



Dr. William Rountree Otte

September 9, 1982 - September 15, 2025

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In Loving Memory of William Rountree Otte who passed away unexpectedly on September 15th, 2025 in Minneapolis, MN. William was born in Dallas, TX on September 9, 1982. He attended Jesuit College Prep, graduating in 2001. He was active on the debate team and assisted as a debate coach and moderator in his junior and senior years.

William attended Vanderbilt University from 2001 thru 2012, earning his B.S. in 2005, his Masters in 2006, and his Ph.D. in 2012, all in Computer Sciences. His career included serving as an adjunct assistant professor at Vanderbilt doing internal research for the university and funded research for clients.

William relocated with his family to Minneapolis in 2016 to become a software engineer at Nevelex (a DirectTV affiliate) designing improvements to set-top boxes and satellite connectivity.

William was the son of Calvin Otte and Dr. Hollon Meaders. He was preceded in death by his father in 2021 and by his paternal grandparents Chester Willie and Lulie (Jacoby) Otte and his maternal grandparents Kenneth and Sarah (Rountree) Meaders.

William is survived by his wife Lindsay Johnson Otte and a daughter Ingrid Gail Otte of Edina, MN.

He leaves behind his beloved mother Hollon Meaders, and several uncles, aunts, and cousins in the Meaders family. William also has a brother James

(Kimberly) Otte and two nieces, and a sister Ashley Otte. He was close to his stepfather Dr. Carlos Laos and Dr. Laos' extended family.

He was, in the kindest of terms, a computer-geek with a bias for all-things iOS. He was an avid gamer and well-known in the Destiny on-line community. Later, he enthusiastically espoused the science and making of mead and became a serious devotee of the beverage in and around Minneapolis, including acting as taster-judge in several national competitions. Rounding out his survivors are three precious dogs Foxy, Octy, and Birdie who shared the family home.

Will had an extraordinary passion for cooking and expressed his love and care for people by making delicious meals. (His BBQ lamb chops were especially good!)

He was well liked and respected by those with whom he worked. He will be forever missed, and his memory celebrated by the innumerable colleagues and friends he made across the globe.

William's cremains will be interred in private ceremonies (at the behest of the family) in Fredericksburg, TX and Dallas, TX, recognizing his connections to those communities.

Tribute Wall

“ I had the honor of working with William for 8 years, and in that time it became clear to everyone how deeply he loved his family and how proud he was of them. Though many stories about him will be told by those closest to him, I’d like to share how we knew him at work.

When William joined our team, we already had another colleague named William, so we started calling him “Will.” From the very beginning, he stood out as a true superstar. He brought strong knowledge of our systems and promised, “Give me some time - I’ll make it work, and it will stay reliable for years.” And that’s exactly what he did.

Will quickly earned everyone’s trust. Even though he wasn’t a full-time employee, he was the only person granted access to some of the company’s most confidential projects - that’s how reliable and respected he was. He had a rare combination of intelligence, kindness, and optimism that made working with him not just productive, but genuinely enjoyable.

Most of our team was from Ukraine, and even though our accents could be challenging, Will always understood us and made us feel comfortable. Over the years, he traveled to Los Angeles a couple of times, and we shared many meals together. During those moments, he talked about his new house, his three dogs - who often barked during our meetings until he chased them inside, his chicken coop, and his love for cooking.

When his daughter was born, Will was overjoyed. He spoke about her with such pride and happiness. It was clear to all of us that his family was the brightest part of his life.

In the 8 years I worked with him, I think he took only about ten days of vacation. That’s how dedicated he was. Whenever I needed help, I would send a simple message: “Can I call you?” His response was always immediate: “Absolutely.”

Will was someone I admired deeply - smart, fast, responsible, funny, kind, and endlessly supportive. I wish I had asked him even more questions and spent more time learning from him. He was the kind of person anyone would be fortunate to work with, and the kind of person many of us hope to become.

His kindness, brilliance, and warmth left a lasting imprint on everyone who knew him. His legacy lives on in the people he supported, the work he strengthened, and the love he showed so openly. He will be missed, remembered, and honored always.

*With love and respect,
Vika*

Viktroia - November 20, 2025 at 12:50 PM

V(

“ *I didn't get a chance to meet Will in person, but I've been in his Destiny game group for years now. Great teammate, and knowledgeable in a breadth of topics he'd happily share with us. I learned a lot and he happily pointed me in the right direction on a number of things over the years. Forever grateful for the good times and knowledge. You are missed.*

Vince (Ace) - September 29, 2025 at 06:13 PM

SV

“ *Will, we're going to miss you buddy. It's hard to believe you're not around anymore :(.* Thanks for being part of our team here at DirecTV. It was great knowing you and working along with you. I wish you rest in utmost peace. My prayers are with you and your family !!

Saurabh Verma - September 23, 2025 at 09:47 PM

BC

“ Will, it was a pleasure to work with you. You are smart and on top of your game. Super knowledgeable and I know I can rely on you to help me working through issues. Too bad I didn't get chance to see you in person. We will miss you here. - Becky

Becky Chen - September 23, 2025 at 06:20 PM

PG

“ Will, you are a true legend and thanks very much for all the support you've provided to me and the teams at DirecTV. We will miss you very much but yet your memories will live with us forever. May your soul rest in peace! - Puvi.

Puvi Ganeshar - September 22, 2025 at 03:52 PM