



Judge William Herbert Davis Jr.

May 14, 1946 - July 19, 2019

Judge William H Davis, Jr. was born May 14, 1946 and died July 19, 2019. Bill attended Bruce Elementary, Bellevue Jr High, and graduated from Central High school. He graduated from Rhodes College, formerly Southwestern at Memphis, in 1968 where he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and a four year letterman in baseball, and from the University of Memphis Law School in 1974.

Bill worked over 33 years in Federal service starting as a staff attorney/supervisory attorney with Office of Hearings and Appeals in Memphis, trial attorney with National Labor Relations Board, Memphis, Appeals Officer at the Appeals Council, Falls Church, VA and then appointed to serve as Administrative Law Judge with Social Security in Knoxville, TN and later as Managing Administrative Law Judge with Medicare in Cleveland, OH. He returned to Memphis upon retirement.

Bill was passionate about volunteering, history and travel. He was an Eagle Scout at Troop 15, Bear Den leader at Pack 34 and a 20 gallon blood donor. He served as docent at the Museum of East Tennessee History while living in Knoxville and at Elmwood Cemetery when he returned to Memphis. Bill participated in the Shot Link program at the St Jude Golf Classic yearly and proudly served in the Coast Guard Auxiliary for 24 years, most recently in the position of Auxiliary Sector Coordinator for Sector Lower Mississippi River. His love of history intertwined with his love of travel, and throughout his life he traveled extensively, always including historical sites in the United States as well as on all seven Continents.

Bill is survived by his wife of 50 years, Georgia Sowell Davis, and sisters Sandra Palazolo (Jerry), Linda Davis Bratton (Del) and Mary Horwitch (Gary), four nephews, two nieces, one great niece and one great nephew.

Friends and family are invited to a remembrance on Wednesday, July 31st, at 3:00pm in the chapel at Elmwood Cemetery followed by a celebration and visitation with the family at the home of Linda Sowell, 2815 Lombardy Ave, 38111.

The family requests memorials be made to Rhodes College Athletics (2000 N. Parkway, Memphis, TN, 38112), Church Health (1350 Concourse Ave. #142, Memphis, TN, 38104) or a charity of the donor's choice.

Cemetery

Elmwood Cemetery

824 S. Dudley Street

Memphis, TN, 38104

Events

JUL **Life Celebration** 03:00PM

31

The Lord's Chapel at Elmwood Cemetery

824 S. Dudley, Memphis, TN, US, 38104

Comments



“ One of my favorite memories of Bill was when he and Georgia came to a New Year's Eve party at my house in Knoxville and Bill demonstrated the movements that go with the song, "YMCA." We all had heard the song before, but didn't know there were movements that went with it. Bill was the perfect teacher to jump around and educate us, although how he what to do still mystifies me.

Another favorite memory was when Bill and I attended a conference in Nashville in the 1980s. We went out to dinner together one night and as we were finishing dinner Bill talked me into letting him buy me a pig's knuckle for dessert. Must be a southern thing, but it was surprisingly good. We shared many a meal -- in Knoxville; Nashville; Atlanta; London, KY; Harlan, Ky; Washington, D.C.; Huntington, West Virginia, etc.

Alex Hild, Charleston, SC

Alex Hild - August 06 at 05:51 PM



“ I got to know Judge Bill Davis through the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He was a kind, thoughtful man of good judgment. He also had a great sense of humor. I respected the many hours of faithful service he gave the men and women of Sector Lower Mississippi River. I know they respected and appreciated the benefit of his legal expertise. Bill's service there brought great credit upon himself and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. I will miss him.

Kevin Rardin,
Commander, Division 15
8 Western Rivers District
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Kevin Rardin - July 31 at 12:27 PM



“ Bill was a valued mentor for me in the Coast Guard Auxiliary and I was always able to rely on his advice - honestly given and invaluable. His humour and experience will be sorely missed.

Rick Barnes

Rick Barnes - July 31 at 08:34 AM



“ Georgia, Bill and I used to attend UT Girls Basketball games in Knoxville with the almost religious fervor for Pat Summitt and The Lady Vols. They usually got the first games of the NCAA tournament at Thompson Boling Arena in Knoxville. Bill got us seats in the nosebleed section of the 20,000 seat cavernous stadium. For some reason, maybe spring break, the attendance was light. I think too they had an easy opponent, Liberty University, as I recall. There were maybe only 4,000 people in attendance. Plenty of empty seats almost down to the floor. I said: " Bill lets go down lower and get some good seats". He replied; " No, these are the seats I bought and I am staying here". So, we all stayed there and got nosebleeds. That was the inscrutable Bill Davis in action.

We had a fish fry in Knoxville for about 45 patrons. We cooked about 50 pounds of cat fish in a hot oil frying pan in the garage. That's a lot. After the appropriate priming of the cooks with cold beers we commenced. Right off the bat Bill leans over the hot oil to drop in a match to see if it would light. Somebody told us to do that to see if it was hot enough. Can't remember if the match lighted but do remember Bill's glasses slowing slipping off his sweaty face into the hot oil. They were pretty much ruined after retrieval. I said " I'm sorry". He laughed and said: "I needed a new pair anyway"! He was yelling: "Look out, Hot fish coming " all night as the hungry revelers sopped it up! We had karaoke that night later. Never do that. People won't go home. But what a night!

There" a new Division III catcher in heaven. We"ll miss you buddy.

Oh, by the way "Buddy" was his childhood nickname. As some of his family members aged he said he had to do the dirty work. He said the family got to saying: " When Buddy is coming to town somebody is going to the nursing home"!

Got more, but got to run. There is just no end to Bill Davis stories. And that's beautiful.

