



## Frank W. "Bill" Needle, Jr.

September 8, 2011

FRANK WILLIAM ◆Bill◆ NEEDLE, JR. Bill Needle, 80, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri died Thursday, September 8, 2011 at Southeast Hospital. He was born October 1, 1930 in Collinsville, Illinois. His mother was Ruth Emily Hadfield Needle and his father was Frank William Needle from Collinsville. Bill graduated from Collinsville High School in 1948. He was class valedictorian. He earned a four-year scholarship to Washington University, St. Louis, and majored in art. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Washington University in 1952 and earned his Master of Fine Arts degree in commercial art from University of Kansas, Lawrence in 1953. He began teaching art at the University of Kansas until drafted into the Army and served from 1954-1956, qualifying as a Korean War Veteran, stateside. After his term of service in the Army he became an instructor in commercial art at Illinois Wesleyan University in Normal, Illinois. On June 7, 1958 he married Ruth Reichert in Bloomington, Illinois and moved back to Collinsville. He taught art at McCluer North High School in St. Louis until 1967. In 1967 he began at Southeast Missouri State University as an assistant professor of art, eventually becoming full professor of art in 1978. Bill was professor emeritus of Art History and Egyptology at Southeast Missouri State University and chairman of the Art Department, where he taught for 25 years. Upon invitation, he taught art history at the Imperial College in London in 1987. He retired from SEMO in 1988 to devote more time to creating and marketing his personalized hieroglyphic drawings. Bill started his own business, Hieroglyphics LTD, in the

fall of 1976. He and Ruth have gained national recognition for their 35 years of work in producing authentic Egyptian hieroglyphic drawings in art shows across the country. These unique drawings can be found in twenty-six countries and all fifty states. Bill was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Cape where he served as an elder. He loved God and loved the church but felt that he did not have the gift of evangelism, so used his artistic abilities to spread God's love, helping numerous churches raise money by donating prints of original oil paintings depicting Christ's ministry. He had earned the honor of lifetime membership in the American Research Center in Egypt and was elected into the Egypt Exploration Society of London. He also was a member of the Arts Council of Southeast Missouri and had a 60 year retrospective exhibit this past April. He taught part time after retirement from SEMO, but never retired from his artistic endeavors and public speaking. He was the featured speaker at the Missouri Southern State University in Joplin this past Tuesday, September 6. Survivors include Wife, Ruth Needle of Cape Girardeau, MO. Son, William (Bill) Bruce Needle, wife Sandra of Bonner Springs, KS. Daughters, Ruth Ellen Coats, husband Paul of Columbus, GA. Jennifer Katherine (Kathy) Elliot , husband Michael of Ashland, MO. Two Grandchildren, Emily Elizabeth and David Andrew Coats. Preceded in death by Parents Visitation will be Sunday, September 11, 2011 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel. Funeral will be Monday, September 12, 2011 at 10:00 AM at First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Bill Vincent officiating. Entombment will follow at Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum. Memorial contributions may be given to First Presbyterian Church (General Fund),

# Tribute Wall

KJ

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy for I too know the pain of losing someone you love. May you find comfort as I have in knowing that our loving heavenly Father Jehovah promises us that very soon all those in the 'memorial tombs' will hear the voice of his son Jesus and 'come out' by means of the resurrection. (John 5:28,29) What a wonderful day that will be!

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**Kevin Jackson** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ I am deeply sorry for your loss. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Timothy Domian** - December 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ Katherine we are so sorry at the loss of your eatherly father. My our heavenly Father grant you peace at this time.

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**bruce and erin** - December 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ My prayers and thoughts are with you.

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**Larry Barnes** - December 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NR

“ you are all in our prayers. Nancy, Mike, & Brandon

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**Nancy Rectenwald** - December 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ I am so sorry to hear that Bill has passed away. He meant so much to me as a wonderful instructor and friend. We spoke at the Arts Council at the first Friday in August and I am so thankful that I was again able to let him know how much I enjoyed his classes at SEMO and his enthusiasm for teaching and the arts. He was very influential in my decision to pursue a career in teaching art. He will be greatly missed. Sharon Williams

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**Sharon Williams** - November 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ It was a shock to hear of Bill's sudden death. We certainly offer our condolences to Ruth and the family. We were proud to be friends of Bill's. We have mememtoes to remember him by that we treasure. Marlene and Virgil Cole

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**Marlene and Virgil Cole** - November 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ I will never forget Bill's generosity when years ago my students decided they wanted to study Egypt. He jumped right in with his customary enthusiasm and helped to create a unit of study which many of these students and I have never forgotten. We are thinking of you at this time.

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**Larry and Judy Dew** - November 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ I had the pleasure of hosting Professor Needle and Ruth on Sept. 5-6 at Missouri Southern State University. Professor Needle gave three presentations on ancient Egypt Tuesday morning to kick off our Egypt Semester. He spoke nearly non-stop from 8 a.m. to noon. He presented a wealth of information, including numerous personal anecdotes, to a total of more than 600 students and faculty. He also presented me with two pictures he had drawn, which I will treasure forever. He was a most gracious gentleman, and I am pleased to have made his acquaintance just before his passing.

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**Chad Stebbins** - November 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

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**Chad Stebbins** - November 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ Dear Ruth, My deepest sympathy to you and your family for the sudden loss. Bill was a neighbor and one of my oldest childhood friends. He will be missed.

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**Karl E Rebenschied** - November 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *Deepest sympathy. The local art world will be less without him here. I was a student of his at SEMO. I became an art teacher and still tell his stories to my own students. Enjoyed running into him over the years at art shows and events. He will be missed.*

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**Cristy Crites** - November 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

IT

“ *Ruth and family You have our prayers and support. Irene & Boyd*

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**Irene Thomas** - October 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BV

“ *Dear Ruth, Ellen, Kathy and Billy, We want to express our deeply felt sympathy for your great loss. Frank (Bill) will remain forever in our hearts and our memory. He contributed so much and was a joy to all around him. Be assured that you are all in our prayers during this difficult time. We are confident that Frank is with the Lord and we will enjoy his presence again in a much better place. Love, Bill, Louise & Patti*

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**Bill, Louise & Patti Voos** - October 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. He was a beloved,gentle, spiritual man who was gifted with both art and speech. I feel blessed to have known him, his family and to display some artwork of his in my home. Your whole family has my heartfelt condolences. Sincerely, Dawn Froemsdorf Roberts*

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**Dawn Froemsdorf Roberts** - October 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM