



## John W. "Bill" Likens

May 24, 1924 - May 27, 2020

John W. (Bill) Likens, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, passed away on May 27th, 2020. Born in Marion, Illinois on May 24th, 1924 as the son of Lloyd Christopher Likens and Vivian Marie Davis Likens.

From Bill:

Rather than allude to what I have or have not achieved in the brief time that I have been in this world I would rather take this time to wish each of you a long and enjoyable trip in your journey here on earth.

My proudest accomplishment has been raising my three children: John W. Likens II, Dr. Christopher P. Likens, and Bradley K. Ferguson. They and their wives Cathy Likens, Dr. Nancy Wilson and Pat Ferguson along with their children have been a great joy and comfort to me. I have been blessed with seven grandchildren, David Likens (Kim), Jim Likens, Sarah Likens, Robert Likens, Andrew Likens (Rachel), Morgan Likens, and Shannon Ferguson. I also have three great grandchildren. I hope that my relation with them and to each of you has been a positive and pleasant one. I would also like to wish my wife Iris Likens a long and pleasant journey in her remaining years. And to my sister Dorthy Jane Boyd, I will miss you.

Afterword by his sons:

Our father would never want to mention some of the interesting achievements during his 96 years of life, but we would. Dad proudly served his country in World War II from 1943 to 1946 as a US Army Infantry Scout in the European Theater. After the war he earned a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Rolla in 1948. His first job was with Phillips Petroleum in the oil fields of Wyoming. After moving to Cape Girardeau in 1950, he worked for the Missouri Utilities Company for over 37 years. Dad was a long time member and Deacon of the Abbey Road Christian Church. He was an avid member of the Kiwanis Club for over 30 years, as well as being past president. He was also a long time member and past-President of the Toastmasters Club. One of the many ways Dad gave back to his community was as a volunteer; as a judge for the Central High School science fair, delivering Meals on Wheels, helping build the JC Public Golf Course, and finally working on the "Red House" in Cape. After retiring from volunteering, he finished his first century (100 mile) bike ride at the age of 83. As dad would say "Good Night!" I can't believe I made it to 96.

Fishing, fishing, fishing and more fishing. Fishing was his favorite pastime but he also enjoyed hunting, camping, biking and traveling. He passed this love of fishing on to whomever he could.

### The Fisherman's Prayer

God grant that I may live to fish, until my dying day.

And when it comes to my last cast, I then must humbly pray.

When in the Lord's safe landing net, I'm peacefully asleep.

That in his mercy I'll be judged, As big enough to keep.

In lieu of flowers, Bill would like you to donate to the Abbey Road Christian Church of Cape Girardeau in his name.

Bill requested a graveside service at the Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery. Please join us on June 5th, 2020 at 11:00 am.

# Cemetery Details

## Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 334-1909  
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUN 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery  
2315 Highway 61 North  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 334-1909  
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

DS

“ *My sympathy to Iris and family. So very sorry for your loss. God bless you with His peace and comfort. Bill hired me to work for Missouri Utilities in 1976 resulting in a 22 year career at MU. I am grateful for the opportunity Bill and Steve Seematter gave me.*

*My warmest regards,*

*Darrel Seabaugh*

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**Darrel A Seabaugh** - June 04, 2020 at 03:48 PM

SS

“ *In 1974, I graduated from college and was hired by Missouri Utilities as an engineer. Bill was my first supervisor. He set an example that I have remembered throughout my career. He was a credit to his profession, good at working with people, always a gentleman, and a friend. With highest respect, I will always remember Bill and express my condolences to his family. Rest in peace.*

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**Steve Seematter** - June 04, 2020 at 03:34 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John W. "Bill" Likens.*



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June 02, 2020 at 12:43 PM

CW

“ *Bill always had a smile and greeting for everyone. And his dry sense-of-humor was enjoyed by all that worked with him. Bill was instrumental in having me come to work for Missouri Utilities. He was a great mentor. And he knew the electrical business! Rest in peace Bill.*



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**calvin wells** - June 02, 2020 at 11:37 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John W. "Bill" Likens.*



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June 01, 2020 at 04:02 PM

TR

“ *I grew up across the street from Mr Likens and his family in the 60's/70's and I became reacquainted with him at the Chateau while visiting my mom. The Rutledge's felt fortunate to have had such good neighbors and we all liked Mr Likens. May he Rest In Peace and know what a good legacy he leaves in his kids.*

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**Teresa Rutledge** - May 31, 2020 at 10:18 PM

CB

“ *What a nice and kind gentleman. Though I haven't seen Bill for many years, I've been able to somewhat keep-up with him via his step-son. I was fortunate enough to know, and to be around, Bill throughout my childhood through the First Christian Church in Cape. Many blessings to the entire family and to the peace he now resides in.*

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**Chris Bahn** - May 31, 2020 at 02:35 PM

BH

“ *Bill Likens was a kind and gentle man who had an amazing life. 100 mile bike ride at age 80. He was one determined gentleman. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

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**Beth Rader Hennessey** - May 30, 2020 at 08:57 AM

BW

“ *I met Bill at the gym many years ago. He was a wonderful, inspiring person. I liked to call him 'Wild Bill' and was always amazed at how he could outwork anyone there when he did abs. He always had a smile and a good word for everyone, I will miss him*

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**Bev Wiedefeld** - May 30, 2020 at 06:02 AM

TD

“ Uncle Bill was a very sweet man. As everyone knows, he was an avid bike rider. When he was 80/81 years old and I was 52/53 years old Uncle Bill said he'd ride bikes with me and I took him up on it. For me it was a very short adventure due to taking care of my husband, but we shared a few rides. The first one is the one I still think about. Uncle Bill invited me to join him on the annual Tour de Cape and I was excited to accept. He was excited too because when I arrived several people had commented to me that he was expecting me. I had taken a few rides on the local bike trail, but this was my first real ride. We began our “tour” in the parking area across from Hudson's, heading up Main Street and then up Broadway. That hill. I didn't know if I'd even make it up that hill, but I did and Uncle Bill was waiting patiently at the top, not complaining and with a smile encouraging me on - just like he was when I finally made it up the hill at Broadway and Perry and EVERY hill we came to that day. My 80/81 year old uncle waiting for me to catch up with him.

Uncle Bill: patient and kind - always. ❤️

Teresa Dame

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Teresa Dame - May 29, 2020 at 09:57 PM

KL

“ Bill and I worked out at St. Francis Fitness. When Bill's eyesight got so bad he could not drive, I was honored that, for several years, he agreed to let me pick him up and take him to workout M - W - F mornings around 0630 hours. We haggled nearly weekly over the fee. Pretty much it was a \$1.50 cup of coffee each Monday. I threatened to get the Teamsters involved once when seeking a raise. I had to settle for a Christmas bonus extra cup. Bill only told me one time about his WWII experience. He likely would not approve me sharing what I know here. (He would tell anyone who asked "I have spend a half century trying to forget, I don't want to talk about it!) But, I worked for the Missouri Veterans Commission for 30-so years and I think it should be told. Bill fought all the way through Europe with Patton's Third Army. His feet were a life long problem after suffering frostbite during the Battle of the Bulge, where he was involved in hand-to-hand combat. He was among the first to liberate a Nazi Death Camp and a P O W camp. With the passing of Bill Likens, we have lost one of he Greatest of "The Great Generation."

Ken Lipps

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Ken Lipps - May 29, 2020 at 02:32 PM