



## William J. "Bill" Spitler

December 30, 1929 - August 28, 2015

Spitler, William J. 'Bill', Maitland, FL passed away on Friday, August 28, 2015. He is preceded in death by his father Robert L. Spitler, mother Hazel McComb Spitler, brother Benjamin and nephew, William. He is survived by his wife, Sheila Carberry Spitler and children Wendy S. Toscano and Robert P. Spitler, Orlando, FL, two grandchildren James and Joseph Toscano and two brothers, Robert J. Spitler, Weeki Wachee, FL and Bing G. Spitler, Palmyra, VA. Bill lived a full and active life. Born in Fort Wayne, IN on December 30, 1939 he grew up on the family farm. At age 13, he won the Indiana Junior State Tractor Driving Championship and two years later at the age of 15 obtained his pilot's license. Flying was his passion and he flew just about anything with wings or rotor blades. He logged many hours as a pilot as well as a helicopter and aerobatic instructor. When his family moved to Ramsey, NJ he met and married his wife of 51 years. He graduated from Cornell University with a BS in Civil Engineering and, upon graduation was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He served in Vietnam with the 84th Engineer Battalion. Following his military service, he settled his family in Orlando, FL and began a career as a general contractor. Never slowing down he continued to fly and later obtained a captain's license allowing him to sail and SCUBA dive the waters and islands around FL. A lifelong learner, he attended Rollins College and earned his MBA. He was also a Meridian Club member and avid Harley rider. Throughout his life, Bill was loved and respected by all who were fortunate enough to know him. He lived each day to the fullest. With his

passing his family and friends celebrate his spirit and zest for life. Funeral Services will be held beginning at 5:00 pm on Friday, September 4, 2015 at DeGusipe Funeral Home in Maitland, FL. Details are available at [www.DeGusipeFuneralHome.com](http://www.DeGusipeFuneralHome.com). In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Moffitt Cancer Center Foundation, Tampa, FL [www.moffitt.org/give-back/](http://www.moffitt.org/give-back/).

# Previous Events

## Greeting of Friends

SEP 4. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel  
9001 N. Orlando Ave  
Maitland, FL 32751  
(407) 695-2273  
todd@degusipe.com  
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

## Celebration of Life August 5th, 2017 1200 Noon at DeGusipe Funeral Home and Crematory

SEP 4. 6:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel  
9001 N. Orlando Ave  
Maitland, FL 32751  
(407) 695-2273  
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## Reception

SEP 4 (ET)

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# Tribute Wall

PR

“ *Dear Sheila and Family,*

*I just found out today about Bill passing away. If I had known , you know I would have been there with you and all the family. Bill was such a caring intelligent ,and a very interesting man. I can't believe the many different things in life he accomplished. I know he will be very missed by family an friends.*

*How blessed he was to be surrounded with so much love.*

*I will keep you in my prayers my friend Sheila.*

*God Bless*

*Much love and sympathy.*

*Pam Ray*

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**Pam Ray** - September 17, 2015 at 02:23 PM

WF

“ *Condolences to the Spitler family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to your whole family. Psalms 147:3 says Jehovah God, "heals the broken hearted, and binds up their wounds." May God bring you comfort and peace.*

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**Williams Family** - September 08, 2015 at 09:56 AM

 Joe  
Kern

“ September 2, 2015

*I have such fond memories of Bill and the many hours Bill, Wendy and I spent on the sailing vessel the Lionnesse. I learned so much from Bill about the right way to do things on a boat. I admired his calmness, his knowledge and his zest for life and learning. I will think of him every time I leave port and every time I take the time to do a repair the right way.*

*Fair winds and a following sea Bill.*

*Joe Kern*

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**Joe Kern** - September 04, 2015 at 02:09 PM

 SV

“ *Dear Sheila and family,  
My husband Tom and I want you to know you are in our prayers.  
With sympathy,  
Sands Locker VnBenschoten  
RHS'58*

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**Sandra VanBenschoten** - September 03, 2015 at 10:22 AM

SA

“ *Sheila & Family--so sorry to learn of Bill's passing. It's a shame we never got together at one of the RHS reunions. We talked about Bill often. My most vivid memory is a flight we took, out of Suffern, I think--Bill, myself, Rick Pagach, and one other person. Bill did some stalls, and one of the others lost his lunch. I remember trying unsuccessfully to get a breath of fresh air out of a tiny window about 1 inch wide, which opened about 1/4 inch.*

*My daughter lives in Tampa, and we're going down there, but not until the 9th, so I'll have to join you in spirit only. Bill was a great guy, and we had a lot of fun together--that's how I'll remember him. God bless you and your family.*

