



William Harry Graves

November 28, 1943 - April 19, 2017

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Bill Graves is known for his outgoing personality, sense of humor, interpersonal insight, commitment to education, advocacy for students and his unconditional love of his family and friends. His personal interests include sports, travel, music, and time spent with friends and family, especially his grandson. Bill was born in Washington, DC on November 28, 1943, the seventh of eight children of Percy Willard Graves and Thelma Money Graves. He attended elementary school in DC and then attended Stoddert Junior High after moving to Maryland. He graduated from Suitland Senior High where he was President of the Chorus and played football. In the fall of 1961, Bill entered Frostburg State College as a history major, played on the first football team and joined Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity in the spring. Campus life at Frostburg made an indelible impact on his personal and professional life. He gained the foundational skills needed to become a successful educator; he began life long relationships with men and women that have spanned 50+ years as well as meeting Barbara, his wife of 49 years.

The importance of friendships developed during his college years led to the formation of a group he initiated after graduation. Pay Day Friday allowed college friends to reunite once a month. This effort has led to 50+ years of family/friendship related gatherings to include annual visits to the Pageant of

Peace, New Year's Eve sleep-overs, St. Patrick's Day celebrations, July 4th events, many dinner gatherings, cruises (Billy and the Cruisers), annual card trips, and visiting the colleges of his friends' children. The group has been inclusive as members encouraged friends of friends to join in on the fun and good times.

Upon his college graduation in 1965, Bill began his career in Prince George's County as a history and civics teacher at Robert Goddard Junior High School. As he was completing his Masters' Degree in Guidance and Counseling, Bill was offered a guidance position at Friendly High School and later at Frederick Douglass and High Point high schools. Seeking to be closer to home in Charles County, Bill accepted a counseling position at John Hanson Middle School and then moved to Thomas Stone High School. He would retire in 2005. Mr. Graves had the unique and enabling experience of being the counselor for a group of students from grade 6 thru grade 12. Maintaining meaningful, positive relationships with students, parents, colleagues and the community were the hallmarks of his career as an educator.

Professionally, his interests spanned the counseling field. College and Career Fairs became a particular area of interest, as he wanted students to begin to prepare for "life after high school." He chaired the National College Fair and was instrumental in the initiation and development of college fairs in Prince Georges and Charles County.

The Alumni Association of Frostburg State University sought his interest and leadership to promote stronger connections between undergraduates and alumni in various fields and occupations. He served on the Board of Directors for more than a decade promoting seminars, mentorships, internships, and personal connections. In 1998, Bill was involved in the conceptualization and development of the Sloop Institute for Excellence in Leadership Development, a campus wide program to identify and develop student leadership potential at

Frostburg. This interest has led to a leadership minor on the campus. Bill has been both speaker and a presenter at Sloop events. He also is part of a team of close friends that organize an annual golf tournament that funds the Weimer Scholarship as part of the Sloop Institute. In 2000, Frostburg recognized him with the Alumni Achievement Award and in 2017 with the Service to Alma Mater Award. In many ways, Bill has never left Frostburg!

In the Graves family, he is known as “Jug” or “Uncle Jug”, short for Jughead, a nickname bestowed by his father. His parents; his brothers, Jack, Bobby and Gene Graves, his sisters, Ruth Locke, Amy Hendrix, and Loys Petr; and his father-in-law, Sidney Renick, predecease him.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara (Renick); his son, Kyle; his grandson, Liam; his sister, Judy Coleman (Joseph Jr); his sisters-in-law, Pauline Graves and Doris Graves; mother-in-law, Margaret Renick; brother-in-law, Barry Renick (Denise); multiple generations of nieces and nephews; and an extended family of close friends.

The ongoing support of family, friends, colleagues and neighbors has been a source of strength during his battle with Post Sepsis Syndrome. Bill wanted to say thank you to those who encouraged and supported him during his illness. His decision was to host a casual thank-you gathering with food and drink. His wish will be honored to celebrate his lifetime of relationships at 2PM on Monday, May 22, 2017, at Middleton Hall, 4045 Renner Rd., Waldorf, MD 20602, 301-870- 1000, www.middletonhall.com. Please refer to facebook.com/bravos2bill to post and share thoughts, comments, stories, and photos. TO ASSIST THE GRAVES' FAMILY IN PLANNING, PLEASE RSVP TO jdratti8@verizon.net (WITH THE NUMBER OF THOSE PLANNING TO ATTEND) NO LATER THAN MAY 10, 2017.

