



Bill was born on February 10, 1927 in Lanesville Township where he was raised on the farm by his parents Alda and Elmer. He attended Ray School and later Smith School. Both were one room schools with one teacher for all eight grades. After graduating from Tri-City High School in Buffalo, he worked at the ammunition plant in Illiopolis and helped his dad with the farming operation. In 1946 Bill enlisted in the 11th Airborne Division as a paratrooper and served in Japan for two years. Upon his return he and Peggy rented a farm in Bethany where they farmed for several years. They moved back to Lanesville in 1952 and have farmed there ever since. Bill and Peggy raised corn, beans, hogs, cattle, and four children.

Bill was one of the founders of the Mechanicsburg Bank. He was a board member of Illini Bank, Sangamon County Farm Bureau, Pork Producers, Mechanicsburg

Farmers Grain, and Illiopolis School Board. On July 23, 2012 Bill & Peggy will celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary. They enjoy spending time with the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

2012 Recipient
Bill Etherton
Buffalo, Illinois