



## William "Bill" W. Deupree Jr.

July 14, 1941 - December 24, 2020

On Thursday, December 24th, 2020 William W. Deupree, Jr. 'Bill', passed peacefully surrounded by family in Boca Grande, FL. He lived a full life as a hard-working executive followed by a passionate pursuit of hobbies including hunting and travel.

Born July 14, 1941 in Memphis, TN, Bill attended Memphis University School with a robust extracurricular education managed by his Conundrum crew. Following his graduation from The University of the South in Sewanee, TN, he began his professional career at First Tennessee. He subsequently moved to Morgan Keegan & Co. in 1972 where he led the build-out of a nationwide fixed income department and served as President from 1985 until his early retirement in 1996. Ever the competitor, Bill loved working long hours to reach new production milestones or to find an acquisition target that could help accelerate the firm's growth. He also served on industry advisory boards for the New York Stock Exchange and Securities Industry Association.

Bill attacked retirement with equal vigor, transforming himself into a world traveler, outdoorsman, value investor and philanthropist. But above all else, he enjoyed being a master of pushing friends' buttons to orchestrate the tone of a night's conversation at a cocktail or dinner party. His favorite stage for holding court was the dinner table at Mudlake, one of the oldest duck clubs in Arkansas which Bill and partners rebuilt in 1997 to its century-old glory days. Fortunately for his beloved wife Rebecca Reed Deupree 'Becky', duck season only lasted two months each year. The pair travelled to nearly 100 countries after Morgan Keegan, with safaris in Africa topping their list of adventures. But no places fed Bill's soul like summers in Telluride, Co and winters in Boca Grande, FL where the outdoor activities and natural beauty were only surpassed by the cherished and lifelong friendships developed in each spot.

Bill was passionate about investing and took great pride in keeping his wits to capitalize during a challenging bear market. But his favorite projects often involved close friends as partners, including Commercial Bank & Trust with the late Molitor Ford and early downtown Memphis projects with Henry Turley. Bill was equally engaged in charitable

endeavors. He served on several boards over the years including the Memphis Development Foundation, Brooks Museum, The Orpheum, Heritage Memphis and Memphis University School as well as senior advisor of finance for Mayor W. W. Herenton's transition team. But he took particular pride in forming The Deupree Family Foundation to encourage multiple generations to invest in and serve the communities they live in.

Bill is predeceased by his parents William. W. Deupree, Sr. and Mary Evelyn Cavett Deupree. He is survived by his wife Becky and his children, Will (Angie) of Memphis, TN and Reed (Roberta) of Atlanta, GA. He will be missed by his adoring grandchildren, Jordan, Reese, Amelia, Charlie and Harrison. He is also survived by his sister Nancy Deupree Parker and her two children Madeline Spector and Michael Crisamore.

A family service will be held in January 2021. The family requests that memorials be sent to the Church Health Center of Memphis, TN; The Boca Grande Health Clinic in Boca Grande, FL; or a charity of the donor's choosing.

# Comments

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William "Bill" W. Deupree Jr..



December 28, 2020 at 05:19 PM

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“ it is with great sorrow that we read of the death of our friend bill deupree.  
our most heart felt condolence to becky and children.  
greg and lesley---melbourne, australia

**greg and lesley gorham** - December 27, 2020 at 05:25 PM

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“ While Bill was a cautious guy, his Telluride friends well remember his telling about the late night in Telluride when his burglar alarm went off, and Bill casually went to his and Becky's bedroom door, locked it securely, and went back to bed. The next morning when he got up to investigate, he found that a Big Black Bear had entered through the garage level door, found their freezer, found Bill's favorite NY Veal Chops, and devoured them. The Bear created lot's of damage, but Bill was most upset about the loss of his Veal Chops.

John & Laura Shields

**John & Laura Shields** - December 25, 2020 at 07:40 PM



“ Jack and I have the fondest memories of Bill, Beckey and family. You are in our hearts and prayers. Love, The Paratore Family

**rose and jack paratore** - December 28, 2020 at 09:47 PM