



Bill Davis

June 6, 1942 - January 13, 2023

Please click this link to view the live stream of his service: <https://mtolivet.org/livestream/>

Arthur Willard "Bill" Davis, Jr., 80, passed away January 13, 2023 from lung cancer.

Bill was born on June 6, 1942, in Graceville, Minnesota, to Art and Elaine Davis. The family settled in Richfield, MN in 1951 which initiated a lifelong connection to the city for Bill, meeting friends that remained close throughout his life.

Upon graduation from RHS in 1960, Bill received his B.S. in Education from the University of Minnesota, where he excelled in baseball and basketball. In 1964, he was named MVP and Captain of the basketball team and was a member of the 1964 baseball National Champion team, earning all-tournament honors. He was awarded the prestigious Big Ten Medal of Honor for his scholarship and athletic prowess by the U of M. He was inducted into the M Club athletic hall of fame in 2002.

Bill went on to play five years of professional baseball for Cleveland and San Diego before his career was cut short by injury. He then built a career in commercial real estate.

He married his wife of 56 years, Margaret "Meg" Fuller, in 1966 and returned to Richfield in 1975 to raise their family. He remained active in the community, helping found the Richfield Spartan Foundation, dedicated to providing funding for student scholarships and co-curricular activities at RHS. He was active in his church, serving multiple terms on the leadership of Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church and decades as an usher for Sunday services. His favorite pastime was fishing with friends and family, especially on the MN Opener and trips to Canada. Bill was most proud of his family and loved to spend time with his grandchildren, attending their various events and gathering at the family cabin on Lake Florida.

Preceded in death by parents, Art and Elaine. Survived by wife, Meg; sons, Drew (Christine) Davis and Ryan (Becky) Davis; sister, Dee (Bob) Joynt; and six grandchildren, Lainey, Brooke, Jenna, Jack, Kel, and Kate.

A memorial service will be held at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis on Friday, January 27, at 1 PM, with visitation one hour prior. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to spartanfoundation.com or mtolivet.org. For those unable to attend in person, a livestream of the service will be available at <http://mtolivet.org/livestream/>

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 27. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (So. Mpls)
5025 Knox Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Memorial Service

JAN 27. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (So. Mpls)
5025 Knox Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Tribute Wall

SS

“ *Bill Davis was more than a Great Athlete and a Great Person he is Mr Richfield to all that new Him. Rest In Peace Bill Steve Stwora*

Steve Stwora - January 27, 2023 at 03:11 PM

AM

“People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel” (Maya Angelou).

To me, Bill was one of those incredible people who will always be remembered by how he made me feel when around him.

Many summers and I believe one winter holiday season in his company as well as with his wife Meg and their children Drew & Ryan, tinted the vacation of us French family with unforgettable precious and joyful memories to cherish.

Like mum said, Bill was "giant" in so many ways. Like my sister Martha said, Bill was the one who taught us both water skiing at the lake cabin him & Meg generously invited us to, on the summers we were coming to America to visiting our American family. We also shared warm laughs over language barriers, learned how to play softball on the concrete road just outside the cabin with our cousins Megan, Margit but also Drew, Ryan, Matthew, Jacob, Tressa & Marly and enjoyed spending time with also Brian & Darla. Later came Rebecca & Christine I am happy I met.

Simple talks and funny stories gathered us all around bond fires on summer nights with smores & marshmallow skewers. Day time picnic lunches made of hot dogs & burgers, bbq pork ribs, potatoe salads and typical US soft drinks such as Dr Pepper, Root Beer and Mountain Dew or even pink lemonade that we couldn't find in France, at the time. 4th of July cookouts and late nights out under the stars lit by fire flies and spark candles on icing cakes. All punctuated by Meg & Bill's abundant love and kindness, always. Bill left a strong emotion print in my heart & mind I will not soon forget. It is difficult writing about him without tears getting in the way of my typing. But what better tears than the kind that are brought by such a wonderful caring and loving person. It is as if the number of years we haven't been overseas and seen each other are not being felt right this moment, leaving all this room for only emotional happy memories.

