



William Kaiser

March 29, 1929 - June 3, 2025

Tucson, AZ - William R. Kaiser, 96, formerly of Princeton, Illinois, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, in Tucson, Arizona. He was born March 23, 1929, in Peru, Illinois to parents William Clemons Kaiser and Clara Marie Wolfe. He was the youngest of five children.

Kaiser graduated in 1946 from LaSalle-Peru Township High School, LaSalle-Peru-Oglesby Junior College (IVCC) - where he was the first athlete to earn six varsity letters, and the University of New Mexico with a degree in Elementary Education. Bill lettered in both football and baseball at UNM. He was co-captain of the 1952 UNM football team which was named the NCAA Division I Defensive National Champions and played in the Gold Dust Bowl. Bill was inducted into the athletic Hall of Fame at both IVCC and UNM.

Kaiser served in the US and Japan as a First Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps prior to his hiring as a Language Arts teacher and coach at Logan Jr. High School in Princeton. He taught at Logan for 34 years and coached basketball for 28 years. He coached twelve conference championship teams, 8 conference tournament winning teams, had 3 undefeated seasons and a career 74% winning percentage. Coach Kaiser was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1987. Evenings spent discussing basketball strategy at the kitchen table with his fellow coach and best friend, Mike Kessler, were some of his happiest moments.

Bill was married to his beloved wife Rita J Anderson Kaiser of LaSalle for

nearly 50 years. They had three children together. Bill & Rita were co-owners of Ky-Wa Acres. Most will remember it as a kid's summer camp and horseback riding venue. Bill and Rita loved to fish, vacation, and play cards with their decade's long friends, Mike & Nancy Kessler and Rex & Fran Hunter. They traveled to forty-nine U.S. states in retirement until Rita's passing in 2005. Bill found love again and married another Rita, Rita Close, in 2010. Rita was raised in LaSalle and living in Tucson, AZ. Bill moved to Tucson where Rita was his partner and caregiver for 18 years.

Mr. Kaiser will be cremated and laid to rest beside his wife at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in LaSalle.

Surviving are wife Rita Close of Tucson, AZ; daughter Susan Hobbs of Huntley, IL and two sons, William "Bill" Kaiser of Princeton, IL and Roger Kaiser of Dallas, TX.

Preceded in death by his parents William Clemons Kaiser and Clara Marie (Wolfe) Kaiser, wife Rita J (Anderson) Kaiser, Rita's parents Walter (Swede) & Margaret Anderson, brother Bud Kaiser and three sisters Della Cain, Blanche Hocking and Violet Deacon.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments on Friday September 05, 2025, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Burial service will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Logan Junior High School or Friends of Strays in Princeton, IL.

Online condolences may be directed to www.norbergfh.com

Arrangements by Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP 5. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Norberg Memorial Home, Inc.
701 E. Thompson Street
Princeton, IL 61356

Tribute Wall

CG

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Kaiser’s passing! What a wonderful man. He was my homeroom teacher in 8th grade and at the top of my list as all time favorite! I remember that year the whole class & Mr Kaiser drew names for Christmas exchange. He drew mine. I received a beautiful bracelet that was probably for someone a little older, but I cherished it. There is another angel in heaven. Rest in peace Mr. Kaiser. God bless you and your Family!

Christine Stone Gregory - August 25, 2025 at 09:37 PM

AB

“ Mr. Kaiser was my neighbor growing up through my teenage years. He was always so nice to me and always had a smile on his face when he said hello. I am sad to learn of his passing, but I know he lived a long and fruitful life. Amanda Burwell

Amanda Burwell - July 15, 2025 at 01:52 PM

TM

“ I am so saddened to hear about Bill's passing. I didn't know him but I had recently found this old article attached. My father-in-law Rollie played with Bill at LPO and New Mexico...I wish I could have gotten this article to him in case he had not seen it. I hope you love it as much as we did. I had the article re-typeset and put onto a bronze plaque for Rollie's sons. If you would like to have one, I would think Graphic Electronics will still be able to do one. Please accept my sympathy and do not hesitate to reach out.



Tracy Morris - July 02, 2025 at 11:55 AM

PK

“ I would like to edit my name on my memory from Penny Klube to Penny Kaiser Kline. Thank you

Penny Kaiser Kline - June 15, 2025 at 11:15 PM

PK

“ Bill Kaiser was my uncle. He was my dad's little brother. I always enjoyed time spent with Uncle Bill. I grew up to be an elementary teacher, too. My favorite memory of my Uncle Bill was that he brought me a beautiful Japanese doll that was under glass for my seventh birthday. I'm 77 now and I still have it in my China cabinet after all these years!

I send my condolences and love to Rita, Susie, Bill, Jr. and Roger. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Penny

Penny Klube - June 15, 2025 at 08:43 PM

WK

Thanks Penny
He mentioned you often and appreciated you keeping in touch over the years. We always enjoyed your family and Uncle Bud was so much fun to be around. Bill Jr.

William Kaiser - June 27, 2025 at 01:40 AM

JM

“ He was a favorite! The perfect example of a fine man, teacher, coach, friend and neighbor. So glad to have known him and have him a part of our memories. - Jim & Mary Lynn May

Jim & Mary Lynn May - June 15, 2025 at 12:31 PM

WK

*Thank You Jim & Mary
Dad felt the same about You !
Bill Kaiser Jr.*

William Kaiser - June 27, 2025 at 01:12 AM

MW

I'm so sorry to learn of Mr Kaiser's passing.. I have so many memories from his Language Arts class & his home room. His quick wit & jokes kept his students engaged ... he was fun, caring & loved books as much as I did (still do, thanks to Mr Kaiser!) He always remembered his students & never forget a face. I feel so lucky to have known him & count him as a favorite teacher. Maureen (McCauley) Wallen

Maureen Wallen - August 31, 2025 at 07:43 PM