



## William Theodore VanSpankeren

October 13, 1933 - July 18, 2022

Sun City, AZ resident, passed away peacefully in his sleep into the arms of Jesus, surrounded by loved ones in the home he shared with his longtime companion of 21 years, Pamela Reid Katz.

William was born in Chicago, IL to Herman and Marjorie (Patty) VanSpankeren.

He attend the Illinois School for the Deaf 9(I.S.D.) at age of 9 in 1942 until his graduation in 1954. This is where he met his future wife, Sherilyn Joanne Myers, and countless others who became lifelong friends

He had a passion for sports and excelled at baseball, basketball, football and track. In 1953, he, along with fellow athletes from the I.S.D., flew to Brussels, Belgium to take part in the Deaflympics. Their basketball team won the bronze medal and William score 44 points. He also place 6th in the 100M track event. In recognition of his athletic prowess, William was induced into the Hall of Fame by Alumni Association at the I.S.D. in 1994.

He was incredibly involved with the Chicago Club of the Deaf. He was an avid poker player and enjoyed the weekend poker games with his friends there. One of his favorite hobbies was bowling. He entered bowling tournaments across the country and did very well. He proudly bowled a perfect "300" game on April 5, 1994.

After retired from his job as a printer, he moved to Arizona where he kept busy by becoming an Uber driver. Driving was a perfect way to keep busy and help others while doing something he loved. He was co-founder for the bocce league for the deaf seniors 9 years ago.

He was exceptionally talented in many things. He was an innovative electrician, carpenter and problem solver. He enjoyed hunting with his sons and highlights of his life included road trip vacations with his family.

William and Sherilyn were blessed with 5 children, 13 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

William is survived by his three daughters, Jody Lyn (Victor) Commons, Darla Kay (Russell) Trebilco and Lynette Marie (Warren) Tischer. He was preceded in death by, his parents, Sherilyn, his eldest son Timothy Jon (Laura) and his younger son, James Herman. His death was also preceded, sadly, by two grandchildren, Seth VanSpankeren and Amber VanSpankeren, his daughter-in-law, Laura and sons-in-law Victor and Warren.

He will be missed and loved by Pamela Katz and her family.

We will all miss his joy-filled smile that would light up a room, his positive outlook on life and easy-going nature.