



William "Billy" E. Dingman

October 30, 1945 - October 2, 2024

William E. Dingman "Billy" to all who knew him, of Winter Park, Florida, peacefully passed away on October 2, 2024, at the age of 78. Born on October 30, 1945 in Norwood, Mass., he spent his early years in Sharon, Mass., and it was there that he learned to work on cars at his father's gas station. In 1959, the family moved to Orlando, FL. Getting his first motorcycle at the age of 14 he worked while in high school as a mechanic and he later graduated from Evans High School. About this time, he, also, began racing in the SCCA series. He attended Orlando Junior College. Soon, the excitement of cars steered Billy to employment at a dealership as a service writer. Wanting to advance his career, he moved to Contemporary Cars as a salesman and before long he became the youngest Sales Manager in the US for Mercedes-Benz. In 1972, still racing, he won the Mid-Ohio Camel Trophy Race, IMSA. Dingman Brothers Racing Team with the sponsorship of Valvoline found success, racing The Daytona 24 Hour Race, Sebring, winning the Budweiser Grand Prix of Miami 1984, winning the 1987 Grand Prix of Miami, and others, eventually, racing in NASCAR from 82-91, and later pro stock racing becoming National Champion in ADRL in 2006 and 2009. With hard work and a bit of luck, Billy purchased the Volvo Store in Winter Park in 1974 with the philosophy of honesty, cleanliness, and customer service. Soon the parent company, The Dingman Group, grew to include: the purchase of the Imported Car Store (now Melbourne BMW and Prestige Volkswagen) located in Melbourne, FL., Southeastern Honda in Palm Bay, FL., Dingman

Petroleum, the largest Valvoline distributor in Florida, the Winter Park Marine boat store, and Real Estate Investments. In 2024, the Volvo Store celebrated the milestone of 50 years as a successful business, a tribute to Billy's and his team's hard work and determination. Due to his success, Billy was able to be a quiet patron and philanthropist for many charities, foundations, the arts, and much more in his community. He truly was a quiet Guardian Angel to many. Although from humble beginnings, Bill made a successful life for himself and his family and leaves behind a remarkable legacy. He was a member of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church and he deeply loved Our Lord. He was preceded in death by his parents, William W. Dingman and Dina Botti Dingman; and his nephews, Trevor Dingman and Michael Sheridan. Survived by his wife, Debra L. Wert; his daughters, Sunny Dingman and Billie Azarnia (Simon); grandson, Henry Azarnia; sisters, Mary and Naomi Dingman; brother, Richard Dingman; nephew, Tyler Dingman; niece, Stacy Sheridan, and great-nieces, Hayden Nicolette and Ember Paolo. Billy will be greatly missed by his family and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105 or call (800) 822-6344 as a memorial to Billy. Funeral Services to be held at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, 526 N. Park Ave. Winter Park, FL 32789, on Wednesday, October 16th, 2024 at 10:30 AM.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

OCT **16**. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church
526 North Park Ave
Winter Park, FL 32789

Tribute Wall

JB

“ I was a server at Flemings for years. Mr. Dingman and his wife Debbie would always come see me on Friday nights. Mr. Dingman always treated me with kindness and respect and tipped me more than generously. They became like family to me and I am saddened to learn of this. I hope his wife and family are doing ok. I looked forward every week to making him happy. He was a great person.

Joseph Van Bommel - November 02, 2024 at 07:14 PM

LM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lynn McCormick - November 02, 2024 at 01:52 AM

LM

Billy and My Daddy, Doyle McCormick.

Lynn McCormick - November 02, 2024 at 07:05 PM

TK

“ I worked at the Volvo store for years started as an 18-year-old doing dealer trades to Miami and I think my last gig was probably stewardess for Dirtbag Airlines when we flew the ladies from Valvoline in Atlanta down to a particular type of bar in Orlando. Billy was a great guy and will be missed dearly, my sympathy to all his wonderful family .

Tammy Kifner - October 17, 2024 at 04:53 PM

SH

“ I met Billy in Spring of 1979. I had applied for a position, as Bookkeeper, for The Volvo Store. I moved to Orlando, with my two sons, the previous September. I worked for Billy and Richie for ten years, becoming their Controller after “Big Al” and his management team moved to their new dealership, in Maitland. We were a family, less than 30 employees, at The Volvo Store. I was there for Dingman Racing, Dingman Air, Dingman Petroleum, Winter Park Marine, Dingman Brothers Service Station and Southeastern Honda. We had many, many cook-outs, Friday evening TGIF parties, Christmas parties, and company picnics. I became a grandmother while there. Billy used to call me down to his office(Harper’s) to discuss things. I talked with Billy about three years ago, after I had picked up my new Honda Passport from Southeastern Honda. Billy couldn’t say enough about his wonderful wife, that he knew I would like her. I have always considered Billy and Richie brothers and, even though we would go years without seeing one another, the bond was there. All my love to my Dingman family - Sally

Sally Schubert Haas - October 16, 2024 at 12:23 PM

CT

“ Billy was a Winter Park legend. I took the last photo of he and Richie for my 20th Anniversary Edition of Chart magazine recently. He always generously supported people in his circle in this community. I worked for The Dingman Group in my late 20s in their in-house ad agency and other marketing projects over the years. If I had written his memoir, it would be a best-seller. He was one-of-a-kind and a star among us. He will be missed. Casey Tennyson

Casey Tennyson - October 16, 2024 at 08:46 AM

TF

“ The Prado Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of William "Billy" E. Dingman.



The Prado Family - October 15, 2024 at 04:33 PM

ML

“ Michael L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Billy" E. Dingman.

Michael L. - October 15, 2024 at 03:55 PM

TR

“ Tina and Chris Ruocco planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Billy" E. Dingman.

Tina and Chris Ruocco - October 15, 2024 at 02:51 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of William "Billy" E. Dingman.



October 15, 2024 at 10:47 AM

TM

“ *The Molloy's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Billy" E. Dingman.*

The Molloy's - October 15, 2024 at 10:47 AM

FD

“ *My deepest condolences to all of Billy's family. He was a quiet giant and will be missed. Frank DeToma*

Frank DeToma - October 14, 2024 at 09:07 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William "Billy" E. Dingman.*



October 13, 2024 at 09:25 PM

RL

“ *Rae Lovenbury planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Billy" E. Dingman.*

Rae Lovenbury - October 13, 2024 at 09:25 PM

AL

“ *Richie, Mary and Naomi,
Sincere condolences...*

Ann Renzulli Lake

Ann R Lake - October 13, 2024 at 06:05 PM

SP

“ *Billy was like a diamond with many facets, but he was a friend.*



We met off and on over the years. We really got to know each other when he started the Volvo Store and I started to work at Harpers.

I was a waitress in the lounge. When I didn't have any customers I would call Billy and say there is no one here. Billy would bring the whole crew in.

I think he was living at the store, working to build the business.

I could probably write a book about some of his antics as other people but that would be volume.

Billy was a good friend. He saw me through some tough times with morale support and words of wisdom.

He would say you are going to be ok kid and I was.

Billy lived life to the fullest. Rest in peace my friend.

Susan(Butler) Palmer

Susan Palmer - October 13, 2024 at 04:30 PM

DW

“ *Billy was a wonderful quiet inspiration to so many. He will be surely missed. But his legacy lives on. Danny Williams*

Danny Williams - October 12, 2024 at 09:33 AM