



William Louis Will

March 3, 1942 - September 13, 2018

William “Bill” Louis Will, age 76, died Thursday, September 13, 2018, after a short struggle with leukemia, at his home in Lake Mary, Florida. He was comforted by the Last Rites of the Church and surrounded by family. Bill was born in Colon, Panama Canal Zone on March 3, 1942 to Raymond Will and Irene Laurie Will. His grandparents moved from New York City in 1915 to work on the newly opened Panama Canal.

Bill was a 1960 graduate of Cristobal High School in Coco Solo, Panama Canal Zone. He got his BS degree in Economics from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, then transferred to the University of Florida for his graduate studies in Education. Bill interrupted his studies for three years, when he volunteered to attend the US Marines’ Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Virginia. After graduation, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and went on to serve as a Marine combat commander in Vietnam in 1968.

Upon completing his military service, Bill moved back to his birthplace in the Canal Zone to be a Spanish and Social Studies teacher at Cristobal High School and also a high school football and baseball coach. There he met and married his wife Patricia Urdinola. Upon his retirement from the Panama Canal Zone in 1999 he moved to Lake Mary, FL with his family.

Bill was voted “Friendliest” by his senior class in High School and was known

for that friendliness for all of his life. He was loved as well by his classmates, students and student athletes, many of whom he stayed in contact with throughout his life. He was an avid golfer.

Bill was a devout Catholic who loved the Latin Mass. He lived his life in service to God and to his Church, his family and his country. His funeral Mass will be held at 2 PM Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at St. Thomas More Church, 550 Riverview Avenue, Sanford, FL. 32771. He will be buried in All Souls Catholic Cemetery also in Sanford.

He is survived by his loving wife, Patricia Urdinola of Cali, Colombia; daughters Christine Will de Medeiros Alves (Alvaro), and granddaughters Gloria, Julia and Maria of Lake Mary, FL; Karina Will Cruz (Jonathan) and grandchildren Sophia and Nathan of Kissimmee, FL; he was predeceased by his son Michael. His twin brother Jim Will (Dale) of The Villages, FL, brothers Robert Will (Denise) of Ormond Beach, FL and Gary Will of Aliso Viejo, CA and sisters Lauray Will Griffin of Jacksonville, FL and Darnell Will Lopez of Panama City, Panama.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested donations be sent to the St. Thomas More Priory Building Fund at St. Thomas More Priory, 500 Riverview Avenue, Sanford, FL 32771.

Cemetery Details

All Souls Catholic Cemetery

W. 25th St. and Hardy Ave.
Sanford, FL 32773

Previous Events

A Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **19**. 2:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
550 Riverview Ave
Sanford, FL 32771

Tribute Wall

GK

“ *Bill Will gave so much to his family, friends and students. He will always be remembered by his Canal Zone family. We will miss you , loved and you will always be in our hearts.* ”

Glenda Kochel - August 29, 2019 at 09:04 PM



“ *Coach Will was tough as nails. He easily ran everyday to Galeta and back with his soccer team. He always amazed me! I hope that his family finds comfort now, during their grief. He was a great man!* ”

Tonya Batizy-Penney - October 24, 2018 at 12:26 AM

JT

“ *My thoughts and prayers to the family of Mr. Will. A great teacher, role model and friend.* ”

Jody Todhunter

Jody Todhunter - October 01, 2018 at 06:34 PM

YR

“ *I remember watching the space shuttle launch in Mr Wills class. Mr. Will was a calm and reasonable teacher, held us to a standard and was easy to talk to. His daughter Christine is a dear friend of mine and my heart goes out to her and her mother and family. Both our moms are Columbians.... something we had in common. The Will family is a faith filled family and I know God will comfort them at their time of grief. Love you all. Yecenia “Jesse” Riley and family* ”

yecenia riley - September 30, 2018 at 04:06 AM



“Xavier "Musketeers" here is my story about Mr. Will. All my sisters had him in History class. I was the last one and I began to ask him about his college years. To my surprise he had gone to the University of Xavier in Cincinnati, Ohio. The same city my family was going to move too. My intentions was to attend Xavier, but I need a letter of recommendation from a teacher and who better than him who attended Xavier. He wrote an incredible endorsement for me and I was accepted to his alma mater. I may be the only student that has this in common with him. He will never be forgotten, his legacy will continue because he was a man of God. Throughout the years, I kept looking for Mr. Will but I could not find him and believe me I kept looking for him just to say one last time how much I appreciate what he did for me. I think this is the way in some aspect that I must say thank you Mr. Will for your mentorship and most of all for your friendship. I will miss you deeply and regret not seeing you before you left this earth. Rest in Peace Mr. Will, you will live forever in our hearts!!

Adoniram Iglesias - September 29, 2018 at 10:18 PM

MM

“Mr. Will was a great history teacher. He cared about the character of his students and helping to make us not just better students but better people. Sending love and prayers to the family.

Michelle Martin-Shellabarger - September 28, 2018 at 02:00 PM

ND

“Bill Will was a most generous and caring teacher and coach. He loved teaching and having such a positive influence on his students. He was loved by his fellow teachers and friends at CHS and he'll never be forgotten. God bless him. May he rest in peace with the Angels. So sorry for your loss Patty and family.

Nicki Dawson - September 27, 2018 at 05:27 PM



“ *My deepest condolences on your loss. Mr. Will had such an impact on my life; in fact I pursued my degree in History because of him. How I structured my class and the grace that I gave my students was inspired by favorite history teacher. I will always remember him fondly not only as my teacher but a part of the tight knit CHS faculty which I considered my 2nd family. The devoted husband, the loving father and the man of God. As he entered the gates of Heaven, I'm sure he heard Jesus say, "Welcome, my good and faithful servant. " My prayers for Sra. Patty, my dear friend Christine and Karina. Matthew 5:4*

Sandra Renno Williams - September 27, 2018 at 04:50 PM



“ *My heart is breaking right now because my dear friend has gone to be with God in Heaven. He will be missed but know he is in the arms of Our Lord. To my sweet friend, Patty and the rest of his family, know that I loved knowing and being neighbors with the Will's in the Panama Canal Zone. We had some fun times and wonderful adventures with them. Patty....I know Bill and Jerry are enjoying talking about their times teaching at CHS and other things that they enjoyed doing together. God bless you, my sweet friend and your family.*



*All my Love,
Jane Graver*

Jane Graver - September 19, 2018 at 10:01 AM