



William Franklin Byrd Jr.

May 25, 1949 - February 24, 2021

Obituary for William F. Byrd, Jr.

William Franklin Byrd, Jr., known as Bill, passed away peacefully during his sleep at his Stone Mountain, Georgia home on February 24, 2021. He was 71 year old. He was preceded in death by his mother Dorothy Byrd, father Rev. William F. Byrd, Sr., and wife Claire Byrd. He is survived by his partner Joy Hortman, son Heath Byrd, sister Alice Burley, and nephews and nieces.

Bill had many interests and hobbies. He was an avid amateur (HAM) radio operator who earned his license at age 12. A lifelong angler who specialized in ultralight spin and fly fishing tackle, he holds multiple world records and wrote articles in national periodicals. Other hobbies included SCUBA open water and cave diving, small craft aviation, woodworking, photography, hunting, and gardening. In addition, he loved food more than almost anyone who is not a professional chef.

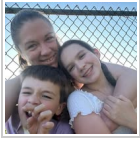
Born in Dallas, GA, he grew up in Atlanta and Buford. In addition to playing multiple sports, he began his career in radio as an afternoon disc jockey and married Claire while still attending Buford High School. He graduated with a B.A. in English from the University of Georgia and forged a career in radio and advertising. He also ran two successful small businesses.

Bill had a tough exterior. He had the strength of an ox and, at times, the stubbornness of a mule. But those who knew him understood that his true nature was full of tenderness, reminiscent of a giant teddy bear. His most cherished hobby was visiting and celebrating with family and friends. He loved

cooking and grilling for family gatherings, and he made time to keep track of and catch up with those he knew, wearing out many telephones in the process. He tried to help everyone in his orbit to be successful and happy, and he shared others' delights and sorrows.

With his passion for life, enthusiasm, and quirky wit, Bill was truly a unique being. He will be missed by those who were lucky enough to have known him. Due to COVID-19, no memorial service is planned at this time. The family is considering holding an outdoor gathering to celebrate Bill's life later this year. Information will be communicated directly to family and friends and via social media.

Tribute Wall



“ *I have been going through stuff at my grandfathers & decided to just google the names on some of his old radio cards & see what comes up... I hope sharing this with you will make you smile.*



Brittany Strait - July 15, 2023 at 10:13 PM



“ *William Franklin Byrd Jr.*

November 08, 2022 at 07:37 PM



“ *Bill was a ham radio and personal friend for over 58 years and one of the first I met when we both began in amateur radio in 1962. He was always about having fun and seemed to be able to be positive even in the darkest of times, something I always admired about him. Ham radio will seem a little less enjoyable knowing he isn't there at the switch, but somehow he will still be monitoring us and being a part of it all until we go to join him for another face to face in the life beyond this one. I'll miss you Bill ... -.-*

W. Cary Geeslin - March 02, 2021 at 11:46 AM