



## William L. Pillis Jr.

December 9, 1941 - October 4, 2021

William L. Pillis, Jr. (Bill), 79, passed away peacefully on Monday, October 4, 2021 at The Center @ Eden Hill, Dover, Delaware, with family by his side. Bill was a lifetime resident of Colts Neck, New Jersey, until his recent move with Evelyn to one of his favorite places for races, Dover, Delaware. He was a 1960 graduate of Freehold Boro High School. His classmates said he was "quiet, but don't let him fool you". Bill went on to join the U.S. Army, where he served three years in Troop L, 3rd Recon Squadron, 14th Armored Cavalry in Heidelberg, Germany. He spent the rest of his life doing what he loved most – running the legendary Bill's Auto Repair, attending stock car & NASCAR races, and raising his two sons, whom he dearly loved.

Bill was predeceased by his father Bill Pillis, Sr; his mother Gladys Pillis née Springsteen; and his brother Robert J. Pillis, Sr. He is survived by his two sons Wil (the 3rd) and his wife Kelly of Colts Neck, NJ; and Daniel of Pittsburgh, PA; their mother Evelyn; as well as his sister Betty Ann Seaman of Franklin, TN.

Visitation will be on Saturday, October 9th from 10:00AM to noon at Bongarzone Funeral Home, 2400 Shafto Road, Tinton Falls, NJ. Masks are encouraged, for your safety and the safety of others. Interment will follow directly afterwards, at Fairview Cemetery in Middletown, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, please plant a tree in Bill's memory through [www.alivingtribut](http://www.alivingtribut)

e.org or, consider making a small donation in Bill's memory to the American Heart Association through [www.heart.org/donate](http://www.heart.org/donate) Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com](http://www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Fair View Cemetery

Route 35  
Middletown, NJ

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 9. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Bongarzone Funeral Home  
2400 Shafto Road  
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712  
(732) 918-6200

# Tribute Wall

DP

“ 1 file added to the album *Pics of Dad*



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**Daniel Pillis** - October 24, 2021 at 02:25 PM

SS

“ Dear Evie, Will and Danny,

*Just today read of dad's passing. I am so very sorry for your loss and sorry that I was unable to see you and pay my respects!*

*With thoughts and prayers,*

*Sheri Sidun*

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**Sheri Sidun** - October 14, 2021 at 11:57 AM



“ Dan Pillis purchased the Plastic Cemetery Vase with Spike for the family of William L. Pillis Jr..



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**Dan Pillis** - October 13, 2021 at 06:15 PM

KG

“ Correction, my previous post, billy was my cousin I'm not a nephew, sympathy to all related to his passing , will miss him, love, kyle

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**Kyle green** - October 11, 2021 at 02:17 PM

TW

“ I'm very sorry to hear Bill passed away. He was a special person to be around. Bill was a friend to everyone. He was always there when you needed him.

*I started working for Bill when I was thirteen and on and off throughout my teenage years taking parts off cars, moving cars, going on tow calls, cleaning and organizing tools, parts and much more. I saw a lot of things going on. I learned many things that got me into my adulthood and where I am today.*

*Bill's Auto Repair was a home away from home. I met friends there. We learned to work and have fun doing it. Bought my first car at Bill's Auto Repair (which I still have). Helped teardown the original main building and rebuild it. I Still have a Schaefer beer can found in the concrete block that Big Bill crushed with his hand on the original build. We did the same. I helped take down and rebuild the Quonset Hut, therein did my first autobody work. I got to go to the races in green bus to Watkins Glen, Dover Downs, Wall Stadium to the races and demolition derbies. If it was not for Bill and Bill's Auto Repair, I would not have been able to do all these things. I have a lot of respect for Bill and great memories. The last time I saw Bill in 2000, I stopped by with my two boys. Bill was there. We all hopped into a truck out back and my boys were driving a car for the first time.*

*Our Sincerely Condolences to the Pillis family,  
Tom, Kathryn, Ben and Jon Walzer*

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**Tom Walzer** - October 10, 2021 at 10:49 PM

EW

“ I have enjoyed reading all the memories of Bill. Some stories were new to me as I moved to CA. in 1966 and they were so funny. Great tributes. Wish I could have been there yesterday. I was there in spirit. My sincere condolences to the whole family. Betty Ann and I are the only two left from the original Pillis generation.  
Love Emily Pillis/Wollard

