



## William "Bill" Mack

December 14, 1948 - December 23, 2020

William "Bill" Mack of Kenner, Louisiana passed away on December 23, 2020 at the age of 72 surrounded by his loving family. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather, friend and more, and his memory will live on in the hearts of his loved ones. Bill was born in St. Louis, Missouri on December 14, 1948 to William and Rose Joyzat Mack. He and his younger brother Paul were close growing up and remained so for the rest of Bill's life. Bill attended McCluer High School. He played baseball throughout childhood and high school and continued to play soft ball as an adult. He remained an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan his whole life. Bill was also on the swim team in high school. When Bill was in high school, he had a summer job welding on the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, and he was always proud of his contribution to the famous monument. Bill graduated high school in 1967. He attended college then went to work for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. Bill met the love of his life, Diane Poppe in St. Louis. In May of 1972, they were married. In the years that followed, they had two sons, Brennan and Cory. Bill continued his career in the Telecom industry and in 1980, a job with Southwest Utilities relocated the family to the New Orleans area where he lived for the rest of his life. In 1983, Bill sold his boat to start his own Telecom company, First Communications Company. With Bill's hard work, determination and skills as a salesman along with Diane's help managing the accounting, First Communications became a remarkably successful company and is still a family run business today.

Bill and Diane loved to travel, and they took Brennan and Cory on many memorable trips as boys. When the boys were grown, Bill and Diane continued to travel and particularly loved spending time at their place near Ashville, North Carolina. They also traveled often to Houston to visit Brennan's family and across the country to visit numerous friends and other family members. Bill loved fishing, golfing, and aviation. He obtained his private pilot's license so that he too could fly a plane along with his pilot sons. Bill and Diane enjoyed spending time with their grandchildren together. Bill especially loved swimming with his grandchildren and using his swim team experience to help the grandkids improve their skills. Bill was fun loving and lived his life to the fullest. His boisterous laugh was contagious, and his sense of humor always ensured there was plenty of laughter. Bill is preceded in death by his parents, along with his sister Carol Guibor and her

husband Warren. Loved ones that will miss Bill until they meet again are his treasured wife of forty-eight years, Diane; son Brennan and his wife Becky; son Cory Mack and his wife Jennifer; grandchildren Christian, Brea, Miley and Beau; brother Paul and wife Debbie along with nieces, nephews, numerous other family members and friends.

It was Bill's wish to not make a fuss upon his passing, and the family will celebrate his life in a private memorial considering the current circumstances with the pandemic. If you are so inclined, please lift a glass in Bill's honor, maybe one of his favorite drinks a bloody Mary or whiskey sour and think of a fond memory of him. Bill would have wanted it that way.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the charity of your choice in memory of Bill.

# Comments

---



“ So saddened to here of your loss. We always enjoyed our occasional get togethers with the both of you. I can only imagine how you and the boys are feeling. May all the wonderful memories of Bill give you some comfort during this time of grief. My prayers go out to all the family.  
Clark and Carmelee Thorpe

**Carmelee Thorpe** - December 28, 2020 at 09:44 PM

---



“ I already wrote one memory. Sorry. But, this thought came to me last night. It is so difficult to sum up a man's life & what he meant to you, your family, your friends, his family & their friends but this is the best I can do. He treated family like royalty, friends like family & strangers like friends.

**Wendy Ashton** - December 26, 2020 at 05:42 PM

---



“ Bill, Paul and I all worked together at TSI in the 70's. Bill always loved his family, his work and his relaxation time. Bill will truly be missed by all.  
Ken, Rita, Dawn & Izze Barron.

**Kenneth Barron** - December 26, 2020 at 03:10 PM

---



“ I worked for Bill for thirty two years. There was never a situation he was not on top of. I know now he is playing every major golf course in the world. Mainly Mountain Air, his favorite. Working for the Mack family was an adventure, and pleasure. I will always remember my time there and cherish it. R.I.P Bill.

