



## William L. Merritt

March 17, 1922 - August 30, 2023

William L. Merritt age 101, of Hamilton, passed away Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at U.C. Medical Center, Cincinnati. He was born in Union Town, Ohio on March 17, 1922, the son of James and Marjorie (Lee) Merritt. He graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was a World War 11 Veteran serving in the Army Air Corps. He married Norma M. Griffiths on September 15, 1945 in St. Clairsville, Ohio. He was a member of several organizations including: the Hamilton Kiwanis Club, the Public Utility Commission, and the Presbyterian Church. He was active at Berkeley Square Retirement Community for over 20 years. He was known for walking a mile each day, playing bridge, and visiting with friends. He is survived by children Jeanne (Bill) Kincer, Hamilton, OH, Kathy Diorio, Lower Macungie, PA, and William J. Merritt, Naples, FL; grandchildren, Deanna (Pete) Bosco, Saucon Valley, PA, Kurt (Sunny) Umlauf, Phoenix, AZ, Mark Umlauf, Hamilton, OH, and Casey Kincer (Dr. Shannon Morgan) Hamilton, OH; great grandchildren, Melissa, Alexandra Bosco, Saucon Valley, PA and Jackson Umlauf, Alamogorda, NM, Shaylyn Umlauf, Phoenix, AZ; brother, Richard (Linda) Merritt and sister Lois Barr; sisters in law Lois Keller and Katherine Moravick; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Norma Merritt; brothers, James Bentley Merritt, Robert Merritt, John Merritt; and a sister, Helene Hart. Burial will be in Rose Hill Burial Park. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at The Presbyterian Church, 23 S. Front Street, Hamilton, Ohio, 45011 with Dr.

John H. Lewis officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to The Presbyterian Church. Online condolences are available at [www.weigelfuneralhome.com](http://www.weigelfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

SEP 9. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

The Presbyterian Church  
23 S. Front Street  
Hamilton, OH 45013

# Tribute Wall

DS

“ 2nd LT William L. Merritt - William reported to the 493rd BG, at McCook Army Air Field, NE, on 2 February 1944 and was assigned as the 863rd BS Engineering Officer. On 7 May, William departed McCook as a passenger on the B-17G piloted by LT COL Shepler W. Fitzgerald, Jr, for a flight to the East Coast. Then across the North Atlantic to England where he arrived at Debach on 31 May 1944. William was promoted to 1st LT on 5 August 1944, and to Captain on 1 April 1945. William passed away on August 30, 2023, at the age of 101, in Hamilton, OH.

*On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Fighting 493rd Bombardment Group Memorial Association and all of its members, I would like to pass on our condolences to all of William's family and friends. William was truly a member of our "Greatest Generation."*

*David Schmitt  
493rd BG Historian*

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**David Schmitt** - October 17, 2023 at 08:45 PM

EM

“ I loved his gentle demeanor, warmth and wide, ready smile. I know he has done many amazing things in his long, independent life, but the thing that touches my heart the most, was that he made the trip from Hamilton to Dayton in the middle of January to attend my Mother's funeral at 98 years of age. Our loss is heaven's gain. I will miss him greatly!

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**Erin Morgan** - September 08, 2023 at 11:52 PM

BW

“ *Bella W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William L. Merritt.*

**Bella W.** - September 08, 2023 at 07:25 PM

LD

“ *Sending my deepest sympathy to Kathy, Deanna and extended family. Your dad/grandpa was an amazing person and you were so lucky to have had him in your lives. I will always treasure the time spent with you Deanna, in Ohio with your grandparents when we were teenagers. Lots of memories to look back on, as they always made sure we had a fun filled time when visiting. They were simply the best. May you all find comfort in happy memories. So sorry for your loss.*

**Linda Davis** - September 06, 2023 at 05:46 PM

AB

“ *One of my cherished friends for more than 70 years—a sterling character in every respect. Allegra Brown*

**Allegra Brown** - September 04, 2023 at 10:20 AM

4E

“ *Sincerest condolences from all of the volunteers at the 493rd BG museum.  
William served as Squadron Engineering Officer for the 863rd BS overseeing the maintenance and repair of both B-24s and B-17s during WWII*

*Rest in Peace*

**493rd BG Museum, Debach, England** - September 03, 2023 at 03:00 PM

JK

“ Having pursued my engineering degree from The Ohio State University as well, I absolutely loved talking to Uncle Bill at our family gatherings. He always had so many wonderful memories to share about both work and Ohio State. I also remember one time Bill, Norma and my Grandma Lois all drove over to Indiana to visit me shortly after I moved here, this was maybe 20 years ago. I remember after spending some time at the house, we went to Applebee's and had lunch and extended conversation. This was such a surprise visit and it is a great memory. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Much love, Jason

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**Jason Keller** - September 01, 2023 at 03:30 PM

CK

“ Our love and prayers are with the family. Uncle Bill was a truly special man, so many fond memories. All these years he was always our first Christmas card, always with a note. Just those little things that you always remember. Hold fast to the memories. Our love and sympathy, Charlie & Carole

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**Carole A. Keller** - September 01, 2023 at 02:47 PM