



## William M. "Bill" Kanitz

December 8, 1962 - January 15, 2013

William M. "Bill" Kanitz of Cadillac passed away Tuesday morning, January 15, 2013 at Mercy Hospital. He was 50. He was born December 8, 1962 in Ann Arbor to William Arthur and Eileen Mae (Metz) Kanitz.

Bill graduated from Milan High School in 1981. After high school Bill worked for the Milan Police Department as a dispatcher. He later attended Police Academy at Washtenaw Community College and received his Associates Degree. He began his career as an officer in Inkster and was there two years prior to moving to Cadillac in 1989. Bill was with the Cadillac Police Department for over 23 years. He loved hunting, fishing and spending time outdoors and being in the Upper Peninsula at the shack. Bill also loved watching his sons play football. He was a member of POAM and had served as past president. He also attended Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Cadillac.

On April 28, 1984 in Milan, Michigan he married the former Cynthia S. "Cindy" Crampton and she survives them along with their sons, William "Billy" (Beth) Kanitz of Toledo, Ohio and Matthew Kanitz (fiance Lauren Kindler) of Cadillac; his father, William (Aileen) Kanitz; sisters: Sue (Chuck) Goerlitz, Lou Missler and Laura (Ken) Hagley all of Milan.

Bill was preceded in death by his mother.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, January 19, 2013 at the Cadillac High School Gymnasium with Reverend Joel Hess officiating. Friends may meet the family from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the Peterson Funeral Home in Cadillac. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the William M. Kanitz Trust Fund for the Grand Marias Breakwall Project. An online guestbook is available at [www.petersonfh.com](http://www.petersonfh.com).

# Tribute Wall

AS

“ I don't know why, but for the last year or so Bill has popped into my head. So today I "googled" and found this and feel compelled to reach out to you. Bill and I went to Paddock Elem and Milan Middle until I moved away. We played the drums together and I still remember how incredibly sweet he was. And how he hated his cowlick so he kept his crew cut super short. I hope that knowing that Billy stays in the heart of someone who hasn't seen him in 40 years. And so it will be for you until you are reunited for eternity. ~Annie

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**Annie Olson Snow** - September 26, 2014 at 08:09 AM

RC

I attended the Washtenaw Police Academy in 1987 with Bill and he and I were the top shots in the class and on the day we shot for the academy shooting trophy he was able to use his Beretta 9mm instead of the academy issued revolver and he got me by 1 point. He was a great shot. I was thinking about the academy and googled his name to see this sad news. R.I.P. Bill we will have a rematch when we meet again. 🙏

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**Rob Candito** - August 17, 2025 at 03:28 PM

KH

“ So very sorry to hear about your loss. I worked with Bill many years ago when I was assigned to the Cadillac Post. He was hilarious to be around and a good friend to so many people. I remember fondly the times at Indian Lake in the U.P. and bobbing with the kids. RIP my old friend.

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**Ken High** - January 23, 2013 at 10:23 AM

FF

“ we are so to hear about your husband, father, brother passed away your are in our prayers.

fromm family - January 21, 2013 at 08:49 PM

PK

“ Thoughts and Prayers to Billy' s whole family.Many memories go way back with times spent with Billy,Rob Bolog,and my nephew Jerry Newman.Aunt Pat

Pat Kiger - January 19, 2013 at 08:39 PM

AF

“ We are so sorry for your loss! We will always have the good memories with Bill. He was a great guy and a great officer. RIP Officer Kanitz, we have the watch from here

Andrew Fuller - January 19, 2013 at 06:03 PM

AE

“ Words can not express the sadness of losing a great person before their time. May angels lead you in Bill. Thanks for the words and the laughs. We lost a good one..

Autumn Engstroem - January 19, 2013 at 12:51 PM

BB

“ So sorry to hear about Bill' s passing. We know the many wonderful memories will be a blessing for you to hold in your hearts forever. Our prayers go out to you!

Bruce and Bonnie Bennyhoff - January 19, 2013 at 11:46 AM

JL

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you, I worked with Bill many years ago when he was at Milan PD. He was a awesome man. RIP Brother*

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**Joe LaFeria** - January 19, 2013 at 11:03 AM

JL

“ *What a sudden and tragic loss at such a young age! I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Bill as an officer as well for years. I have many fond memories.*

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**Jerry Leavell** - January 19, 2013 at 08:43 AM

RP

“ *I was shocked and sorry to hear of the loss of Bill. I knew Bill from Milan PD. He was a great guy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. RIP Bill.*

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**Rick Knieper Homer PD** - January 18, 2013 at 11:01 PM

JW

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Bill on nights and I will sincerely miss our coffee and gossip sessions at 2am. I have never met a man you loved his two boys more than Bill loved Billy and Matt. He was so proud of you both and talked about you often. He also shared some great memories of Cindy and loved you very much. He was such an amazing person, friend and officer and he will be truly missed every night! My prayers are with the Kanitz family today and always. God Bless you all.*

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**Jessica Witkowski** - January 18, 2013 at 10:20 PM

BP

“ Honor the ones that keep us safe! My deepest sympathy! You will gratefully be missed! R.I.P. Officer Kanitz

Bethany Parent - January 18, 2013 at 04:43 PM

JR

“ Dearest Cindy and family. We are all so shocked to hear of Bill's passing. His Aunt Joan is unable to contact you, but is sending along her prayers and love. His loss is felt far and wide by all his cousins. We will keep you all in our prayers and wish you peace during this difficult time. We will be thinking of you tomorrow.