Ronnie Caruso

**Ronnie Caruso** - December 25, 2020 at 12:12 AM

---



“ I first met Bill in 1970 and we hit it off right away, such a friendly guy who knew how to party hearty. Marybeth knew him from high school and was so happy that he and Dianne connected quickly. After their move to Nola, he and Poppe invited us down often for Mardi Gras. He would go out of his way to make the experience hassle free. We also learned to appreciate blackened redfish, a Cajun boil, and the history of a king cake. Over the years the Macks hosted club outings, weddings, and festivals. Never an unkind word and would always go the extra mile to make everything memorable. Great times on St. Thomas, St John, back in St. Louis, in Asheville, and on cruises. To go so suddenly is heartbreaking for us and he will be missed so much especially right before Lent and on Cardinals opening day..... Rest In Peace dear friend  
Larry and MaryBeth

Larry Rummel - December 24, 2020 at 10:06 PM

---



“ I'm sorry this is lengthy, but he meant a lot to me -

There's a lot more to this that I wrote, and if someone would like the full copy please let me know.

I worked for Bill from September of 1997 until April of 2004.

Looking back on the time, I think of the old adage, “People come into your life for a reason.” As I remember my time with Bill as my boss, that old adage is very true.

The reason why I am compelled to write this is not to talk about my previous work experience at a job I held twenty years ago, but why that job mattered to me in retrospect, and why we have truly lost a good man. Bill had no idea that he also mentored me on how to be successful in school, and in the Army, where I still serve today as an Army officer in the Reserves with two combat tours on my record.

I had the opportunity to work very closely with Bill when I transferred to Customer Service, and there are lessons that I learned from that job that have nothing to do with telephone equipment, cabling, or dial tone. I have been able to scale the list down to four lessons, because if you knew Bill, he wanted you to get to the point and move on. I will share those with you now.

1. Prepare yourself every day:

So when I became a Lieutenant in 2002, no one had to tell me that the job had long hours, and that leaders need to take the time to plan and prepare, because Bill taught me what that looked like. It is certainly part of the driving force that allowed me to receive eight commendation medals during my time in the Army.

2. Work Hard:

When I was asked to manage over \$200 million in construction projects at Jackson Barracks during the re-build after Hurricane Katrina, I walked right into the job and went to work. You can see the results of that legacy when you travel on St. Bernard Highway and pass the four-story Readiness Center for the 141st Field Artillery Battalion. Even now as a Middle School Math Teacher, I am usually the last person to leave school each day. Hard work has made me very successful. William Mack taught me just how important that is.

3. Don't have the last word:

Let's face it, I like to talk. Bill taught me the importance of active listening before that was "a thing".

Finally, Be Extraordinary.

I had an aunt pass in 2008 who was very close to me, and the priest at her service said something very wise. He said “We shall keep the memory of the deceased in

our hearts, and take what we loved most about them and practice it every day. That way they are always with us.” Now you see the four things that I will take with me as a tribute to Bill.

So here I sit in my house on six acres of land with my wife Danielle, and finish my reflection with an emptied glass of whiskey sour.

Lord, please send your blessings to Diane, Brennan, Cory, and family and friends during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers go with you and as always, take care.

**David Haydel** - December 24, 2020 at 06:55 PM

---



“ Not my brother-in-law, but my brother. You have been such a part of my life. You have taken such good care of my sister. I could not imagine her life without you having shared yours with hers. A great father to my nephews & a wonderful grandfather to their babies. I have so many fond memories of things we have done that even in this saddest of times it makes me smile. I cannot imagine Diane's, Brennan & Cory's pain when I know how I feel. Our hearts are all broken in their own way.

**Wendy Ashton** - December 24, 2020 at 05:00 PM

---



“ To family and friends of the Mack's. My deepest sympathy. My heart goes out to you all. Just know that Bill is in heaven, no pain, another precious Angel watching over you. Thoughts, prayers and love to y'all.  
Debbie Van Allen



**Debbie Van allen** - December 24, 2020 at 04:10 PM