



William "Bill" J. Adams

December 16, 1934 - February 6, 2020

William J. "Bill" Adams died peacefully in the presence of family on Thursday, February 6.

Bill was born December 16, 1934, in Amarillo, Texas, and graduated from Amarillo High School. He went on to graduate from Yale University in 1956 where he was a fellow of Calhoun College. He loved and played the game of baseball throughout his school career and maintained a lifelong interest in the game.

During his working career, Bill was involved in grain merchandising, starting with Cargill, Inc, and including Cook Industries and Tradigrain, Inc. His work took him to many different cities in the US as well as to Tokyo, Japan, where he opened Cook's first Far East grain operation. He served as president of the North American Export Grain Association as well as President of Tradigrain, USA. He was well-known within the business for his honesty and integrity. His retirement from Tradigrain in 2000 was celebrated with gatherings of friends from the grain export industry in Europe and Japan as well as Memphis.

Memphis eventually became Bill's home, as his business interests brought him here on several separate occasions. He served the community as a member of the advisory board of the Memphis Art Academy as well as a board member of Concerts International. He was a communicant of Church of the Holy Communion where he served on the vestry, taught Sunday School, and coached basketball. Bill met his wife, Sylvia, at summer camp in New Mexico when they were in their teens.

Bill was a super-organizer, sometimes being able to find obscure documents from vast files he kept on business associates and trips. He created scrapbooks for each of his children featuring his own drawings as well as collected cartoons. He loved all the family Corgis, especially Ollie and Bobby.

Survivors include his wife of sixty-three years, Sylvia, and three children: Brad Adams (Mary Pat) of Oneida, New York, Stuart Adams (Deborah) of Chicago, and Karen Adams (Edward O'Brien) of Memphis. He also leaves eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services will be Monday, February 17, at 1 pm in St Edward Chapel at Trezevant. A visitation and reception will follow in the Great Hall at Trezevant.

Memorials may be addressed to the Trezevant Foundation or to the Church of the Holy Communion.

Events

FEB **Funeral Service** 01:00PM

17

St. Edward Chapel at Trezevant Manor
177 N. Highland St., Memphis, TN, US, 38111

FEB **Visitation** 02:00PM

17

Trezevant
177 North Highland Street, Memphis, TN, US, 38111

Comments



“ Driving from Naples FL to Memphis gives one time to reflect on memories of a person they admired and respected, along with dodging cars with out of state plates this time of year. So few of us have the privilege to spend time with a person like Bill. Bill was unique in his way to connect with people. He wore many hats well, manager, counselor, adviser and negotiator. It is to the negotiator that I want to share a fond memory and a life lesson to the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bill Adams made history, not the type of history you will read in a book but agricultural history. It was the negotiating talents of Bill with high level government officials that allowed Tradigrain to contract one of the largest trades in U.S. agricultural history. Our little company was able to pull off a deal that most thought was only to be done by the large multi national companies of the day, one of which dissolved its assets. Bill was a connector of people who could turn complex issues into simple solutions. I don't know what Bill saw in me but I am so thankful to him for giving me the chance. it was a honor to know him, to work with him and most of all just to be around him. Bill may you be blessed with eternal peace.

David Lannin

David Lannin - Yesterday at 08:34 AM



“ To Karen Brad Stuart and Sylvie of course...
As you bid farewell to beloved Mr.B i wish to assure you here of my faithful prayers and sympathy!!! Ehat y prililage to have known him!!
Peace be with you all.
Bahia

bahia - Yesterday at 12:56 PM



“ Bill once told me a quaint old saying “Poco a poco el pajaro hace su nido” meaning little by little the bird builds his nest. This is an inspiration that has great meaning for anyone using perseverance and courage to achieve their goals. He captured it perfectly in a great Spanish accent inspiring a young grain trader to aspire to great things.

Edgard Cabanillas - February 12 at 05:43 PM