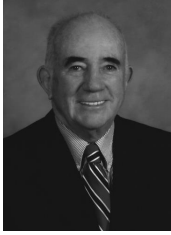


**Joseph Banker(1934 - 2016)**

Joseph William Banker, Jr.

Born: July 28, 1934

Died: May 26, 2016

Joseph William Banker, Jr., 81, of Woodstock, passed away at his home in Woodstock, on May 26, 2016.

He was born to Joseph and Margaret (Foran) Banker on July 28, 1934, in Summit, Illinois. He married Lisa Gerloff on March 17, 1997, in Woodstock.

Bill had a varied and interesting life. A gifted pitcher, he was a varsity player all four years at Argo High School. The highlight of his high school career came his senior year when he pitched three innings for the suburban all-stars at Comiskey Park. Following graduation in preparation to go to Yale on a football scholarship, he attended Cheshire Academy in Cheshire, CT; he was named to their athletic hall of fame in 1993. He later attended the University of Pennsylvania for a year.

He was recruited by several major league teams, eventually signing with the New York Yankees in January 1955. He received a \$6,000 signing bonus and went to their rookie camp in St. Petersburg, Florida, with Casey Stengel as manager. In spring training with the Triple A Denver Bears he played with Don Larsen, Roger Maris, Mickey Mantle and Yogi Berra, and pitched against Ted Williams.

Drafted in January 1957, Bill was stationed at Ft. Chaffee, Arkansas. He later went to Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant. He was discharged in 1959 and played one more season of professional baseball.

He entered the banking business and moved to Woodstock in 1963 to manage the First Savings and Loan of Woodstock until 1969. He then purchased the Tappan Insurance Agency which was renamed Woodstock Insurance for the next 26 years.

During his time in Woodstock, Bill was an active member of the community. He was one of the first trustees on the McHenry County College Board; an original board member of Easter Seals; past chairman of the Woodstock Fire and Police Commission. In addition, Bill was a charter member of the Woodstock Noon [Rotary Club](#) and the first treasurer of Christmas Clearing House. He was a past member of the Woodstock Country Club and enjoyed playing in their Calcuttas.

In 1982 he was appointed to the Board of Directors of the The State Bank of Woodstock (now Harris Bank) and served in that capacity for 25 years.

Survivors include his wife Lisa of Woodstock; his son, William P. Banker, Camas, Washington; five daughters, Catherine Banker, Cynthia (Brent) Unmisig, Jeanne (Brent) Dudgeon, all of Quincy, Illinois; Margaret Banker, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin; and Ellyn (Rick) Knox of Woodstock; grandchildren Bradley, Bryce and Bailey Unmisig; Alexis Banker; Sydney and Quinn Mueller; and Jordyn and Ethan Knox.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31, at the Schneider, Leucht, Merwin and Cooney Funeral Home, 1211 N. Seminary Avenue, Woodstock. The visitation will continue at the funeral home on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 from 10 am until the 11 a.m. Memorial Service. Inurnment will be in Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Woodstock.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Animal House Shelter, 13005 Ernesti Road, Huntley, Illinois, 60142.

For information, contact the Funeral Home at 815-338-1710, or visit the website at [www.slmcfh.com](http://www.slmcfh.com)



**Funeral Home**

**Schneider-Leucht-Merwin & Cooney Funeral Home**

1211 North Seminary Avenue Woodstock, IL 60098

(815) 338-1710

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