



## William John (Billy) Quinnan

October 23, 1964 - April 25, 2019

QUINNAN – William John (Billy) Quinnan, 54, born October 23, 1964, passed away April 25, 2019; beloved, youngest child of William Anthony Quinnan and Donna Neumann Quinnan who predeceased him; cherished brother of Martin (Mary McLoughlin) Quinnan, Loretta (Edward Wilson) Quinnan, Brian (Sue Kern) Quinnan, Michael (Sandy Churchfield) Quinnan, James Quinnan, Martha Farrington, David Quinnan (his twin brother), and Thomas Quinnan who predeceased him; dearly loved uncle of Jason (Catie) Quinnan, Jayme Spear, Casey (Brenda Solak) Quinnan, Shay Quinnan, Ellen (Gary) Witkowski, Emily (Jason) Haas, Thomas Quinnan, Joseph Farrington, Claire Farrington and Samuel Farrington; treasured great-uncle to 11; much-loved cousin to scores of Quinnans and Carpenters throughout the country.

Billy and his twin brother, David, were born prematurely, with cerebral palsy, each weighing slightly over two pounds at birth. After two months in the hospital, they came home to the best “Christmas Ever” for the family. David and Billy not only influenced the Quinnan family, in many ways they defined them. There was never a time nor a question that these two would be raised at home with their seven brothers and sisters. David and Billy remained at home with their parents until they were 48, spending most of that time in Zilwaukee. They then moved to Grand Rapids to live in an adult foster home maintained by Pine Rest.

Billy was gregarious; he delighted in meeting new friends and immersing himself in whatever activity was going on, whether it was a family gathering, a game of basketball, swimming anywhere, and especially bicycling. He was a “supervisor” that oversaw indoor and outdoor projects and usually had something to say or do about them. He loved music and always had a radio or recording device within reach to play his favorite tunes. He had an impish quality and was a little mischievous at times and seemed to understand much more than he could articulate. Billy was just fun to have around – well-mannered, engaged, and ready to participate. He charmed everyone who knew or had the opportunity to meet him. As his brother Jim said recently, “Everyone should have a Billy in their life.”

The family would like to thank the staff and community at Pine Rest for Billy's care and support. We also extend our gratitude to his neighbors and friends in Saginaw, Zilwaukee and Houghton Lake, who watched out for him and welcomed him into their communities and families. Thank you to the staff and classmates at Community Ties North for their outstanding efforts on Billy's behalf for so many years. Billy was taught to pray, dance, and share in religious education with the Catholic SPRED volunteers since their beginning with Sr. Elaine Raymond. To them we also we give our gratitude. Finally, thank you to his brother David, who stood by his side, worried about him, and shared his brotherly love and battles. He will continue to hold him in his heart, as will all who knew him.

Visitation will be at the Stroo Funeral Home, 1095 68th St. SE, Grand Rapids, on Monday, May 6, from 3 – 5 pm, followed by a memorial service at 5 pm, with Chaplain Mary Merrill officiating. Memorial gifts can be made to Pine Rest Christian Homes, 300 68th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49501

# Events

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**MAY** **Visitation** 03:00PM - 05:00PM

**6**

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Stroo Funeral Home

1095 68th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI, US, 49508

**MAY** **Memorial Service** 05:00PM

**6**

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Stroo Funeral Home

1095 68th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI, US, 49508

# Comments

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“ Dear Quinnan family,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. I'll always remember my dad and his friends having clean cars after picnics at the house on Westervelt as Billy use to vaccum them out!

My mom sends her condolences as well.

Hugs and prayers

Kris & Donna Brandi

**Kris Brandi** - May 05 at 09:24 AM

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“ Billy had a way of making you feel good being around him and you always left with a smile on your face because he was so sweet. I'm so sorry this world lost Billy, Jim is right, everyone should have a Billy in their life. I am thankful for the few times I was able to be around him. I still smile when I picture him and his love of music. Thank you for the opportunities to spend time with Billy. I won't think of him without smiling.

**Vicki Simmons.** - May 04 at 03:56 AM

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“ Jean Wilborn lit a candle in memory of William John (Billy) Quinnan



**Jean Wilborn** - May 02 at 04:20 PM