



## William Arnold Kirkpatrick

April 1, 1967 - July 26, 2024

"A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for" -John Shedd. If ever there was a man who thrived sailing beyond life's harbor, it was Bill Kirkpatrick. He shared that joy with so many people, and our world has dimmed with his passing on July 26, 2024.

William Arnold Kirkpatrick was born April 1, 1967 in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Son of Bill and Jane (Arnold) Kirkpatrick, he inherited a love for sailing, skiing, and traveling, passions that grew over time. After graduating from Central High School, he earned his degree in political science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Throughout his life, he was eager to engage people in thoughtful dialogues about politics, current events and his love for the Green Bay Packers and Wisconsin Badgers.

After college, Bill found his home in Minneapolis. On April 16, 1993, he married his beloved Susan Young, and together with their daughter Ellen and son Will, they filled their home with friends, family, laughter and love.

After starting as a commercial loan officer, Bill's entrepreneurial spirit led him to open doors at Big Blue Boxes/Portable Storage of MN in 2001. Throughout his career he grew the company to a team of over 100, and established a reputation of exceptional customer service and integrity. Bill fostered a family oriented culture which was enhanced by his vision, generosity, and

enthusiasm.

Bill's adventures continued with summer sailing on Lakes Pepin and Harriet, and water sports on Lake Superior at the Kirkpatrick family cabin. A home in Vail offered mountain sunsets, autumn hikes and fresh tracks on the back bowls. He delighted in sharing those times and places with family and friends.

Bill never knew his mother's brother William Tamm Arnold, a Navy pilot who went MIA in Vietnam the same year Bill was born. His sacrifice had a profound influence on Billy, deepening his love of country, and spurring him to endow a scholarship for qualified ROTC candidates at the University of Wisconsin.

Many other organizations benefited from Billy's commitment to philanthropy. He was guided in his generosity by the principles of his faith, and was quick to recognize and meet needs on a local and global level.

Bill's Catholic faith was a source of inspiration and comfort to him through many challenges, none greater than his four year struggle with melanoma. He and Susan deepened their faith on several escorted trips to the Holy Land, Rome and other sites. That unwavering faith enabled him to face his illness with grace and courage. The family extends its deepest gratitude to The Mayo Clinic, Minnesota Oncology and Allina Health for their expertise and compassionate care.

Bill's final days were filled with enduring love and comfort of his family and many close friends. He died peacefully at home, comforted in the knowledge that we would all take care of each other.

Billy is survived by his cherished wife Susan, daughter Ellen and son Will. He is also survived by his parents Bill and Jane, sister Kirstin (Joel) Kaines, aunt Judy, in-laws Tom and Mary Jane Young, and many nieces, nephews and

countless friends who were family. We are blessed to share his memory with you.

As we walk through grief together, we are reminded by a phrase Billy often shared in times of sorrow: "Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened"- Dr Seuss.

Visitation with story sharing on Sunday, August 11th starting at 4pm at Hyland Ski Area, 8800 Chalet Road Bloomington MN. Funeral mass on Monday, August 12th at 3pm at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 2914 West 44th St. Minneapolis MN. Dinner reception to follow. Funeral mass will be live streamed at <https://www.stthomasmpls.org/funerals/>. In lieu of flowers please donate to Catholic Charities Twin Cities according to Bill's wishes, <https://cctwincities.org/donate/>.

[www.Washburn-McReavy.com](http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com)

Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG 12. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Church of St. Thomas the Apostle (Mpls)  
2914 West 44th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55410

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ On behalf of the entire Carondelet community, we send our condolences to the Kirkpatrick family. We carry with us fond memories and gratitude for the indelible mark Bill has made on our school and parish community. Thank you for sharing your many gifts with us, Bill. May "fair winds and following seas" carry you home.

Megan Hower/Carondelet Catholic School - August 12, 2024 at 05:32 PM

SA

“ I am a mother-in-law of one of Ellie's (Bill's daughter) best friends. I have not personally met Bill but I know him as one of God's best creations based on stories I have heard during family get-together. Bill is this world's loss but he is a Heaven's gain. My thoughts and prayers are with Susan, Ellie, and Will; and his parents and the rest of the family. "Eternal rest grant unto William Arnold Kirkpatrick, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen."

susana aries-winton - August 06, 2024 at 03:41 PM

AA

“ Bill and I didn't know each other personally. From 2006 onward, I was race crew on Harriet so of course we chatted once in awhile. He was always extremely friendly to me and went out of his way to make me feel comfortable.

Aru (Anthony) Armstrong - August 06, 2024 at 12:49 AM