



William "Bill" Wayne McGinnis

September 24, 1923 - February 7, 2016

William "Bill" Wayne McGinnis, 92, of Bloomington passed away at IU Health-Bloomington Hospice House.

Bill was born in Sulphur Springs, Texas on September 24, 1923 to William and Fannie (Morgan) McGinnis. Bill served in the US Navy during WWII. He was a prominent businessman in Dallas for many years. He was a member of the Ellettsville First United Methodist Church, a Master Mason, and member of many other organizations. Bill was an amazing example of love for his fellow man and generosity to anyone in need. His curiosity and thirst for knowledge kept him young to the end. He was proud to have loved twice and married two amazing woman. Of all his accolades, he considered that his highest accomplishment. This poem by Robert Browning mirrors his philosophy.

"Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be. The last for which the first was made. Our times are in his hand, who saith a whole I planned, youth shows but half; trust God, see all, nor be afraid."

He was preceded in death by his parents and first wife, Shirley (Parsons) McGinnis.

Bill is survived by his daughters, Charlotte Cheatham of Houston, TX and Helen Pillifant (Randy) of Austin, TX; three grandchildren, Donna Cheatham, Brooke Lancaster, and Reid Pillifant; his wife, Virginia (Abrahm) Chitwood-

McGinnis; 2 step-daughters, Trudy Bastin (Phil) and Lana May (Ralph) all of Bloomington; 3 step-grandchildren, April Waxler, Rachele Michaels, and Ben Bastin; and 7 great-step-grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at Chandler Funeral Home at 2:00 p.m. with Dr. Art Collins officiating. Military Honors will be provided by the Monroe County Honor Guard. Visitation will be at the funeral home on Thursday from Noon until time of services.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the IU Health-Bloomington Hospice House, 2810 S. Deborah Drive, Bloomington, IN 47403

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 11. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Chandler Funeral Homes - Ellettsville Chapel
203 E. Temperance Street
Ellettsville, IN 47429
(812) 876-6075
chandlerfh@bluemarble.net
<https://www.chandlerfh.com>

Memorial Service

FEB 11. 2:00 PM (ET)

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203 E. Temperance Street
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Tribute Wall

LM

“ *Bill was the best stepfather I could ever have imagined. He gave me respect and love and the desire to be a better person. He was so appreciative of everything that it was such fun to make him his favorite food or do anything to make his life easier. He spread joy and goodwill wherever he went. I will always consider myself fortunate to have been part of his family. The hole in our hearts he has left behind will only be filled with special memories.*

lana may - February 13, 2016 at 01:06 PM

CT

“ I had only one opportunity to really talk with Bill at any length. I wish I had more. Bill was a wonderful man and a solid member of the "Greatest Generation." We talked of his naval service in WWII. Bill participated in one of the most important naval engagements of the entire Pacific war, yet he was very humble concerning his service.

The actions of the small task force in which Bill's ship served saved the lives of thousands of U.S. GI's in October 1944. These GI's were in danger of being slaughtered as the Imperial Japanese Navy sought to shell the the beaches of Leyte Gulf as the U.S. Army sought to recapture the Philippines.

Bill's ship was part of a small task force, known as "Taffy 3," and their exploits are the stuff of legend. Facing almost certain death, they bravely attacked the main battle force of the Japanese Navy despite being totally outmatched in terms of numbers of ships and firepower. The courage and bravery of such men as Bill drove off the vastly superior Japanese force in historical fashion. I've seen the story told on the American Heroes Channel several times. It is one of the most important events in the history of the U.S. Navy.

Ironically my father was also in the navy and participated in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Bill and his generation did our country such great service and all of us are indebted to their bravery and sacrifices.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bill's wife Virginia and her daughters Trudy and Lana.

God bless and Godspeed!!!

*Craig & Sherry Thomas
Spencer, Indiana*

Craig and Sherry Thomas - February 11, 2016 at 07:57 AM



“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Wayne McGinnis.*



February 11, 2016 at 01:41 AM



“ *I'm so sorry such a magnificent man is gone from so many people's lives. Bill and his family have been special friends to me for so many years and I will miss him being just a phone call or email away. I will never forgot the fun times we had and the spot he filled in my life. Condolences to his Texas and Indiana family. Rest in peace, Billy Bill.*

Jackie Little and husband, Domingo Ramirez

Jackie Little - February 10, 2016 at 11:13 AM



“ *We are so sorry to learn of Bill's passing. He was a true gentleman. Our condolences to the entire family. T Rex and April Legler*

April Legler - February 10, 2016 at 09:11 AM



“ *I was so impressed after having lunch with you and Aunt Virginia. You are truly a remarkable man and such a gentleman. We were honored to have you in the family.*

Connie Young

Connie Young - February 09, 2016 at 06:30 PM

SN

“ We didn't have the chance to spend much time with Bill but it didn't take much time to realize what a caring thoughtful man he was. We send our thoughts and prayers to my aunt Virginia and to all of Bill's family. Sherry and Ronnie



Sherry Nowell - February 09, 2016 at 09:30 AM

AF

I'm so sorry I never had the privilege of meeting Bill, but I feel as though I knew him by the wonderful stories that Trudy told me.....especially about how good he was to Virginia and her family. Trudy's family is very special to me and my heart goes out to every one of them.

Annie Goodson Frye

Annie Goodson Frye - February 09, 2016 at 07:15 PM