John and Kathy Ruettinger - January 18, 2013 at 04:40 PM

PB

“ Bill was a fine man and I am very proud to have known him. My memories of him will never be lost. I was deeply saddened to hear of his passing, Bill was full of life and always lived it that way. Even though I hadn't seen you guys in some time my friendship has always been there. He will be missed, I will miss him. It was my honor to be able to call you friend, rest in peace with the Lord Bill.

Paul Burleigh - January 18, 2013 at 01:03 PM

BP

“ Cindy Billy and Matt we are so sorry for your loss Bill was a wonderful man and always enjoyed the time we spent with you'd at your house when I watched the boys. May The Lord comfort you at this time. Bob Sara and family

Bob and Sara Podbilski - January 18, 2013 at 12:23 PM

TC

“ Honor the ones that keep us safe. Our condolences.

Todd & Amy & Nick Crawford - January 18, 2013 at 11:25 AM

JH

“ We are so sorry for your loss. God be with you at this most difficult time.

John, Maxine& Jake Hunter - January 18, 2013 at 10:11 AM

JW

“ Cindy and family, I am so sorry to hear about Bill. I am sending my deepest sympathy and prayers for the strength to make it thru this difficult time, my heart breaks for your loss.  
What a wonderful difference his life has made on so many people .

Julie Winters - January 18, 2013 at 07:20 AM

KC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Kanitz family. RIP Billy!

Karen (Henry) Cooper - January 18, 2013 at 07:16 AM

WG

“ We uphold Billy and the Kanitz family in our prayers during this difficult time.

Wayne and Vicki Gates - January 17, 2013 at 10:44 PM

DD

“ Our sincere and deepest sympathy to you Cindy, Matt, & Billy and families. He is in a better place.

Deb (Keene) & Ted Dietrich - January 17, 2013 at 10:16 PM

JM

“ I have known Bill since he moved to Cadillac. He was a wonderful person and good police officer. He will be sadly missed by all that knew him. I will cherish the memories I have of Bill and I wish the same to all that knew Bill.

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**Jim McGinn** - January 17, 2013 at 09:13 PM

CW

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. I attended the Police Academy with Bill, and also knew him when he was with Inkster PD. Bill will be missed by all who's lives he touched. Bill, You, your family, and your extended family in Cadillac are in my prayers and thoughts.

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**Clifford West** - January 17, 2013 at 08:45 PM

AL

“ Dear cousins, my heart hurts for you all. May you feel God's presence and His peace in the difficult days ahead. Cousin Ann

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**Ann LaFrance** - January 17, 2013 at 07:12 PM

TM

“ We were so sorry to hear of your tragic loss. He was a good person.

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**Tom & Bobbi Moomey** - January 17, 2013 at 06:51 PM

JN

“ Cindy, Billy and Matt-our hearts are broken. Bill was a wonderful, caring man who will be missed by the many individuals who were fortunate to have known him. We will forever sit on our porch at the cabin, picture him with his UP smile, and be thankful that our paths crossed.

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**Jan and Nick Nelson** - January 17, 2013 at 06:29 PM

OR

“ *Rest in peace brother in blue.*

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**O J Littlefield RCPD** - January 17, 2013 at 06:24 PM

CH

“ *Prayers to the family.*

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**conrad & laverne henry** - January 17, 2013 at 05:28 PM

BC

“ *CIndy and family,  
What a loss this is for you and for our whole extended family. Know that you are being prayed for continuously, now and in the weeks ahead.  
We will be with you Saturday in spirit.  
Much love,  
Beth, Rachel and Becky*

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**Beth Christofel** - January 17, 2013 at 04:35 PM

EW

“ *Cindy, Matt and Billy, please accept my family's most heartfelt sympathies for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. I had the pleasure of working with Bill in the early 90's. His ever present sense of humor and good nature will always be fondly remembered.*

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**Elizabeth Wollan** - January 17, 2013 at 03:18 PM

RD

“ *Very sorry to hear this sad news! We moved in next door to his house when I was a kid. He was always kind to me. My parents and I send our sympathy and prayers.*

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**Raquel (Fleming) Deuel** - January 17, 2013 at 02:50 PM

DK

“ Cindy and family. I, as you, are devastated by Bill's loss. Bill was a pleasure to work with, one of the funniest guys I ever met, and a pleasure to be around. He will be missed by everyone. Bill left a good mark on everyone he came into contact with and those he touched will always remember the " Mayor of Grand Marais." Please be comforted by the fact he is with the Lord above and will watch over each of us from this point on. RIP my friend.

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**Dave Koenig** - January 17, 2013 at 01:22 PM

DP

“ Dear Cindy, Matt and Billy, Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and the family at this time.

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**Dan and Delores Peterson** - January 17, 2013 at 11:34 AM

WA

“ Officer Kanitz was such an amazing man!! My thoughts and prayers are with his entire family!! RIP Officer Kanitz!!

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**Wanda** - January 17, 2013 at 10:59 AM

CP

“ Cindy and sons, my heartfelt sorrow feels for you. I've known Bill since our elementary school days and he has always been a gentle giant and very kind to all. May the warmth and security of God's loving arms surround you all. XOX

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**Cheryl (Burdeaux) Pringle** - January 17, 2013 at 09:54 AM

C(

“ Cindy, Matthew and Billy, words cannot express the sadness we feel at the loss of Bill. He was a wonderful person and will be missed terribly. I am so sorry. May God cradle you all in His everlasting arms. Praying for you.

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**Cya (Eastman)Stambaugh** - January 17, 2013 at 09:07 AM

KW

“ Sending my most heartfelt sympathies to your family.

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**Karen Webster** - January 17, 2013 at 08:13 AM

MA

“ Cindy and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Bill was a wonderful person and will be missed. Many thoughts and prayers to you all. May Bill live forever in your hearts.

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**Monica (Carlson) Andrews** - January 16, 2013 at 08:00 PM