

William E. "Bill" Gergen

February 13, 1949 - September 12, 2025

William Eugene Gergen was born to Harold William & R. Maxine (Cook) Gergen on February 13, 1949 in Hebron, Nebraska. He died on September 12, 2025 at CHI Health St. Elizabeth in Lincoln, Nebraska at the age 76 years, 6 months, and 30 days.

Bill, as he was affectionately known, was raised on the family farm southeast of Geneva. He graduated from Geneva Public School with the class of 1967. He furthered his education earning a bachelor's degree in animal science.

Bill began his life-long journey showing sheep in 1963. It was a labor of love that resulted in numerous awards over the years including 2004 National Champion Shropshire, 2007 Reserve Grand Champion at Shropshire Nationals, 2008 Reserve Junior Champion Suffolk Ram, and 2018 Final Drive Grand Champion overall Suffolk Ram and best headed Suffolk Ram. Final Drive was one of his greatest accomplishments in breeding and raising sheep, and it was a fitting award as it was his last year on the sheep showing circuit.

Bill's passion was to mentor youth in the sheep industry. He crossed the country numerous times to many state fairs with over 8 different breeds of sheep. He truly cared for his sponsors that allowed him to show their sheep and become part of their families. Bill loved the life he led and had no regrets about it.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Maxine and twin brothers, Paul & Howard Gergen.

He is survived by his sister, Virginia Gergen of Geneva, Nebraska and his adopted sheep-son, Noel Olson and wife Shannon of Warner, Oklahoma.

A Graveside Service for Bill was held on Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Geneva, Nebraska. Father Harlan Waskowiak presided over the Graveside Service.

The songs "The Gambler," "Angels Too Close To The Ground," "God Bless The USA," and "On The Road Again" were played during the Graveside Service.

Pallbearers included Noel Olson, Carl Olson, Darin Engle, Travis Snyder, Tom Willwerth, and Tom Gillmore. Honorary Pallbearers included Terry Schrick, Roger Snyder, Chris Nun, Dakota Nun, Blake Nun, Caleb Nun, Steve George, George Hornberger, Jerry Engle, Joyce Burhnam, Tom Swearingen, Rocky Swearingen, Rich Gillmore, Mike Mann, Rodney Martin, Donnie Sellers, and Nolan O'Brien.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery

Geneva, NE 68361

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 19. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home
242 N 10th Street
Geneva, NE 68361
(402) 759-3617
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Family Present for Visitation

SEP 19. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home
242 N 10th Street
Geneva, NE 68361
(402) 759-3617
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Graveside Service

SEP 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery
Geneva, NE 68361

Tribute Wall

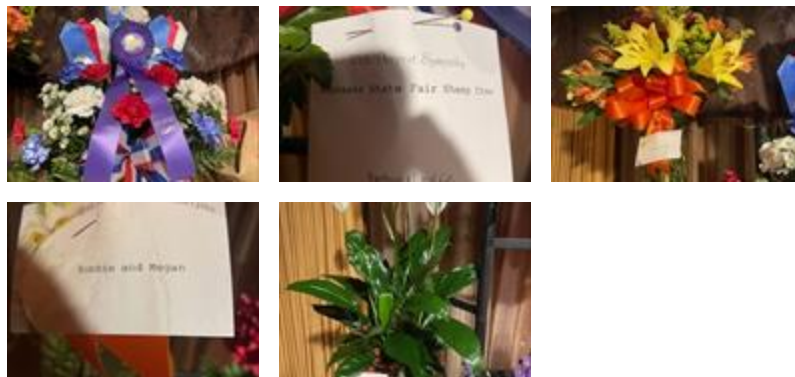


“ Always thought bill was a nice guy always friendly . I know he caught some flack about his career but good for him god bless.

larry larsen - September 27, 2025 at 10:06 AM



“ 20 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - September 20, 2025 at 09:44 AM



“ Tom Burke planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William E. "Bill" Gergen.

Tom Burke - September 19, 2025 at 12:01 PM



“ Tom Burke purchased the Rose Tribute for the family of William E. "Bill" Gergen.



Tom Burke - September 19, 2025 at 12:01 PM

MS

“ *Mark & Sarah lit a candle in memory of William Gergen*



Mark & Sarah - September 19, 2025 at 07:50 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William E. "Bill" Gergen.*



September 18, 2025 at 10:33 AM

SA

“ *Stephanie and Angela purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of William E. "Bill" Gergen.*



Stephanie and Angela - September 17, 2025 at 11:26 PM

VY

“ *Verlene Yates lit a candle in memory of William Gergen*



Verlene Yates - September 17, 2025 at 09:03 PM

BB

“ For nearly all of my life Bill was a permanent fixture at all the major shows and sales. Bill always had lots to share, with a lot of practical advice mixed in every conversation! Bill was grounded and passionate about his beliefs.

I am thankful that I watched Bill proudly exhibit and win Iowa and National Champion Ram with "Final Drive", a fitting tribute for a lifetime of showing at a National Level.

Bill will always be fondly remembered and sadly missed. I am happy to have called Bill my friend.

Barry Bruce

Barry Bruce - September 17, 2025 at 11:57 AM

KT

“ Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of William Gergen



Kent & Rose Theobald - September 15, 2025 at 08:01 PM

MM

“ I first met Bill at the Ozark Empire Fair in the late 1960's or early 70's. For 60 some years Bill has been my very close friend and at times little brother. We traveled and competed with each other in a group of guys who loved sheep. I have stayed a the Gergen's many times. Bill laid over with us when we lived in Utah. One particular memory: while fitting Wankier sale sheep in Des Moines a yearling ewe kicked Bill's clippers breaking a flare comb, the result was a folding chair thrown several feet establishing a "chair in flight record". Bill you left too soon say HI to the guys.

Mike Mann - September 15, 2025 at 07:56 PM

AA

“ Bill was one of a kind. Our family showed sheep against The Gergen family for many years. Always a good time and memorable one. May you rest in peace
Arne & Ruth (Sandhill Suffolks)

Arne & Ruth Anderson - September 15, 2025 at 06:40 PM

SL

“ Bill-you always had us laughing and yes shaking our heads at time, but I would NEVER want a state fair to be any different! You loved to share your sheep knowledge with my kids and two pics I took back in '15 at the state fair showed that. Rest easy my friend.
~Littlefield family



Susan Littlefield - September 15, 2025 at 11:34 AM

HR

“ *Holly Rippe lit a candle in memory of William Gergen*



Holly Rippe - September 15, 2025 at 10:33 AM

MS

“ *Spent many county fairs, state fairs and Aksarben shows with Bill. Him shearing our sheep 🐑 on our farm. Good man!*

Merle Swartz - September 15, 2025 at 01:07 AM

BR

“ *Bill was a great sheep man. He would take our sheep across the country and bring them back in, as good or better condition. The best time we had was in 1999 when we had champion and res champion rams at Louisville Kentucky. Bill and I would talk about sheep on our birthday phone call.*

Bill Riley - September 14, 2025 at 08:02 PM