*Steve Altenderfer*

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**Steve Altenderfer** - September 03, 2015 at 08:30 AM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of William J. "Bill" Spitler.*



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September 02, 2015 at 12:05 PM

DF

“ I was honored to meet Bill through his daughter Wendy. One moment I remember fondly was about 5 years ago, my son and Jimmy were 4 graders at St. James. They were cub scouts and I was looking for a new experience for the boys in our den. When Wendy suggested sailing... so off we went one Saturday with a group of scouts, Wendy, Bill and myself. Many of the boys had never been on a sailboat before and they were a little nervous about sailing out into the ocean. With his broad smile and his calming demeanor Bill reassured the group as we motored along the inlet. He encouraged the boys to steer the sail boat as we watched for dolphins along the horizon. It was a great day - every one of us left the sail boat with a big smile on our faces.

*Sheila, Wendy, Robert, Jimmy and Joey you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*With our deepest sympathy,  
Donna, Jim, Zach and Nikki Fritz*

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**Donna and Jim Fritz** - September 01, 2015 at 05:05 PM

TI

*Mrs. Spitler and Wendy,*

*I echo Donna's words of it being an honor and a privilege that Mr. Spitler was so kind and caring to all our St. James boys. I too remember that sailing day. As a Mom usually terrified of what great big adventure Donna had planned for the boys next, I knew that there was no better person for Matthew to experience his first sailing experience with. In addition to being the best Boy Scouts and soccer Granddad, Matthews favorite days were those when he got to go home with Jimmy to his Grandparents house. I will always be grateful for the generosity of heart he shared to us all.*

*Jimmy and Joey thank you for sharing your Granddad, we too will miss him dearly.*

*With love and deepest sympathy, Tina, Nick, Matthew and Samantha Alenius*

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**tina** - September 04, 2015 at 02:39 AM

BH

“ Happily, for about ten years my family was able to call the Spitler family our next door neighbors in Winter Park. In writing a note to Wendy today I singled out three things I especially recall about Bill Spitler. These are:

1. His ever ready, sunny smile. Broad and beaming. (See Army photo on this website. THAT'S the smile!)
2. His never being idle- always a fascinating project or hobby in progress.
3. His generosity of spirit- he would often offer something we needed before we ever asked. This could be anything- his help, a needed tool, or access to the backyard for boat launching or storage.

*I consider Bill and the Spitler family to be some of the finest people I have ever known. They are dear to me. My heart goes out to Sheila, Wendy, Robert, Jimmy and Joey and all Bill's friends and relatives. You are in my prayers.*

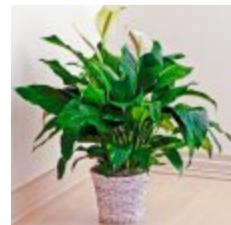
*Bill will be greatly missed.*

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**Beth Hall** - August 31, 2015 at 06:29 PM

TF

“ The Caceres, Harkins, Zannini & Lopez Families purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of William J. "Bill" Spitler.



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**The Caceres, Harkins, Zannini & Lopez Families** - August 31, 2015 at 11:11 AM

BH

“ As a child during the 70s there were few homes where I spent more time at than at the Spitlers'. During that time I had the pleasure to call Robert my childhood friend and to know the Spitler family.

*It my eyes - and those of so many others - Mr. and Mrs. Spitler were perfect parents and so many of my childhood memories involved their loving home and selfless generosity.*

*Mr. Spitler was a role model father and growing up I respected his intelligence, his work ethic and the kindness he exhibited to everyone. As an adult I look back and know that I was truly lucky and blessed to know Mr. Spitler and his amazing family.*

*My thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Spitler, Robert and Wendy during this difficult time.*

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**Brandon Hornsby** - August 31, 2015 at 10:13 AM

AO

“ I will always cherish the memories of this man and his family. They are a remarkable group and lifelong friends. Godspeed to you all.

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**Ann Morrell Olevitch** - August 31, 2015 at 07:50 AM

GH

“ We have never known or known of anyone who loved life more than our dear friend Bill Spitler!! He only knew one speed...fast forward. He was a delight, a gift to our entire family, and we are so proud to be his friends. We will miss him dreadfully and look forward to meeting up with him again in that promised eternal space. In the meantime, we will continue to love and share this life with Sheila, Wendy, Robert and the rest of the family.  
Much love,  
Gail & Bill Hencken



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Gail Hencken - August 30, 2015 at 12:18 PM