In Bill's honor, donations may be made to the Frostburg State Foundation/Sloop Leadership Institute, c/o Frostburg State University, 101 Braddock Road, Frostburg, MD 21532-2303 or the Charles County Retired School Personnel Association Scholarship Fund, c/o Janice Carpenter, 4303 Rye Drive, Waldorf, MD 20602.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 22. 1:00 PM (ET)

Middleton Hall
4045 Renner Road
Waldorf, MD 20602

Tribute Wall



“ *William Harry Graves*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *William Harry Graves*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *I met Mr. Graves when he became my guidance counselor at Friendly High School. He was such a sweet man and a caring person. I remember him always having a smile to share, whether passing him in the hallway or in his office. My hat's off to you, Mr. G!*

God bless your family and friends as they celebrate your life and miss your presence.

Jeanne Estes

Jeanne Estes Bryers - July 20, 2017 at 01:56 PM



“ *I had was fortunate to have Mr. Graves as one of my teachers in Friendly High School. He was always kind, understanding and always encouraged his students to be the best of the best. I loved how he would have a "quote of the day".*

My prayers are with his family. God Bless.

Mary - May 02, 2017 at 01:28 PM



JB

“ I was his aid for two years at High Point. I loved him. I ran into him in Walmart maybe about a year ago and he still remembered! He was a remarkable man! Rip Mr. Graves!!!

Jean Ellis Bello - April 30, 2017 at 08:31 AM

BT

“ So sorry to hear of Bill's passing. Sending prayers to Barbara and Kyle and the rest of the family.

Beth Thorsen

Beth Thorsen - April 29, 2017 at 10:14 PM

TM

“ RIP Mr. Graves. Thank you from the class of 1975 of friendly High School you were the best. Tom McManus

Tom McManus - April 29, 2017 at 08:13 PM

JA

“ You were our neighbor in Pinefield when we first moved here. We'll always remember you, Barbara and The big ol lovable Sherpdog, Daisy. You were always encouraging considering the choices of curriculum of our son , daughter and grandson over the years. You were a wonderful human being. RIP from 2 Pennsylvtuckians. RIP Bill and deepest sympathies to Barbara and family.

jim & Willa Aurouze - April 28, 2017 at 06:37 PM

DM

“ I was one of those blessed to have had Mr Graves as my high school guidance counselor, graduating from FHS in '81. I can't begin to tell you how much he meant to me. He was a larger than life presence and force in my life. When people ask which teachers most influenced me -Mr Graves was my go-to answer hands down! I've thought of him often and until he moved on from FHS I would pop in just to see him. Needless to say, I was crushed when he no longer worked there. I have no doubt there are so many others, like me, who owe a huge thank you and much gratitude for the time, care and love he devoted to those he cared for in his lifetime. He was a gift to all. My heart is heavy to know he is gone. He will, however, live on all ALL whose lives he touched. God bless Diana (Coon) McGoldrick



Diana (Coon) McGoldrick - April 28, 2017 at 05:03 PM

TC

“ It was a great shock to hear that Bill had passed. I'm send the family my sympathy and prayers. He was a larger than life personality, who left an unforgettable impression wherever he went. He will be missed.
Theresa Chase

Theresa Chase - April 28, 2017 at 04:07 PM

PB

“ I am so sorrowful to hear that Bill has passed. Bill was my mentor and my friend, and I will never forget him...

Phil Bohne - April 25, 2017 at 07:39 AM

FC

“ Frank & Ingrid Culhane lit a candle in memory of William Harry Graves



Frank & Ingrid Culhane - April 24, 2017 at 03:08 PM

MK

“ Marci & Mike Kubick lit a candle in memory of William Harry Graves



Marci & Mike Kubick - April 24, 2017 at 12:28 PM

MK

So very sorry to hear of Bill's passing. Our condolences to Barbara and their family.

Marci Kubick - April 24, 2017 at 12:29 PM

MB

“ Mr. Graves was the guidance counselor at John Hanson when I first came to the county from a very small town in Pennsylvania close to where he and his friends would often hang out . Mr. Graves came by every single day to check on me and to make me feel at home away from home . He continued to be there for me all of my years at Hanson and still holds a very special place in my heart . I pray for God's comfort for Barbara and for Kyle and for all of his family during this difficult time



Michele Bingham - April 21, 2017 at 02:22 PM

James Kersey

“ James Kersey lit a candle in memory of William Harry Graves



James Kersey - April 20, 2017 at 02:51 PM

Kim Padgett

“ I'll never forget his big heart. I was a student of his 6-12th grade. He never denied his open ears or shoulder. He made such an impact on so many people. He will be missed by so many. My prayers are with his family.



Kim Padgett - April 20, 2017 at 12:30 PM

SB

“ Love you so much. Thinking of you, Barbara.

Sabrina Barstow - April 20, 2017 at 12:27 PM

RN

“ Rebecca Neilson lit a candle in memory of William Harry Graves



Rebecca Neilson - April 20, 2017 at 04:55 AM