



## William Hafer

April 25, 2024

William (Bill) Hafer was born November 23, 1937, in Philadelphia to Elmer and Matilda (Mae) Hafer. Attending Most Blessed Sacrament, and then West Catholic, where he ran and excelled in track, and basketball. Bill joined the United States Marine Corps in 1956 and was always proud to point out and say he was a Marine. Bill was known for his crazy sense of humor, pranks and jokes he would play. From putting on accents to pretend he was from a different country, to dressing in costumes to play jokes. And randomly breaking out in song.

He married his "Suz" in 1972 and together they had 5 children and settled in Good Shepherd Parish in Southwest Philadelphia. Always the showman Bill, or "Billy", could be found working, singing, and entertaining behind the Bar at Mickey's Tavern in Upper Darby for years. There wasn't a person there that didn't love him and came in specifically for him. Sometimes misunderstood because of his funny/crazy antics, Bill would pick up and help elderly people he saw waiting on the side of the road, and drive them where they needed to be, he always went out of his way to help strangers. He once carried a boy and his leg, whose leg had been cut off by a train from the train tracks to safety. Quickly thinking and tying off the boy's leg with the shirt off his back while others looked on.

When he wasn't working or at home, Bill was ALWAYS on the basketball courts. Outplaying, and outrunning people half his age well into his 70's. Always in basketball sneakers and basketball shorts even in his 80's, and

even in the wintertime. Teaching all his kids to play and love sports. From taking us "around the playground for some pop ups", to taking us to the basketball courts. Bill loved basketball, and the Sixers, and sports was always on the tv. He was always singing around the house, especially Irish music. At the end of the 1990's Bill moved to Toms River NJ, where he continued to play basketball, and now, go to the beach every day. He loved the beach and was an absolute "beach bum".

He was stubborn as a mule, and this served him well. He overcame several battles with cancer, and several other health issues requiring surgeries, hospital stays, and lengthy recoveries. And Bill got up the next day, acting like no surgery or health issue had taken place. Doctors called him a "tank". And he was. a devout Catholic, Bill never missed church, and said the rosary several times a day. And always believed "thy will be done".

He is predeceased by his wife of 50 years Suzan (White) Hafer, his parents Elmer and Mae (O'Lone) Hafer, his twin brother Robert, older brother Elmer (Sam), and younger sister Joan, and granddaughter Erin.

He is survived by his children Bill (Renee), Michael (Andrea), Marianne, Christian (Marjorie) and Elizabeth. He is also survived by 5 grandchildren, and by his loving dog who loved to be by his side.

Even though he was 86, this was unexpected, and his children are devastated to lose their superhuman, force of nature "Daddy".

Bill was a Frank Sinatra fan, and often sang this song that describes him perfectly.

"And now, the end is near, and so I face the final curtain. My friend, I'll say it clear I'll state my case, of which I'm certain.

I've lived a life that's full, I traveled each and every highway. And more, much more than this. I did it my way. Regrets, I've had a few, But then again, too few to mention.

I did what I had to do and saw it through without exemption. I planned each charted course. Each careful step along the byway and more, much more than this. I did it my way."

Relatives and friends are invited to his Memorial Mass at 10 AM at Divine Mercy Church, 6667 Chester Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19142. Interment will be private.

Arrangements were entrusted to the care of Rachubinski & Rogers Funeral Homes.

Share Online Condolences at [www.rachubinskiandrogersfh.com](http://www.rachubinskiandrogersfh.com)

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

MAY 3. 10:00 AM (ET)

Divine Mercy Parish  
6667 Chester Ave  
Philadelphia , PA 19142  
<http://divinemericyrc.com/>

# Tribute Wall

KR

“ To the entire Hafer family - I am one of Jack and Carolyn Hanlon's children. My sincerest condolences on the loss of your father. I have so many fond memories of your dad. Even though he'd be sitting with the adults at Aunt Katherine and Uncle Bill Stover's dining room table, we knew as small children that we could run up and mess with him and he would always give us an appropriate goofy response to make us laugh and scatter. I recall seeking him out when he was there because of how funny and engaging he was. I recently read that children seek out adults that have a positive and welcoming energy - that was your dad for sure - a pure soul. Thinking of your dad, I always think "happy, funny and fun"! The love he had for your beautiful mother was always apparent. Rest in Peace, Bill Hafer.

*Katherine (Hanlon) Reid*

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**Katherine Hanlon Reid** - May 06, 2024 at 06:36 AM

EH

*Katherine, thank you so so much for this. Made me smile and brought tears to my eyes. ❤️ He was goofy and crazy and funny, and a big kid at heart. Thank you. 🙏. I am also so very sorry for your loss as well. When I was little, going to Aunt Katherine's was one of my favorite things. Any time I saw your dad he was smiling, joking, always dressed to the nines. I remember I always thought that was the coolest. How he dressed so great. When my mom got sick before she passed away, he was so great and would call me to check in on her-and me. ❤️*

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**Elizabeth Hafer** - May 08, 2024 at 07:12 PM

AS

“ Antoinette Stam purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Hafer.



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**Antoinette Stam** - May 01, 2024 at 11:12 AM

GE

“ Greatest basketball player and fastest runner I've ever seen. Funniest guy who could have the whole room in stitches. Lit up all rooms especially with his beautiful bride by his side. Terrible loss my condolences to all of his family

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**George** - April 30, 2024 at 12:17 PM

LS

“ My heartfelt condolences to your love one. I am a coworker of Mike. May you find Peace in the untimely death of Mr Hafer. Gone to soon! Prayers to all

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**Leah Skeeters** - April 30, 2024 at 06:43 AM

WS

“ This is Billy{haven't typed that name in a long, long time} Sproul from NC now and I want to add my condolences to the family. My memories go back to WC. He was a great guy. I stayed in touch thru neighborhood comments and know he had a great Catholic life.

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**william j sproul** - April 29, 2024 at 02:40 PM

OO

*As hard for me to explain the tragic loss of a Great friend I could tell stories A lot of crazy things we didn't when we're both single as far as down the shore and Margate and all the places we hit down there are there are great memories from our times and a fun we had I could go On and tell stories about our past, but the point is, this is a tragic loss and a person that can't be replaced. . I know he will find his reward in heaven because it was a good Catholic. He will be sorely missed.*

Okie O'Connor - April 29, 2024 at 09:05 PM

EH

*Thank you for the kind words. And I think we would all love to hear the stories you must have of our Dad ❤️🙏*

Elizabeth Hafer - May 08, 2024 at 07:14 PM

DH

“ Donna, Greg & Carly Hussey planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Hafer.

Donna, Greg & Carly Hussey - April 29, 2024 at 07:27 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Hafer.



April 29, 2024 at 07:27 AM

FM

“ Elizabeth, Please accept my condolences on your Dad's passing and extend them to your family. He was a good friend, and I knew him since we were five years old. He was a good student and athlete excelling in basketball and track. He loved to entertain, and was well known for his zany wit. I have missed him since he left the neighborhood. Happy I had a chance to reminisce with him by phone several months ago. He wii be missed by all his old pals.  
Fran McGovern

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**Fran McGovern** - April 28, 2024 at 01:50 PM

KY

“ Kim Furey and Diane Yoskowitz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Hafer.

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**Kim Furey and Diane Yoskowitz** - April 28, 2024 at 10:22 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Hafer.



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April 28, 2024 at 10:22 AM