



G. William "Bill" Wiersdorf

DEC 11, 1940 - MAR 13, 2023



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G. William "Bill" Wiersdorf

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G William "Bill" Wiersdorf passed away peacefully on March 13, 2023 with his loving wife Kathy at his side.

Bill was born Günther Willi Klaus Wiersdorf in Beyersdorf, Landsberg, Brandenburg, Prussia, Germany on December 11, 1940 to Anna Marie Hedwig Bohnenstengel Wiersdorf and Wilhelm Franz Wiersdorf.

Bill's father was taken by Russian soldiers near the end of the war and died in a civilian labor camp in Russia. Bill and his mother were refugees after the war and moved frequently around Germany, staying with kind-hearted families for the next few years. Bill and his mother immigrated to the United States in June, 1951.

Bill learned English, and as a teenager worked for his uncle Walter Stover in his bedding and furniture factory in Salt Lake City. Bill learned to make furniture and drive trucks. Bill served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Germany and was able to reconnect with a number of lost relatives while he was there.

Bill received a degree in Spanish from the University of Utah. Bill taught Spanish and coached basketball at Olympus Junior High, and later taught Spanish and German and coached the soccer team at Olympus High School.

Bill became afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis in 1995, which accelerated his retirement from teaching. The disease gradually took away his ability to walk and along with it many of the activities he loved. He found satisfaction working on his Utah encyclopedia website (OnlineUtah.com) and spent thousands of hours producing and curating photos and written material for it.



Obituary

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Before his MS, Bill was known for his physical strength and endurance. With little help, Bill built a cabin and hosted youth groups and family reunions for many years. Winters meant Bill digging a quarter mile "luge run" in the snow for the kids to sled down.

After MS he was known for his spiritual stamina. While the disease made life difficult, Bill allowed his condition to refine his soul in patience. Bill followed Jesus Christ and loved to help other people in whatever capacity he could. He also loved spending time with family and particularly enjoyed his weekly video chats with his cousins in Germany.

Bill is survived by his wife Kathy Pearson Wiersdorf, his children Scott (Ana) Wiersdorf, Ryan (Liz) Wiersdorf, Jason (Erin) Wiersdorf, Rachel Wiersdorf, thirteen grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

A viewing will be held on Sunday, March 19 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 3070 E Nila Way, Salt Lake City, Utah. Another viewing will be held on Monday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at the same location, followed by a funeral at 11:00 a.m. A graveside service will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the West Jordan Cemetery.

For those who were unable to attend the funeral service in person, a recording has been made available by the family here: <https://youtu.be/UoFrmovqpuc>



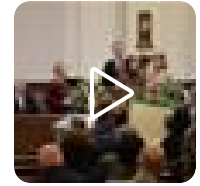
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Premier Funeral Services shared a **Funeral Recording**.



April 25 at 7:02 AM



Elizabeth "Betty Ann" Jensen Armstrong posted:

Before the days of cell phones, Professor Weirsdorf was my favorite teacher. I had him for 3 years at Olympus Junior High School. He like to call some of the students "arboles muertos" meaning dead trees. I loved the way he taught through repetition. I still use those methods today when I help others learn Spanish. I loved his method of teaching! I will never forget his sense of humor and his kind face.

March 12 at 2:17 PM



Reed-Carrie Lingmann posted:

Wanted to share a amusing memory from Spanish class at Olympus High. I can't remember what prompted Mr. Wiersdorf to share this memory, but he told us that a student once fell asleep in his class (probably mid 1980's) so he had someone roll the classroom clock forward probably a couple hours, and had everyone sneak quietly out into the hall. He then gently woke up the student and asked him why he was still here. T he student looked at the clock and panicked and started rushing for the door! I don't recall details of what happened after that. I have great memories of his Spanish class, and I felt that Mr. Wiersdorf really enjoyed teaching us and put his whole heart into providing us with a quality education.

May 13 at 3:59 PM



Edward Wells posted:

Bill really loved german food. I remember fondly having lunch with him and his group at Marriana's deli. In spite of his infirmity, he was always cheerful and friendly. Love you Bill. Ed Wells

March 20 at 5:16 AM



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Nidia McMullen posted:

My family has such fond memories of spending time with Bill and family at the cabin. Bill and Kathy made it as accessible as possible for my mom to be able to enjoy being there as well. My mom had a lot of fun planning activities with Bill and Kathy for the ward too! Sending love and prayers from all of our family to yours.

March 19 at 5:47 PM



Trista Manning posted:

I'm so sad to see this! Bill and Kathy were my "ma and pa" on stake trek one year and I loved them so much! They taught me so much and I looked up to them so much! They were the epitome of everything Christlike! And I remember having so much fun at a trek "family reunion" where we went snowmobiling. You have a great family! My thoughts and prayers are with you! Trista Thomas Manning

March 15 at 2:58 PM



Marlin Jensen March 17 at 4:50 PM

Bill was my second missionary companion in the West German Mission in 1962. He was a dream come true! He taught me "real" German, how to form lasting human relationships, how to work smart, and how to find joy in the daily grind of missionary life. He was a man's man and a true disciple of Christ. I share my love and condolences with Kathy and the family and my witness that life and love are eternal. Most sincerely, Marlin Jensen



Gregg E McArthur March 17 at 3:50 PM

Bill and I were missionary companions in Sachsenhausen in 1962. He was a hard working missionary and really enjoyed the work. He loved riding his bike and was eager to make contacts even in bad weather way out on the fringes of our assigned area. We had a really good time together. Bill was very proud of his family and loved to talk about family history and events.



Larue Chapman Howells March 16 at 6:58 PM

Bill and Kathy have been such a fine example to many of us of a dedicated couple. I have appreciated my association with both of them and have learned much by living near them for so many years. Such a fine family. Many of my children have expressed love and respect for Bill and his family. What an honorable life well lived.



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Rachel Wiersdorf shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Miss you Daddy. ❤️ Forever your Ellie Girl

March 15 at 8:59 AM





Media

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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring G. William "Bill" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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