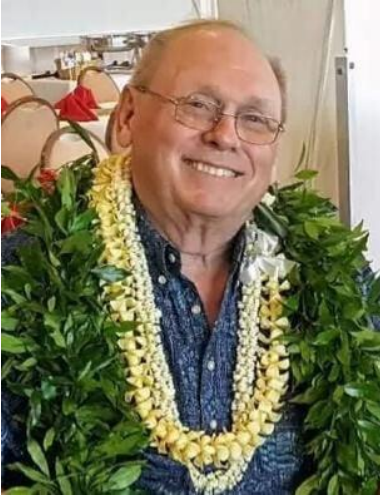


William Roy Fannemel



William Roy Fannemel, known to many as Bill, passed away peacefully at the age of 87 on July 2, 2025, in Peoria, Arizona. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and veteran, Bill lived a life marked by service, strength, and deep love for his family. Born on March 14, 1938, in Brainerd, Minnesota, Bill was raised in Aitkin by his parents, Roy and Jesse Fannemel, both of whom preceded him in death. He graduated from Aitkin High School in 1956 and earned an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, graduating in 1960.

Bill went on to serve with distinction in the United States Air Force. In 1965, he completed pilot training in Selma, Alabama, and was assigned to the RF-4 Phantom in South Carolina. During a reconnaissance mission in 1966 over Vietnam, his aircraft was shot down. He was rescued and returned home safely—an experience that reflected both the courage and humility with which he lived his life. After retiring from military service, Bill turned his energy and leadership toward real estate development. He began his second career in Honolulu, Hawaii, and later continued in project development across Asia. Throughout his life, Bill remained active and curious, with a deep appreciation for new experiences and cultures.

Bill was an avid golfer and fisherman who cherished quiet time on the course or by the water. But more than anything, he loved time spent with his family—sharing stories, celebrating milestones, and building a life rooted in faith, loyalty, and love. On June 25, 1960, Bill married Nobleene Kauhane Fannemel, the love of his life. Just days before his passing, they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary, a beautiful testament to their enduring bond.

He is survived by Nobleene and their five children: Shawn Ah Nee (and spouse Bud), Tracy Campbell-Fannemel, Nani Van Valin (and spouse Scott), Billy (and spouse Caitlin), and Will (and spouse Stephanie). Bill was a proud grandfather to 13 grandchildren, with Jasmine being his first and oldest granddaughter, and 8 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Richard Fannemel. Bill's presence in the lives of those who knew him was a gift—steadfast, quick-witted, funny, a gifted storyteller and was considered an expert in the art of talking smart. His life was a remarkable story of service, sacrifice, and steadfast love.

Aitkin Age