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**Emily F. Wollard** - October 10, 2021 at 01:47 PM

KG

I am Bill's nephew, the 5th green son, I've enjoyed reading all the stories. I'll always remember my years growing up with New Jersey, bill, the junkyard and the car races, my sympathy to all, love kyle

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**Kyle green** - October 11, 2021 at 12:25 AM

WM

“ Billy” and I shared a special relationship that few people experience. I have always remembered him a very kind and giving man . As a child (8 or 9) I ran away from home and unknown to me, it was feared that I drowned in the reservoir and a search party was underway . After a cold night spent in a corn field, I was walking along the road early and Billy, in his beloved blue Chevy Belair (4-on-the floor), saw me. He knew I was I missing - encouraged me to come with him, that many people were searching for me. I vividly remember his gentle encouragement and support that all would be ok. After that I wouldn't see him for awhile , that he went away to serve our country- his siblings, Bobby and Betty Ann just as loving and supportive.  
I remember the Pillis family very well.  
The the family- my deepest and most sincere condolences- Mark Manigold

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**William Mark Manigold** - October 09, 2021 at 06:43 PM



“ I first went to Bill's auto back in 1978 to buy parts from them and started working there in 1982. They were nice people to work for and Bill said his mom always liked me. Besides towing we did work for UPS, Tinton Falls first aid, Monmouth Consolidated water company and the Lincroft post office. Bill and Bobby were two great guys and will be missed.

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**John Yrjanainen** - October 09, 2021 at 04:58 PM

LG

“ Bill, thank you for making us laugh, and having amazing insight regarding cars and people. Your kindness and generosity will never be forgotten. I will always think of you when I see a Corvette or turn a wrench.

*Sending prayers of strength for Evelyn, Will, Dan & Kelly.  
A great loss to the community, he was a legend.  
Time to plant a forest in Bill's honor.  
The Grunthaner family.*

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**Linda Grunthaner** - October 09, 2021 at 10:42 AM

EH

“ Very sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad, He was always very nice too me and i will always appreciated his help! it was also very nice of him to allow my son and i to fish his property. Sending our Condolences, Eric H

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**Eric Halstead** - October 09, 2021 at 08:44 AM

VT

“ *Mr. Bill was one of a kind. He was a business associate and quickly became My superhero picking me up with his Tow truck rescuing me all the time I did not have the best choice in cars mind you he would like to reminisce about life which I appreciated May you rest amongst the angels because you are home now And watch over as you always did. Always Vanessa Turner*

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**vanessa turner** - October 08, 2021 at 01:51 PM

MG

“ *knew him from 1965 till i moved to fl in 1990. my childhood friend Tommy Patton brought me there to play in the junk cars met Bill. over the years Bill helped me out BVw cars vand etc. one time he even drove to somer ille to rescue me at 3 am!!- he was a good man !- heart of gold. R.I.P.*

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**Mark Gavallas** - October 08, 2021 at 12:54 PM

JB

“ *I remember Bill well over the last 50 years. He was a great man and helped countless people over the years. He fixed many cars for me and was always happy to tow away a car that was over the hill. I remember his love for his boys, whom he would take to the St.Leos fair in the summer. I lost touch with Bill, I'll always remember him for his kindness and honesty; and I miss him. John B. Blackburn  
Colts Neck*

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**john blackburn** - October 07, 2021 at 08:50 PM

MG

*i knew him from 1965 till i moved to fl in 1990. my childhood friend Tommy Patton brought me there to play in the junk cars met Bill. over the years Bill helped me out BVw cars vand etc. one time he even drove to somer ille to rescue me at 3 am!!- he was a good man !- heart of gold. R.I.P*

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**Mark Gavallas** - October 08, 2021 at 12:53 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of William L. Pillis Jr..*



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October 07, 2021 at 04:07 PM

JT

“ In 1959, watching the first Gymnastics competition ever for Freehold Regional High School against Boston College with Billy, Bobby and the whole team was very impressive. I had never seen anything like it because there were no other high school teams.

