



William R. Denning

July 10, 1956 - June 9, 2026

William “Bill” Rhea Denning, 69, passed peacefully at his home in Whitestown, Indiana on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. He was born on July 10, 1956, in Beech Grove, Indiana, a son of the late Joseph Anthony “Tony” Ricci and Ula M. (Nash) Ricci.

He graduated from Zionsville High School in 1976. The following year on May 27, 1977, he married Karen (Hoover) Denning at Mts. Runn Baptist Church in Zionsville; she survives. They were married 49 years and had four children then 12 grandchildren. As well as countless others who looked to Bill as an honorary father/grandfather.

Bill worked for Mill Craft Paper Company driving semi-trucks for 47 years.

He was a member of Mts. Runn Baptist Church. Where he completed multiple projects as their go-to handyman. Bill was always on the go. He enjoyed remodeling homes, shooting sports, vintage cars, and riding motorcycles. Most of all chasing his grandchildren around.

Survivors include his wife, Karen Denning; children, Erin Dodd, BJ Denning (Danielle), Daniel Denning (Stephanie), Thomas Denning (JoHannah); grandchildren, Trinity Dodd, Will, Wyatt, Jonah, Eli, Gavin, Isaiah, Easton, Lincoln, Ezra, Isabella, and Emmett Denning; and stepmother, Pam Ricci.

Funeral Services are to be held on Friday, June 12, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., at the Mts. Runn Baptist Church, 250 South 775 East, Zionsville, Indiana. Visitation will be held from 12:00 noon until the time of service. Interment will follow at Mts. Runn Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his memory to the Mts. Runn mission trip to Brazil 2027 in which Bill intended to attend.

Cemetery Details

Mts. Runn Cemetery

250 South 775 East
Zionsville, IN 46077

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 12. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Mts. Runn Baptist Church
250 South 775 East
Zionsville, IN 46077

Funeral Service

JUN 12. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mts. Runn Baptist Church
250 South 775 East
Zionsville, IN 46077

Tribute Wall

CD

“ So very sorry to hear this news Karen & family 🙏



Curt/Alana Davis - June 13 at 06:57 PM

NF

“ I'm so sorry to hear the passing of Bill but know that he is with His savior. I worked with him for 20+ years at both Cordage Papers as well as Millcraft Papers. He was always a hard worker, had a quick sense of humor and I remember that he never tired of my many questions.
My prayers for his family as I know he will be misse

Nancy Frazier - June 11 at 10:50 AM

TM

“ Travis and Megan Mlakar purchased the Heartfelt Memories for the family of William R. Denning.



Travis and Megan Mlakar - June 11 at 10:23 AM

TM

“ Travis and Megan Mlakar planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William R. Denning.

Travis and Megan Mlakar - June 11 at 10:23 AM



“ *Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of William R. Denning.*



June 11 at 08:23 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William R. Denning.

June 11 at 08:23 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss at this time. We will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.*

JW ORG - June 11 at 08:20 AM



I'm so very sorry for your loss. Your family has always been so kind to us. We miss all of our Mts Runn family. Karen, I'll be keeping you in my prayers every little bit. I'm so glad that I got to talk to him at the Easter service last year. May the Lord give you peace and comfort. Connie & Randy Massingill

Connie Massingill - June 11 at 09:14 PM



“ *Worked with Bill at Cordage and Millcraft , he was a great guy and employee. Myself and the other salespeople knew he would treat our customers with great respect never in my 28 years did I have a customer complain about Bill. I actually think we probably kept customers because of the service Bill delivered Steve. Sallee*

steve sallee - June 11 at 08:16 AM

BT

“ Buck Diane kristin Tyler purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of William R. Denning.



Buck Diane kristin Tyler - June 11 at 07:51 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William R. Denning.



June 11 at 04:43 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William R. Denning.

June 11 at 04:43 AM



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



June 10 at 07:29 PM

JF

“ BJ, Danielle, Will, Wyatt, Jonah, Gavin, and Lincoln, we are so sorry for the loss of your Dad and Poppy. His love for all of you was always evident through his presence and willingness to teach the boys his life values. He instilled in his son, BJ, and his grandsons a great work ethic and was a wonderful example of selfless service to others. He will be dearly missed.

Julie Cooney and Family - June 10 at 05:05 PM

LP

“ Karen - so sorry for your loss. Prayers for entire family 🙏

Lisa Ping - June 10 at 04:35 PM

TH

“ Tim & CynGay Hey purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William R. Denning.



Tim & CynGay Hey - June 10 at 03:27 PM

TH

“ Tim & CynGay Hey planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William R. Denning.

Tim & CynGay Hey - June 10 at 03:27 PM