



Orville C. Wildhaber Jr.

November 28, 1931 - October 13, 2025

Orville Charles Wildhaber, Jr., age 93 of Edwardsville, IL, died Monday, October 13, 2025, at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in O Fallon, IL.

He was born on Saturday, November 28, 1931, in Saint Louis, MO, the son of Orville and Claudine (nee Noeltner) Wildhaber.

On Saturday, November 24, 1956, he married Jean Carol Wildhaber (nee Reilson) at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, Marine, IL, who survives.

He was a member of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church. He was also a member of Lion's Club - Marine (Charter Member) 3rd Degree of Knights of Columbus, Council #699 - Litchfield, IL, Knights of Columbus – Highland, IL, and American Legion Post #702 Becker-Reding, Marine, IL.

Orville was born in St. Louis on November 28, 1931, at age 6 months moved to Marine (east of town), at age 15 years move into town. He attended Marine Grade School and Edwardsville High School graduating in 1949. He worked briefly at Marine Garment Factory, Highland Box Board Company, and then went into U.S. Air Force (San Antonio, Newfoundland, and California with 3 1/2 years of service). He started working at Shell Oil Refinery in 1954 and retired in 1990. He enjoyed woodworking, playing golf, taking flying lessons and boating on Lou Yaeger Lake, Litchfield, IL. He and his wife, Jean, also

liked to travel in his camper, all over United States except for the Northwestern part. They wintered in Texas, Florida and Mississippi. They also had been to Europe, Caribbean and Mexico. They moved to Litchfield after purchasing a home there in 1990. Later he moved to Edwardsville in 2018. Orville especially enjoyed time with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Survivors include:

Wife - Jean Carol Wildhaber, Edwardsville, IL
Son - Gregg C. (Leah) Wildhaber, Marine, IL
Son - Jay C. (Carla) Wildhaber, Highland, IL
Daughter - Terri L. Edgcomb, Defiance, MO
Grandchild - Jeremy R. (Sara) Wildhaber, Edwardsville, IL
Grandchild - Jessica (Joseph) Fortenberry, Highland, IL
Grandchild - Jamie R. (Ty) Renko, Highland, IL
Grandchild - Marc W. (Megan) Wildhaber, Columbia, IL
Grandchild - Michael B. (Anna) Edgcomb, Chicago, IL
Great Grandchild - Cali Renko, Highland, IL
Great Grandchild - Cole Renko, Highland, IL
Great Grandchild - Lyla Wildhaber, Edwardsville, IL
Great Grandchild - Brayden Wildhaber, Columbia, IL
Great Grandchild - Emmett Wildhaber, Edwardsville, IL
Great Grandchild - Madilyn Wildhaber, Columbia, IL
Great Grandchild - Wesley Wildhaber, Columbia, IL

He was preceded in death by:

Father - Orville E. Wildhaber - Died 02/09/1997
Mother - Claudine F. (nee Noeltner) Wildhaber - Died 10/16/1988
Son - Bruce Wildhaber - Died 1964
Great Grandchild - Dylan R. Renko - Died 09/04/2009
Great Grandchild - Wyatt Wildhaber, died 10/17/2017

Brother - Robert J. Wildhaber - Died 11/20/2004

Mother-In-Law – Lucille (nee Smith) Reilson, died 1/14/2005

Father-In-Law – William Reilson, died 12/16/1982

Sister-In-Law - Kay Marie (nee Bellm) Wildhaber - Died 10/21/1973

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Friday, October 17, 2025, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL and from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Marine, IL, with Fr. John P. Beveridge, officiating.

Interment will be at St Elizabeth Catholic Cemetery in Marine, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, St. Elizabeth Catholic Church or Masses.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 17. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - Highland
1501 9th Street
P.O. Box 187
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-2133
info@spengel-boulanger.com

Visitation

OCT 18. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (CT)

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - Highland
1501 9th Street
P.O. Box 187
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-2133
info@spengel-boulanger.com

Funeral Mass

OCT 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church
120 N Windmill St
Marine, IL 62061-1313
(618) 887-4535

Tribute Wall



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Orville C. Wildhaber Jr..*



October 17, 2025 at 11:44 AM



“ *Nellie B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Orville C. Wildhaber Jr..*

Nellie B. - October 17, 2025 at 11:44 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Orville C. Wildhaber Jr..*



October 16, 2025 at 03:52 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Orville C. Wildhaber Jr..*



October 15, 2025 at 05:03 PM

TC

“ Terry & Emma Cruthis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Orville C. Wildhaber Jr..

Terry & Emma Cruthis - October 15, 2025 at 05:03 PM

GD

“ Gary Smith and Diane purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Orville C. Wildhaber Jr..



Gary Smith and Diane - October 15, 2025 at 12:46 PM

SK

“ I was thinking about Jr. and Jean the other day. It was always a good time when they were around. Sorry for your family's loss. I know he will be missed

Sherry Kesner - October 15, 2025 at 12:08 PM



“ We had so much fun together back in the day! Willie and Dee and Orville and Jean were a great combination of fun and happiness. My sympathy to Jean and family.

Judy Hartlieb - October 15, 2025 at 11:20 AM