



William J Wade Jr

AUG 19, 1944 - DEC 20, 2025



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D ecember 20, 2025 | Salt Lake City, Utah

William J. Wade Jr., known to many as Bill or Billy, passed away peacefully on December 20, 2025, in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was 81.

Born and raised in Vance County, North Carolina, Bill was shaped by his deep roots in an extended farming family. His love for the outdoors — both for work and recreation — began early and remained a central part of his life. Bill attended N.C. State University, where he earned a degree in Forestry and was an active member of the marching band and Army ROTC.

Bill proudly served in the U.S. Army, deploying to Vietnam shortly after joining the Armed Forces in 1966. He later continued his service as a dedicated member of the Utah Army National Guard until his retirement in the late 1990s. After college and his deployments, he moved west, eventually settling in Utah and later in Wyoming, where he spent much of his life.

A true adventurer at heart, Bill's career took him across the country, often combining work with his love of travel. His work on various natural resource projects and his passion for Unimog tractors kept him on the road, exploring some of the most remote parts of the western United States. Bill's adventurous spirit was matched only by his unwavering work ethic—he was always on the go, whether for work or for the sheer joy of exploring. In recent years, Bill faced an unusual form of dementia, which ultimately led to his passing.

Bill will be remembered for his tireless dedication, his kind heart, and his adventurous spirit. He is survived by his children, Jessica Wade of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Brett Wade of Meridian, Idaho; his brother, Lee Wade of Henderson, North Carolina; and his grandchildren, Brooks, Aiden, and Lauren. The family extends heartfelt thanks to the staff at Monument Nursing Homes for their compassionate care.



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A celebration of Bill's life will be held at a later date.



Tribute Wall

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Jim Willams posted:

Billy used to stay with Granny and Granddaddy after school. One day Granddaddy came home and young Billy was in the sand playing with his toy trucks. He was making noise like he was stuck. Granddaddy said it was close to 100 degrees . He asked Billy what was his problem.....Billy said his truck was stuck in the snow . Granddaddy got a good laugh and loved telling that story. So sorry for y'all's loss. I will keep you in my prayers. Cuz...Jim Williams.

December 26 at 3:57 PM



Dan Williams posted:

Although Billy was 13 years older than me I can remember him well and can see him sitting at the end of Granny's kitchen table as he had come to visit . He was always so friendly and had a huge smile ! Always interesting because of would he did and where he lived . I am sorry for your loss Brett and Jessica y'all are in my prayers ..

December 23 at 2:04 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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