



William B. Burn

July 6, 2017

Burn, William B. age 92 of Edina, MN, formerly of Fargo, followed his beloved wife into eternal rest on July 6, 2017. Born October 9, 1924, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Bill was a graduate of U High in St. Paul, attended the University of Minnesota and the Brown Institute of Broadcasting in St. Paul. He served in the 517th Parachute Infantry during WWII. Bill married Ellen Salscheider in St. Paul on May 10, 1947. They moved to the Fargo/Moorhead area in 1948 when Bill joined WDAY Radio/TV. He served as Executive Vice President of WDAY Radio and retired in 1984 after 37 years in the radio broadcasting business. Bill was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He will be remembered for his compassion and integrity, but mostly for his wonderful sense of humor. He will be especially missed at family gatherings where he entertained everyone with stories of growing up in St. Paul and of the various celebrity interviews he conducted during the early years of his broadcast career (Rosemary Clooney; Stan Kenton; Harry James; Nat King Cole; Peggy Lee; and Bob Hope) Bill is preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Ellen; his parents, William and Eunice; his sister, Elizabeth Severson; and brother, Douglas. Bill is survived by his four children: Bill (Laura) Burn; Suzanne Burn; Barbara (John) Bennett; and Cynthia (Dwight) Hager; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, please consider directing a donation to your local chapter of the Animal Humane Society in memory of our father. Memorial Service 11 AM on Wednesday July 12, 2017 at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel with visitation one hour prior. Private family interment

Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights. Washburn-McReavy.com Edina
Chapel 952-920-3996 West 50th St. & Hwy 100

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436
(952) 920-3996
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Memorial Service

JUL 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436
(952) 920-3996
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Tribute Wall

“ Dear Cynthia, Barbara and Family,

I was so saddened to hear of Bill's passing, as well as you mothers. I'm sure you've received hundreds of condolence wishes and many notes regarding the relationship that so many of us had with your dad over the years at WDAY. I've read several that Larry Gauper has shared, and I wanted to add one more reflection from another WDAY Alum.

I started at WDAY in 1966 – a 16 year old kid who was mesmerized by the broadcasting industry, in awe of the many voices I heard on the radio and faces I saw on TV, and full of respect for the industry pioneers who were in leadership roles at the place where I somehow had landed my dream job.

My first day on the job, I met Dewey, Boyd, Marv, Verna, (just like today - true celebs....you just needed first names) plus Howard Campbell, Norm Schrader and other radio and TV personalities and technicians, and then was escorted up the stairs to the second floor to have a meeting with my boss, Ken Kennedy. Of course we walked by the offices occupied by Lee Stewart, Jack Lester and Jack Dunn and when I entered Ken's office, he was wrapping up a conversation with your dad. Well, you can imagine I was very nervous and overwhelmed, and I remember your dad, on his way out of Ken's office, putting his arm on my shoulder, welcoming me to the "family" and stating that there's no better place to work and learn about the industry.

Man, was he right!

Since I was on the TV side, I never actually worked under Bill, but every time I saw him walking down a hallway, in the cafeteria, the newsroom, riding in an elevator, wherever, he always greeted me – this young punk kid – with a smile, a handshake and some kind word. That was just Bill. I had such deep respect for that leadership team and feel so blessed to have received mentoring from each and

every one of them. And, while some was certainly technical in nature and related directly to my job, perhaps one of the best life lessons learned was to be sincerely kind and accepting to all. And that was Bill; a gentleman, who honestly cared about the folks with whom he worked.

As I've progressed in my career, I've often thought about my WDAY days, those leaders, and how lucky I was to have been mentored by each of them. And, as I became an adult and a fellow business leader, I cherished the friendships that extended far beyond the days that I was employed at the station.

I had the utmost respect for your dad, and just wanted to share that quick thought with you about the important role he played in my life.

Linda and I share in your grieving, and wish you all the best.

Lee Massey

Lee Massey - July 17, 2017 at 01:54 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William B. Burn.*



July 10, 2017 at 02:51 PM



“ *My dad was a 517th PIR trooper. May your family find peace and comfort in this trying time. John Egelhof Bemidji MN*

John Egelhof - July 09, 2017 at 04:34 PM

LG

“ Bill played a critical role in my life. He hired me at WDAY at a time when I wanted to change my career direction. I will always remember that and the eight years he was my boss. We had a great relationship and I will never forget the lunches we shared together, visiting about programming ideas and life in general. Good things came from those exchanges. We continued these meetings after I left WDAY for the Flint Advertising Agency and, later, Blue Cross. But it was the pivotal change in my career, his hiring me for the copywriting/production position, that put me on the path to a wonderful career. For that, and the ideal he and Ellen achieved in their family life, I will never, ever forget him. God bless the memory of Bill Burn and may God be with the family during this time and during the years ahead.

Larry Gauper - July 09, 2017 at 02:46 PM