



William Allen

March 22, 1938 - May 23, 2026

William Bernard Allen, 88, retired animal keeper at Lincoln Park Zoo, lifetime resident of Chicago's Northside, passed away Saturday, May 23, 2026.

Bill grew up enjoying riding his bicycle, going to movie theaters, and watching Cubs games. He graduated from Lane High School and went straight to work. After eighteen years working in the shipping and receiving department at Master Electric appliance repair, Bill got a civil service job as a zookeeper at Lincoln Park Zoo. He enjoyed the job immensely and worked in almost every habitat. Despite his meticulousness, Bill received a hoof print to the chest from a mule kick and was bitten by Donna the Chimpanzee, for which he only received 13 stitches, knowing better than to yank his hand away. Bill retired in 2012, all of his digits intact, after 38 years of service.

Beloved husband of 45 years to Ami Louise Allen (nee Will).

Loving father of William Patrick (Bonnie) Allen, Robert James (Jennifer) Allen, Alida Marie Woods (nee Allen), and Elizabeth Anne Mehringer (nee Allen).

Proud grandfather of Devin Lynn (Matthew) Carroll (nee Allen), Westin James Allen, Jesse Allen, Steven Paul Manley III, and Stephanie Nicole Manley. Great-grandfather of Sienna, Skylah, Scotti, and Oliver. Half-brother of Barbara (partner Michael) Allen.

Preceded in death by parents Elizabeth Georgia Allen (nee Guyer) and Raymond Allen and biological father Theodore Bernard Weber.

Faithful companion of Maybelle the dog and many other late pets.

Future burial of cremated remains at Rosehill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to Lincoln Park Zoo, www.lpzoo.org.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-370-2959 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.