*Billy was the best friend anyone could have, forever. He was generous to all. He taught and helped me with Chevys always. We had fun at Garage Christmas Parties, his cool Corvette Wedding, Wil's First Birthday, Billy's Birthday Strippergram, Camping at Dover and Pocono Raceways, Demolition Derby's, Car Shows, and snowmobiling with the kids for many years. Also arriving at the Tinton Falls PBA Ball in a 1936 Rolls Royce with Billy driving and getting out with fake machine guns aimed at the Cops - we would be shot nowadays.*

*With Billy, wrecker calls, working at the garage (Big Bill called it Billy's Hobby Shop) and lunchtime was an enjoyable experience for me. His Mom, Gladys, treated me like a son.*

*My most memorable time was Billy going down the Dover Racetrack straightaway, wide open in his Vette that I had just spent weeks on bodywork and painting, going thru the curve wide open and me being able to touch the wall with my hand. My only thoughts were of seeing burgundy stripes on the concrete wall which didn't happen. We laughed but Track Security did not.*

*I will always miss you, Billy. Thanks for the great memories!*

*Love, John and Cathy Thompson*

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**John & Cathy Thompson** - October 07, 2021 at 04:04 PM

BM

“ I knew Billy for probably 50 years....always smiling, happy go lucky attitude. Most memorable is probably our trip to the Indy 500....6 of us piled into the "Carbon Lil" a UPS truck converted into a "motor home".....fully loaded with food and beer and more beer....about 24 cases as I remember....We broke down in the middle of the night, somewhere in Pennsylvania we coasted into town and stopped in front of a bank at 3 o'clock in the morning. Wasn't long before two State Troopers showed up...(nothing suspicious here)...Billy found the problem right away, a transmission hose had broke. Billy talked one of the troopers to take him to a truck stop where he could get what he needed for repairs. They returned, Billy fixed the hose....all the while one of the troopers is eyeing all the beer on top of the truck...."Where you guys going" ? Indy, for the races...."ok..." Go to start the truck battery is dead....Cop car is running, Billy says, "let me borrow, your battery"..before the cop could answer Billy had the jumpers on it and got our truck running....You'll be missed William....Rest in Peace, my friend.

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**Bob Moore** - October 07, 2021 at 02:03 PM

BH

“ Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of William L. Pillis Jr.



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**Bongarzone Funeral Home** - October 07, 2021 at 09:17 AM

DW

“ *Bill was like a father to me, from the age of 12 I spent many an hour in his shop working on cars and assisting in towing. Bill was very generous, he would give you the shirt off his back. Many hours spent at stock car and NASCAR races, demolition derby's, car shows etc. Who lets a 17 year old drive their awesome corvette, Bill did. He will be greatly missed and always in memory.*

*Dave Walzer*

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**Dave Walzer** - October 07, 2021 at 08:38 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William L. Pillis Jr..*



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October 06, 2021 at 08:04 PM

JT

“ *Bill was one of my faithful customers in my Auto Parts business. I found him to be honest, hard working, and a incredibly good man. Bill would call me to deliver auto parts before I went home. He would say to me “just throw it over the fence Jim”...and I did just that! There is nothing we can say to ease his family's pain.*

*They are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*RIP Bill*

*Jim & Dolores Turner*

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**Jim Turner** - October 06, 2021 at 07:35 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of William L. Pillis Jr..*



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October 05, 2021 at 08:09 PM



“ *Bill will always be remembered by me. As a young teenager I would ride my bicycle to his shop where you could pick and pull parts from his yard. Whenever I needed a project towed he was my go-to tow truck driver. When the dogs weren't around, I would ride with him and tell him stories of my adventures. He told me, "you like those Harley motorcycles too, you'd get along well with my son Wil." & he was right. Wil has become one of my best friends and Bill and Wil have always treated me like family. Being a car guy/mechanic I meet others with similar interests and one thing that so many of us in the Monmouth County area know, is BillsAuto. It is a good way to gauge someone new I meet... if they knew BillsAuto, I'll have something in common with them, and they'll have kind words to say about Bill.*

*Much love to your family Bill, may you Rest In Peace. I feel very honored to have called you my friend.*

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**Corey Stubblefield** - October 05, 2021 at 07:59 PM



“ *So sorry to hear about Bill passing away we were longtime friends right through grammar school and high school together And may he rest in peace*

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**Carmen Juliano** - October 05, 2021 at 05:41 PM