The strangest thing is despite all this time that has passed, I can still very vividly hear Bill's voice in my head, soft and noticeable at the same time. Bill was fun, strong and calm. He was joyful, playful and

seemed like such a positive and happy person, always. I was only a child then a teen at the times I saw him and so I didn't get to know him on a very deep level but all the same, this is how I remember him fondly.

May the happy special memories his family and friends shared with him during his lifetime, bring them warmth and comfort on these times of sorrow.

I have been with you all by thoughts all of this week and am even more so today, sending loads of love and support. I wish I could be there in person to reminisce together on the wonderful man Bill was and all the good he has spread. I feel grateful that my mum and her dear cousin Meg kept in close touch all those years we lived in France and that they have organized frequent family reunions with all of us cousins, aunts & uncles together so that we could get to know how extraordinary they all were and still are. I will think about you Bill when I teach my own kids how to play softball and will tell them about the wonderful person that you were. May you have loads of fun up there ! also overlooking your children and grand kids watching them grow in great fun and love. You will for ever live in my heart and memory ❤️ Anne-Laure Mailfert

Anne-Laure MAILFERT - January 27, 2023 at 11:58 AM

KM

“ My memories of Bill start so early! I'll never be able to share them all. I think the first time I heard his name was when I was staying overnight at my cousin Meg's as a high school student, Mister Sandman was playing on the radio (now you know how long ago it was!), and Meg was telling me about her new boyfriend, Bill and wondering if he would be the one. Well we all know how that turned out! The memories shared on this page and what will be said today about Bill's life and his lasting positive influence on so many people underline that. Our family will be watching the funeral from France and thinking of Bill and Meg and your amazing family. We love you all and wish we could be with you today.
Kate and Richard Mailfert

Kate Mailfert - January 27, 2023 at 06:39 AM

MM

“ What an amazing person and what a remarkable life. Bill would fill the room with his presence - when I was young, I was in awe of his height, but also his kindness and love for his family. He made everyone feel welcome at gatherings, and had so much wisdom and fun to share about life at the lake. My mom and dad, Megan and myself all appreciated his support for our family over the years. We are sending our love and wishing you comfort during this difficult time. - Margit

Margit Myers - January 26, 2023 at 10:07 PM

MM

“ Dear Family,

I am Martha, Kate and Richard small daughter from France I can not be here with you today but I will be with you in my heart. I have always considered Bill as my Lovey Oncle. I have so many nice memories of him at the lake with Meg, Brian, Darla, Drew, Ryan, Mathieu, Jacob, Tressa, Marlys, Megan, Margit Ken, Sue etc and all the family. He learn me how to sky on water, he learn me how to eat corn the american way, he learn me how to eat machmalow on the fire place, he learn me out it feels to feel safe and protected by the strongest and the kindest man of all the world. Since I was little I loved him and Meg a lot . I can not imagine them no together but I know that they will be always together in their art. I will think you you a lot, Everybody will miss Bill ! Martha.

martha mailfert - January 26, 2023 at 03:22 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bill Davis.



January 25, 2023 at 09:22 AM

RB

“ Bill and I were friends during our years at the U. I played baseball with him for 3 years on the Gopher baseball team and played against him in the Basin League in South Dakota. We also met each summer golfing at the Golden Years of Minnesota golf outings. My prayers are with Bill's family at this time.

RON BUHRT - January 22, 2023 at 06:09 PM



“ *Heavenly and Harmony was purchased for the family of Bill Davis.*



January 22, 2023 at 12:55 PM



“ *Bill was one of the kindest gentlemen I have ever known and a close personal friend from our baseball days at Minnesota. My deepest condolences to his entire family. Frank Brosseau*

Franklin L Brosseau - January 21, 2023 at 08:08 PM



“ *To Margaret and family, We are so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. We send our condolences to you and your family. We have many wonderful memories of you all, especially at Lake Florida. With deepest sympathy, Dee and Dale Byrd*

Delight Byrd - January 21, 2023 at 05:02 PM



“ *Sending lots of love to the whole Davis family during this difficult time!*
Christopher & Morgan Yoshimura

Morgan Yoshimura - January 21, 2023 at 03:21 PM