



William L. Banister

April 15, 1929 - June 5, 2021

William “Bill” Banister, 92, passed away Saturday, June 5, 2021. He was born on April 15, 1929 in Greensburg, Indiana to parents, Morris Banister and Myrtle Arnold Banister. He spent his childhood and teenage years Greensburg and moved to Columbus in 1950.

Bill married the “love of his life”, Theresa “Cleo” Fiddler on June 30, 1950 in Glencoe, Ontario. Bill was introduced to Cleo after a chance meeting in the town of Thunder Bay, Ontario, during a fishing trip in 1949 and it was “love at first sight” for both of them. Together, they have two children, Roger (Jan) Banister and Denise (John) Kocur.

Bill worked as a Foreman and General Foreman at Cummins Engine Company until his retirement in 1985.

After retirement, Bill pursued the art of violin building, making 51 violins, and later, broadening his talent to craft building mandolins and banjos. He was recognized by Traditional Arts of Indiana as one of Indiana’s treasured craftsmen.

Bill loved acoustic music, especially bluegrass and country. He was well known in Indiana bluegrass circles, meeting new friends while making his yearly pilgrimage to the Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival. Bill actively played rhythm guitar, upright bass and enjoyed singing. He and his children sang bluegrass and gospel trios for the public and in bluegrass jam sessions.

Bill was a champion for young bluegrass musicians, always supporting and encouraging them. He hosted many memorable “jam” sessions at Bean Blossom and at his home.

His love of fishing was a passion since childhood, often fishing with his brother, Buddy. Bill enjoyed bluegill and bass fishing, but his passion was his annual walleye fishing trips to the remote areas of Ontario.

In many ways, Bill was a nature lover, knowing a wide variety of birds, trees, animals and especially bird dogs. He also enjoyed his tomato garden, and growing apples and

peaches in his orchard.

Bill loved to share stories of life and times of growing up in Greensburg, Alert, and rural Indiana. He also shared many tales of helping his grandfather, veterinarian Dr. Raymod Banister, on vet calls in Bartholomew County.

Bill is survived by his wife of 70 years, Cleo Banister; and his children, Roger Banister and Denise Kocur. He also leaves behind grandchildren, Paul (Christine) Banister, Adrienne Cantali, Laura (Josh) Long, and Alison Kocur; and great-grandchildren Cora Banister, Theo Long, and Gwen Long.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother Morris Banister and Myrtle Arnold Banister, as well as his brother Buddy Banister.

The funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday June 8, 2021 at the Jewell – Rittman Family Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. until time of services Tuesday. Burial will be at Garland Brook Cemetery in Columbus Indiana. The family has requested masks and social distancing during visitation. The funeral service also will be live streamed at <http://www.jewellrittmanfamily.com>.

Events

JUN	Funeral Service	11:00AM
8	<hr/>	
	Jewell ~ Rittman Family Funeral Home	
	3855 25th St. Columbus, IN 47203, Columbus, IN, US, 47203	

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Jewell-Rittman Funeral Home - June 08 at 02:43 PM



“ It was a pleasure to know Bill a talented banjo player n violin builder. My sympathy to Family

Sharon Green - June 24 at 04:52 PM



“ Cleo, Denise, and Roger and families, it was a pleasure to have met Bill and I know he will be missed by you and your families. Please accept my sincere condolences.
Rick Fox

Richard Fox - June 09 at 08:05 AM



“ Cleo, Denise, Roger, and family...Jeff and I were so sad to hear about Bill's passing...he was such a great neighbor and friend...I remember how patient he was with Luke and how much joy he took in explaining gardening techniques to me...we so appreciated the donation that he and Cleo sent to the Humane Society in Luke's memory...take care...you are all in our thoughts and prayers....Vicki and Jeff Hall

Vicki Hall - June 08 at 11:26 AM



“ I have such fond memories of playing music with Bill and his family. I am very proud of the violin that he built for me; he was so talented. But Bill and I had a lot in common on many other things, such as gardening, fishing, music, how to do this or that. I was always impressed with Bill's detective work to find the best way to do something. So gracious and kind, I will miss him. May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.

Donald Anderson - June 08 at 10:15 AM



“ Roger, I'm so sorry to hear about your dad's passing. I didn't know this fine man, but reading about him makes it clear why you are such a gifted musician and fine man, too. Find comfort and peace in your memories of him, and play on!
Lise Freed Maddox

Lise Freed Maddox - June 07 at 07:01 PM



“ Don and I feel privileged to have know Bill, he was a kind, loving and well versed man. He always made our time together fun. We truly enjoyed our trips to fish in Ontario. He was fun and knowledgeable about so many things. We will miss him and are keeping the family in our prayers. Heaven has certainly gotten a good one.

Donald and Suzette Meyer - June 07 at 04:58 PM



“ Bill was a great friend and someone I enjoyed working with. Bill always had interesting stories and was enthusiastic about anything he attempted. I will miss Bill greatly.

Warren Whaley - June 07 at 01:56 PM



“ Dave & Karen VanDePutte and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William L. Banister.



Karen Vandeputte - June 07 at 01:38 PM



“ i have known your dad since we were in high school, he always had an encouraging word. his tips on music were great, and the chance meetings and brief conversations at breakfast were wonderful... he was a grand man.... sorry i cannot make the funeral, but all thoughts will be with you and him prayers and thoughts...

Mark Fear - June 07 at 11:58 AM



“ He showed love and acceptance to all with his smile and comments. A true gentleman!

John Hinds - June 07 at 10:19 AM



“ Roger,

Melissa and I send our deepest condolences to you and your family. I hope all the good memories of time spent with your father will help the healing of his loss.

Ted Mau

Ted Mau - June 07 at 08:11 AM



“ Our daughter is still playing a violin that Bill put back together when it was in a bad state and sold to us in a garage sale ! His influence goes on . Prayers for his family .

Deborah Eikenbary - June 07 at 07:26 AM



“ Always enjoyed Banister family. Will miss seeing Bill at family pickens.. prayers with family.

John & Ruth Trammell - June 06 at 08:21 PM



“ The entire Family of Dave Sharpe sends our thoughts. Keeping you in our hearts as lay Bill to rest.

Sharpe Family - June 06 at 06:23 PM



“ Our family is so saddened by Bill's passing and the loss is particularly deep for his only sister Dixie, our mother, who he was very close with. Our love, thoughts and prayers are with Cleo, Roger, Denise and their families. Lisa Conk

Lisa Conk - June 06 at 03:57 PM



“ He was my boss at Cummins Engine. Nice man!

marcie tompkins - June 06 at 03:17 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William L. Banister.



June 06 at 10:47 AM