



## William (Wil) H. Behnfeldt Jr

February 11, 1948 - August 9, 2024

William (Wil) Henry Behnfeldt, Jr, 76, of Defiance, Ohio passed away at his home on August 9, 2024. He was born on February 11, 1948, to William H. Behnfeldt, Sr. and Regina (Badenhop) Behnfeldt in Napoleon, Ohio. Wil was a 1966 graduate of Tinora High School. On February 23, 1974, he married the love of his life Nancy (Kruse) Behnfeldt at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Napoleon.

Wil was a man of few words, but his actions spoke volumes about what was most important to him in his life: his faith, his family, and his country. Wil was baptized into the Lutheran faith on March 5, 1948. He was a lifelong member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Adams Ridge Road, where he served as a deacon, trustee, and sexton for many years. On October 29, 1968, he enlisted in the US Navy. He was a Vietnam veteran and served in the Seabees until he was discharged in 1974. Wil was an active member of the Ward L. Adams Legion Post #454 of Ridgeville Corners. Following his discharge, he continued in the construction field and in 1976 founded Dutchmen Construction with two friends which he proudly owned until 2000. In the years that followed, Wil worked as a heavy equipment operator and truck driver for several local companies until he retired in November of 2016. Wil took great pride in his service and in his work throughout his life. In more recent years, his biggest joy came from spending time with his family and supporting his grandkids in whatever activity they may choose. From music to sports, rain, snow, or shine,

they could always count on him to be in the stands cheering them on.

Wil is survived by his wife of 50 years, Nancy Behnfeldt; daughters Kristina (James) Timbrook, Brooklyn, MI, and Deanna (Brian) McCabe, Grand Rapids, OH; sisters Janice Rabe, Napoleon, OH, and Nancy (Bud Armes) Behnfeldt, Abingdon, VA; sister-in-law Marlene Behnfeldt, Defiance, OH; grandkids Kayla and Leah McCabe and Megan, Tyson, Jordan, and Kaitlyn Timbrook, and many friends, nieces, and nephews who will forever miss his calm presence, quiet sense of humor, and mischievous smile.

He was preceded in death by his parents Regina (Badenhop) Behnfeldt and William Behnfeldt, Sr., brothers Wilbur Behnfeldt and Roger Behnfeldt, sister Maryann Behnfeldt, brother-in-law Lester Rabe, and nephew Matthew Rabe.

Friends and family will be received at the Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon, on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, from 2:00 PM until 7:00 PM. Funeral services will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Adams Ridge Road, on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 11:00 AM with an hour of visitation prior to services. Interment will follow at the church cemetery where military honors will be accorded by the Ridgeville American Legion.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Adams Ridge Road, or the American Cancer Society. Online condolences and messages may be shared with the family at [rodenbergergray.com](http://rodenbergergray.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery - Adams Ridge Road

02499 Adams Ridge Road  
Defiance, OH 43512

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

AUG **13**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon  
1010 Westmoreland Avenue  
Napoleon, OH 43545

## Public Viewing

AUG **14**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Adams Ridge road)  
02454 Adams Ridge Road  
Defiance, OH 43512

## Funeral Service

AUG **14**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery - Adams Ridge Road  
02499 Adams Ridge Road  
Defiance, OH 43512



# Tribute Wall

BP

“ Nancy, I am so very sorry for your loss! I know how difficult it is to lose a spouse. Please accept my love and a special hug across the miles. Bonnie Palamara

Bonnie Palamara - August 16, 2024 at 01:49 AM

KM

“ Kim M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William (Wil) H. Behnfeldt Jr.

Kim M. - August 15, 2024 at 01:43 PM

CB

“ Nancy and Family- you are in our thought and prayers Sincerely Larry and Cathy Birkemeier

Cathy Birkemeier - August 14, 2024 at 12:48 PM

LF

“ Nancy and Family -- Dan, Andrea, and I are so sorry to learn of Wil's passing and offer our most heartfelt condolences to you.

Linda Fisher - August 13, 2024 at 06:22 PM

LF

“ Linda Fisher sent a virtual gift in memory of William (Wil) Behnfeldt



Linda Fisher - August 13, 2024 at 06:18 PM

MS

“ Will, I miss the talks we had while you worked at the mill in Okolona ; and the coffee gang has NEVER forgotten the truck stealing at the mill..... it happened just after we moved to Okolona. Your skills are missed ! Marcus E Schuette.

Marcus E. Schuette - August 13, 2024 at 01:48 PM

TC

“ Tom Czartoski planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William (Wil) H. Behnfeldt Jr.

Tom Czartoski - August 13, 2024 at 09:12 AM

TC

“ Tom Czartoski purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William (Wil) H. Behnfeldt Jr.



Tom Czartoski - August 13, 2024 at 09:12 AM

BH

“ Brock Lime & Joe Hasselschwardt purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William (Wil) H. Behnfeldt Jr.



Brock Lime & Joe Hasselschwardt - August 13, 2024 at 08:50 AM

“ From the fields, forests, plains of Africa and war-torn Europe, to the frozen tundra of Korea, to the jungles of Southeast Asia, from the deserts of Kuwait and Iraq to the mountains of Afghanistan, brave patriots have protected our nation’s ideals, rescued millions from tyranny, and helped spread freedom around the globe. America’s veterans answered the call when asked to protect our nation from some of the most brutal oppression the world has ever known. Military service demands a special kind of sacrifice. The places where you are sent to live and serve bring risk every day. From the time you put on that uniform for the first time, the interests of the nation move to the forefront and define your life. Those duties are shared by family members who make many sacrifices of their own, sometimes bearing the burden of losing a loved one. Service brings rewards as well. There is pride in developing one’s own character, serving a cause far greater than self-interest. Every person who wears America’s uniform is part of a long, unbroken line of achievement and honor. No single military power in history has done greater good, shown greater courage, liberated more people or upheld higher standards of decency and valor than the Armed Forces of the United States of America. That is a legacy to be proud of and those who contributed to it must never be taken for granted. To honor our veterans, we must keep the promises we have made to them. We must care for those who have been injured in the service of our country. We must honor and remember those who have died. And we must remember those whose fate is still undetermined. We fly the Prisoner of War flag on Veterans Day for a reason, to show that this nation will not relent until we have accounted for every one of our missing Americans. Thank you for your service. Thank you for all that you have sacrificed for this great nation. Thank you for being the backbone of America.

*Brigadier General (Retired) Mark W. Lee, United States Army*



“ *Nancy, so sorry for your loss. Our heartfelt sympathy to you and family. Kay and John Walker.* ”

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**John Walker** - August 11, 2024 at 07:20 PM