. An ankle injury ended his dreams of playing in the major leagues. He owned his own flooring business in Sarasota for over thirty years. Bill loved the Lord and always told people, "Jesus comes first". He was a loving son, husband, father, brother, and Grandpa Giant. He loved to fish, enjoyed bowling, was very humorous and was always telling funny stories. He was a true and honest friend that had a smile that could light up a room. He was a member of the Covenant Life Church in Sarasota and the [Elks Club](#). He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Pauline Burke. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Karen; sons, Brian of Abilene, TX and Adam of Monroe, NC; daughter, Rebecca Brand of Clearwater; brothers, Gene of Greensburg, PA and Robert of Sarasota; sister, Rose Johnson of Sarasota; and 4 grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, August 27, 2016, at the Covenant Life Church, 8490 McIntosh Road, Sarasota, FL 34238. Please sign his guestbook at [www.veteransfuneralcare.com](http://www.veteransfuneralcare.com). Veterans Funeral Care 727-524-9202

**Funeral Home****Veterans Funeral Care**

15381 Roosevelt Blvd Clearwater, FL 33760  
(727) 524-9202

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