



William Edward Higgins

September 12, 1954 - December 12, 2023

On December 12, 2023, William Edward Higgins Jr., affectionately known as Bill or Billy—and to some as Dad, Grandpa, or Great-Gramps—was called back to his creator from this earthly plane. Bill joined this world on September 12, 1954, in Trenton, NJ, born to William and Charlene Higgins. His arrival was marked by kicking and screaming, a zest for life he never lost.

At the age of 22, he embarked on a daring adventure, sailing solo to Spain and returning double-handed, and later sailing to South America. Seeking thrills, he navigated through life with the same fervor, experiencing the highs and lows of two marriages. Bill's ventures on land were equally ambitious, briefly working both as a logger in Canada and in the Texas oil fields. He later devoted time to caring for his grandmother, Gertrude Buttz, in Indianapolis, before opening a business in West Lafayette, Indiana, specializing in small boat maintenance and finally finishing his career as a CNC laser machine shop owner/operator.

In the midst of his adventures, Bill was blessed with three amazing children: his daughter Christine Pawley, a retired US Navy veteran with three children (Corey, Codey, and Leah) and a granddaughter, Della; his son Brian, an IT System Engineer, entrepreneur, sailor, and soon-to-be father; and his daughter Lauren, a sales account executive for Verizon, mother to Kaylin and Rylin.

Dear old Dad was known for his stubbornness and bullheadedness, traits that sometimes made him challenging to converse with. Yet, he remains cherished as a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, son, and brother. In addition to his children and grandchildren, he is survived by his mother, Charlene; his sister, Patricia; and his brothers, Tim, Michael, and Chris. He was preceded in death by his father, William Edward Higgins.

We love you, and we miss you, Bill. Fair winds and following seas.