



## William J. "Bill" Dees

December 24, 1921 - May 20, 2022

William J. "Bill" Dees lived a full life and passed away at the age of 100 on May 20, 2022. Bill is survived by his daughter, Mary Jo Metzger Pace (Dennis), his sons Gregory Dees and Thomas Dees (Michelle); grandchildren Heidi Hardcastle (Ray), August Metzger (Alicia), Johanna Mayes (John), Bradley Dees, Alison Hartman (Adrian), Michael Dees (Elizabeth) and Colleen Mauck (Devin), nine great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Bill was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Barbara "Bobbi", his son-in-law Scott Metzger, his great granddaughter, Josie Mayes and six siblings, Emerson Dees, Bessie Foshee, Lela Hahn, Medford Dees, Norma Jean Weitzel, Virginia Young.

Bill was born December 24, 1921, in Fredericktown and grew up in Rivermines. During WWII, he enlisted in the Army and joined the 11th Airborne Division and became a paratrooper. He served in the Pacific theater and was present for the signing of the Japanese surrender. Bill was proud of being a veteran and in recent years, has been honored at many veteran celebrations.

After the war, Bill met and married his beloved wife Barbara "Bobbi". While living in the lead belt, Bill worked as a machinist in the mines. He was proud to use the GI bill to learn this trade. He eventually moved his family to St. Louis where he continued to work as a machinist, his final employer being Missouri

Rolling Mill. Bill and Bobbi were very active with family and friends and loved to travel, both domestic and abroad. Bill's formal education was limited to high school, where he excelled as an athlete, but he never stopped learning. He was fond of teaching geography to his grandchildren. Bill was an avid reader and sports enthusiast, enjoying every level. He participated in online sports contests and often won. In addition to all types of fishing, Bill liked playing bridge and poker. Carol Bolazina became a constant companion in the last couple of years and made his life even more enjoyable. Friends were drawn to him because of his positive attitude. Bill was fond of saying, "If I'm not having a good time, it's my own damn fault!"

Bill was a wonderful family man and took pride in his grandchildren's activities and achievements. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Services: Funeral from the SCHRADER Funeral Home and Crematory, 14960 Manchester Road at Holloway, Ballwin, Wednesday, June 1, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. to St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church, Ellisville for 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Entombment Bellerive Gardens Mausoleum. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Vets Roll, Inc., 1777 Gardner Street, South Beloit, IL 61080. Visitation Tuesday, May 31, 2022 from 4-8 p.m. Friends may sign the family's on-line guestbook at [Schrader.com](http://Schrader.com).

# Cemetery Details

## **Bellerive Gardens Cemetery**

740 North Mason Road  
St. Louis, MO 63141  
(314) 434-3933  
[info@bellerivegardens.com](mailto:info@bellerivegardens.com)  
<https://bellerivegardens.com>