Eddie Graham

Eddie Graham - July 30 at 08:43 PM



“ My friend, Bill was such a super guy. I have so many happy memories from early days at Union Avenue Baptist Church, Central High, on up to my visit to Memphis last year. One favorite memory is playing our "world championship" Trivial Pursuit at Linda and Houston Akin's home on Christmas. Bill and the guys vs. Georgia, me and the girls. Bill was always the competitor, and although he and Houston think they won, I still beg to differ. I will truly miss this fun, smart man, and the smartest move he ever made was to choose Georgia to be his bride.

Myra Branum Wilson

myra branum - July 30 at 11:55 AM



“ Every year around St. Patrick's Day, Judge Davis hung a small sign next to his office door:

Celtic Blessing

May those who love us, love us.
And those who don't love us, may God turn their hearts.
And if He'll not turn their hearts, may He turn their ANKLES,
SO we'll know them by their limping.

Genet G Weber - July 29 at 05:13 PM



“ Dear Georgia and Family,
Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your heart.
Thank you for the wonderful friends you have been to Church Health through the years. Thank you as well for suggesting that gifts in Judge Davis' memory benefit those who depend upon us for care.
Please be assured of our prayers during this difficult time.

Dr Scott Morris and your friends at Church Health, 1350 Concourse Avenue, Suite 142, 38104

Richard H. Kohrs - July 26 at 03:55 PM



“ On behalf of the current and former staff members and students of the Marnie Inspection and Investigation School here in Yorktown, VA, we wanted to express our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Judge Davis. As a guest instructor for the Suspension and Revocation course between 2011 and 2016, Judge Davis presided over 30 mock hearings and shared his wisdom and wealth of legal knowledge with over 200 Coast Guard Investigating Officers. His passion for fairness under the law was an inspiration to the staff and students alike. He will be sorely missed but his legacy lives on through the Coast Guard Investigating Officers he trained.

John Winter - July 26 at 10:02 AM



“ Marine Inspection and Investigation School Staff purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Judge William Herbert Davis Jr..



Marine Inspection and Investigation School Staff - July 26 at 09:57 AM



“ Bill was brave, loyal, and protective. I crossed his path one evening many years ago on my way to work at Methodist Hospital. Bill was exiting the Emergency Room doors wearing a very bloody t-shirt. I was horrified until I heard the story. Bill saved the family dog, Max, by hovering over his canine as the neighborhood pack tried to nip into Bill to get to Max. You have to know who won! Of course, Bill saved the precious Schnauzer by crawling across the yard until he reached the back door and sent Max into safety. I don't know how Bill persuaded the pack to leave that day, but as far as I know—the bullies never returned. I do remember Bill saved man's best friend, Max because he was brave, loyal, and protective of Georgia as well as their extended family and friends.

Kathleen Cousins

Kathleen Cousins - July 25 at 09:02 PM



“ Bill was one of the nicest, smartest guys I ever met. He always had a big grin on his face, except when I beat him in racquetball. Bill's racquetball style was unorthodox, to say the least. He hit the ball with a tomahawk swing, and Lord help anyone who was within two feet. One time I decided to try and go through Bill to get the ball. It was like in a cartoon, where the wily coyote hits a flying pan that the roadrunner nonchalantly lifts up.

Bill was also one who enjoyed life to the fullest, including food. I remember walking in to a barbecue at the Hubbards and there was Bill, drenched in barbecue sauce with a grin ear to ear.

He also enjoyed craziness. I particularly recall the time after an Orioles game a few of us went to the local sports bar. A few beers later and Bill was strapping me to a go cart in a human bowling game. Looking up, I again saw that ear to ear grin.

What an amazing mind. He approached his work always with complete seriousness and thought. As a Judge, he was always trying to ensure he made the right decision, which could be difficult in our line of work. He was caring and respectful to every claimant who came before him. A true gentleman.

Bill was a special person, and he made my life, and many others, better and more enjoyable simply from his presence. May his memory be eternal

Dave and Elaine Hatfield

David Hatfield - July 25 at 08:36 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Ken - July 25 at 06:10 PM



“ The consummate Billy wouldn't resist my insistence that we visit Idaho while our wives shopped in Jackson Hole. That night at dinner when Georgia saw the photo all she said was "You didn't " That may be the only state he visited without her. Bill was a genuine friend. Can't say it any plainer.

Ken & Jill Thomas - July 25 at 05:44 PM



“ I remember traveling during HPI and Bill was my mentor. One time I remember, He was so excited but stunned when he heard that this Pittsburgh girl did not know what "throwed rolls" were. So, during our travels, I was literally introduced to "throwed rolls!" Great guy, great friend, great mentor! May he Rest In Peace and condolences to Georgia. Marie (Mell) McDonough

Marie McDonough - July 25 at 09:45 AM



“ He LOVED his CUBS !!!!



Mary Davis Horwitch - July 24 at 11:21 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Megan Clifford - July 24 at 09:22 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Judge William Herbert Davis Jr..



July 24 at 07:43 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



katrian - July 24 at 07:38 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Tyrone Conner - July 24 at 06:24 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Jim Fayard - July 24 at 05:35 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Georgia and the family of Judge Davis. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. I got to know Judge Davis during his time as the Auxiliary Sector Coordinator at Sector Lower Mississippi River. He was selfless in his time for the Auxiliary and in support of Coast Guard marine casualty investigators. Many don't know that Judge Davis used his expertise to prepare investigators for presenting cases before an Administrative Law Judge. This included travel to Yorktown, VA to participate in mock trials with students studying to be casualty investigators. Most importantly, Judge Davis was a kind and caring person. I will keep the family in my thoughts and prayers.

Tim Wendt - July 24 at 12:18 PM



“ The Shumates lit a candle in memory of Judge William Herbert Davis Jr.



the Shumates - July 24 at 05:26 AM