



# William R Schlenkert

November 24, 1950 - April 13, 2026

Nature's first green is gold,  
Her hardest hue to hold.  
Her early leaf's a flower;  
But only so an hour.  
Then leaf subsides to leaf.  
So Eden sank to grief,  
So dawn goes down to day.  
Nothing gold can stay. - Robert Frost

# Tribute Wall

DD

“ *In Loving Memory of Bill*

*I met Bill back in Lombard, Illinois, at the Blue Suede shoes nightclub. He was the bouncer—the tough guy at the door—and while he was there to keep order, he ended up stealing a heart. I remember so clearly how smitten Barb was from the very start. It didn't matter that Bill was a little older or a little shorter; to Barb, he was exactly the man she was looking for.*

*They say you don't truly know someone until you've shared a thousand miles of highway with them. I will never forget that marathon road trip from Lombard to Las Vegas. It was the kind of journey that only true friends can survive, filled with laughs, cramped legs, and maybe a little smelly along the way. That trip wasn't just for fun; it was the beginning of the beautiful life Bill and Barb built together, a life so vibrant that Barb's family eventually followed them out there.*

*If you knew Bill, you knew his mouth. Bill was a man who never had a filter, and honestly, we wouldn't have had him any other way. You never quite knew what was going to come out next, but you could bet it would be hilariously blunt and uniquely Bill. He had a way of saying exactly what everyone else was thinking but was too polite to voice, and he kept us all laughing for decades.*

*Most importantly, Bill kept Barb happy. For so many years, he was her rock, her partner in crime, and her greatest source of joy. For that alone, I will always be grateful to him. Bill, we are going to miss you deeply. Your stories and your spirit are woven into the fabric of our lives. To Barb: Please know that we are standing right here beside you. Just as we traveled those miles to Vegas together, we are here to walk this next journey with you, in any and every way you need.*

*Debbie*

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**Debbie Dollar** - April 17 at 02:51 PM