



## William James Marchessault

October 9, 1948 - July 25, 2024

Marchessault, William "Bill" James born Oct. 9, 1948, died July 25, 2024, age 75, from complications with Lewy Body Dementia. Bill is survived by sister Tessa, brothers Patrick, Steve and John, many nieces and nephews, an abundance of cousins, and an amazingly large group of loving friends. Bill is the eldest of seven children of Bob and Marge who made Minnesota their home after Bill's birth in California. Raised in Bloomington, he was in the first graduating class of Kennedy High School, served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War, and later earned an Associate Degree in Business at Normandale College. Bill joined Northwest Airlines in 1973, when men were just beginning to work as flight attendants. Using his business background, with approval of the airlines, he developed a line of NWA logoed accessories and clothing which became a must have by the company employees. He continued his career as Northwest merged with Delta Airlines and retired after 47 years as a flight attendant. Bill was a collector of artifacts from the 30s, 40s and 50s, including items from NWA's past, which prompted him to become one of the founding members of The Northwest Airlines History Center where he served as Secretary on the Board of Directors for 20 years. Bill was always a gentleman, kind to everyone, dressed impeccably, had a great sense of humor, and would do anything to contribute to the well-being of his family and friends. Bill has packed his bags one last time for a non-return layover with our Creator. Our loss is great, but we have gained an angel in heaven to help guide us. Bill is preceded in death by his father Robert, mother Margery, sister

Mary Ann, and brother Michael. Memorials preferred to Lewy Body Dementia Association or the Northwest Airlines History Center at 10100 Flying Cloud Drive, STE A306, Eden Prairie, MN 55347. Memorial Service 12:00 Noon Thursday August 8 with visitation beginning at 11:00am at: [www.Washburn-McReavy.com](http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com) Edina Chapel 952-920-3996 West 50th St. @ Hwy 100

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436

## Memorial Service

AUG 8. 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436

# Tribute Wall

CD

“ I was always happy to see Bill on a flight. He was always a happy, enthusiastic bright spot. I appreciated that he kept the airline history alive. My condolences go out to his family and many, many friends.

Chris Diley - August 09, 2024 at 10:27 AM

KW

“ Always enjoyed Bill's display of old Northwest paraphernalia in the aircraft between flights. Wish I would have bought a hat.

kevin wendland - August 08, 2024 at 03:29 PM

JM

“ Bill was big brother to my lifelong friend, Pat. Bill was a big brother to ALL of us little neighborhood brats. And man was he cool! Best cars, best records and clothes - he enjoyed sharing them with us, rather than treating us like the pain in the necks we no doubt were.

As big kids, we continued to look up the gentlemanly, classy Bill March. Being the eldest kid in my family, I will miss my big brother too. My heart goes out to Pat, Tessa, Steve and John.

John McCauley - August 08, 2024 at 10:21 AM

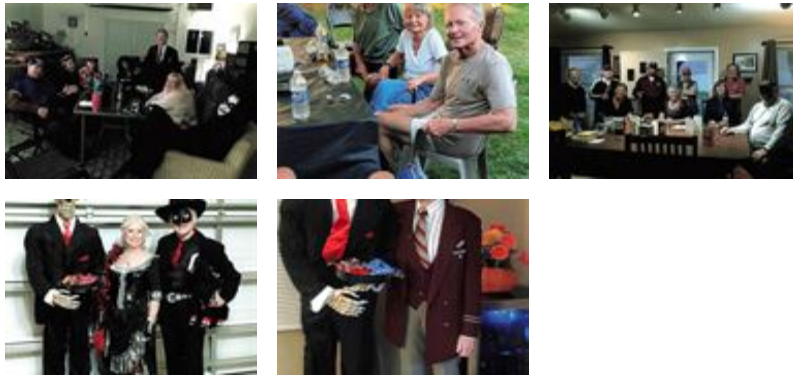
LC

“ With sincere sympathy to all of Bill's family and friends. Bill was Pat's best friend in high school and the best man at our wedding. Even though their lives went in different directions their friendship never ended. They could talk in length about their times together and Pat would tell me what a great memory Bill had of memories that Pat had forgotten. Unfortunately, we aren't able to come to his memorial service. Pat is on a fishing trip to Canada with our son and other family members. While we won't be there in person we will be there in our hearts and minds. Pat's sisters, Cindy & Debbie will be there to share some of the good Bill stories with us. No more lucky dollars for Pat from Bill on his birthday, October 8. He even included one for me in later years. Rest in peace Bill. You were a wonderful friend to Pat and to me all of these years. Love to all from Linda Cummings and of course from Pat.

Linda J Cummings - August 07, 2024 at 11:08 AM

Washburn-McReavy  
FUNERAL CHAPEL, CREMATION AND  
BURIAL SERVICES

“ 66 files added to the album Life Tributes



Washburn-McReavy - August 06, 2024 at 11:14 AM

DL

“ I flew with Bill many times over my career at Northwest and Delta. He always packed a lot of t-shirts and caps to sell to employees during our trips. I bought a lot of them over the years. He always had coffee ready for us on early morning departures. He would stop the coffee brewing about half way so it would be good and strong. He called it Norwegian prison coffee ☺  
I battled cancer in 2017. We would talk often during my battle and he prayed for me every day. He continued to check in on me even after my cancer was in his remission. Thank you my friend!  
You will be greatly missed



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**Dave Lowenstein** - August 06, 2024 at 09:47 AM

MS

“ My cousin Bill had a special relationship with our Dad through their love for cars and collectibles of the bygone days. A memory of Bill from our 300 year Marchessault reunion. Bill had worked a flight from Montana to Mpls, got home, got on another flight to Quebec for the reunion. On a tour bus, we met our distant cousins from Montana. Then they remembered their handsome and kind flight attendant from their first leg from Montana with a layover in Minneapolis before continuing to NYC to drive to Quebec for the reunion. They didn't know on the flight they were all headed to the same reunion with about 200 people. Bill had connected in a memorable way on their flight and we were lucky to sit nearby on the reunion bus and see the natural way Bill connected with people. Rest in peace Bill. Peace to all.

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**Mary Simonson** - August 05, 2024 at 09:32 PM

SW

“ After the Northwest/Delta merger I had the fortune to work with Bill on many Delta flights. He was an outstanding Flight Attendant with utmost compassion and care towards his passengers and fellow crew members. His passion and support for the NWA History Center was unmatched. A true gentleman who will be deeply missed by all who knew and worked with him. May God bless Bill and his entire family.

Steve Weber - August 05, 2024 at 05:13 PM

SH

“ Steve Haase lit a candle in memory of William James Marchessault



Steve Haase - August 05, 2024 at 12:33 PM

JB

“ Jerri Gagnon Buckley lit a candle in memory of William James Marchessault



Jerri Gagnon Buckley - August 05, 2024 at 09:59 AM

DH

“ Donnell Hauck lit a candle in memory of William James Marchessault



Donnell Hauck - August 02, 2024 at 10:03 AM