



GEORGE W. "BILL" MORTENSEN

July 23, 1939 - February 7, 2017

GEORGE W. "BILL" MORTENSEN – 1939 - 2017

George William "Bill" Mortensen, 77, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle and friend passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 with Nina, his wife of 42 years, by his side. Bill was born Willis Clark Giffin, IV, in San Antonio TX on July 23, 1939, to the late Allene Martin Giffin Mortensen and the late Willis Clark Giffin, III. The family lived in Laredo and Alpine and eventually settled in Harlingen where he was adopted by Allene's second husband, Christian T. Mortensen, the man he knew and loved as his "Dad". He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A & I (now Texas A & M) in Kingsville and studied law at the University of Texas in Austin for 2 years. He married Kay Powell in 1960. They had three children, Ginger, Tracy and Vicky. While in Austin, he was introduced to the sport of bowling and it became one of the passions of his life.

Bill began his life long career in the bowling industry at Bowl-A-Rama in Austin, TX in the late 1960's. He was transferred to another center in the group, Ayers Lanes, in Corpus Christi. In 1971 he was offered an opportunity to become a partner in a small bowling center out of state. He left his beloved Texas and moved to Albany, GA where he managed Albany Lanes until 1981 when he became the manager of Bowl-A-Rama until 1986. His wife and family did not follow him to Georgia and eventually they were divorced. Bill married

his current wife, Nina Tebbetts Mortensen, on January 30, 1975 and adopted her four children, Michelle, Nicole, Noelle and John in 1977. They resided in Albany until 1986 when he took the managerial position at Cotton Bowl Lanes in Southaven, MS where he worked until 1989. He finally was able to return to Texas as manager of Capitol Bowl in Austin where he worked until 1994 when he became the Night Manager at Showplace Lanes in Austin. He remained at Showplace Lanes until his retirement in 2003.

Bill not only worked in the bowling industry but he was an accomplished bowler as well. He received many local, state and national team and individual awards, including six sanctioned 300 games and four sanctioned 800 series. He was inducted into the Albany, Georgia Bowling Hall of Fame for distinguished contributions to the game of bowling in 1993. He enjoyed sharing his love and knowledge of bowling with others and worked with young and aspiring bowlers throughout his bowling career.

Bill is survived by his wife, Nina Tebbetts Mortensen of Cedar Park, TX; Children: Ginger (Kennan) Buechter of Gulfport, MS; Tracy (Carlos) Contreras of Pflugerville, TX; Michelle Nash of Gulf Shores, AL; Nicole (Bret) Patton of Cedar Park, TX; Vicky Denton of Atlanta, GA; Noelle (Reese) Villines of Cedar Park, TX; John Mortensen of Galveston, TX; Grandchildren: Heather (Justin) Shrader, Robbie Lassiter, Amber Hodge-Villines, Ashleigh Hodge-Villines, Brea (Ian) Withrow, Cory Patton, Caleb Villines, Mitchell Patton, Meagan Patton, Savannah Denton, and Max Denton; Great-Grandchildren: Kaelin, Kaed, and Kohen Chamberlin, Kainaan, Kaycen, and Kenzleigh Villines, Josephine and Juniper Withrow, Kynndra and Khyler Rozell and Kaydence Hamer; Sisters: Marilyn (Graham) Biles of Henderson, NV and Laurie (Fred) Eichenlaub of London, OH; Nephews & Nieces: Graham Christian Jr. Biles and Martin Allen Biles, Stephanie Kanaval, and Melanie Eichenlaub.

At Bill's request, there will be no funeral or memorial service. Remember his wit, his sarcasm, his sense of humor, his love of sports, his love for his family, but mostly remember him and what he meant to you. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the International Bowling Museum Hall of Fame in

Arlington, TX (<http://www.bowlingmuseum.com/Get-Involved/Donations>), or a charity of your choice in Bill's name.

Thank you to Ms. Lee Thomas, private duty home health care; Baylor Scott & White hospital in Round Rock and A Med community hospice.

“To be great is to be misunderstood” Ralph Waldo Emerson

Tribute Wall



“ GEORGE W. "BILL" MORTENSEN

October 05, 2023 at 10:58 AM



“ GEORGE W. "BILL" MORTENSEN

October 04, 2023 at 06:25 PM



“ GEORGE W. "BILL" MORTENSEN

September 26, 2023 at 10:57 PM



“ *Am sorry to find out that Bill passed away nearly three years ago. I enjoyed working for him at Capitol Bowl Jan.-Sept. 1992. Seeing the photos reminds me of the fun times I had there.*

Mark Bowron (front desk for the first few weeks, then pinchaser the rest of the time)

Mark Bowron - December 26, 2019 at 01:03 AM



“ *On the eve of the 2nd anniversary of Dad's passing, I remember all the good times. Wish he was still here!*

Tracy - February 06, 2019 at 08:36 PM

PW

“ Our memories date back to the early 70s in Albany, GA. My husband moved to Albany to work with Bill at Albany Lanes..if walls could talk...we were all friends..bowled intensely ..played cards and Scrabble...party times we will leave to our memories!!
Bill had a very quick with sarcasm that matched mine. He had a woman he teased relentlessly and treasured for 42 yrs..no couple was better suited ! Their joy and laughter and friendship meant the world to us.Love to the family

Philina and James Williams

*We married 6 months before them and just celebrated 43 yrs !!
GOD has been good to us and our family..*

philina williams - March 18, 2017 at 10:01 PM



Thank you for sharing!

T - March 24, 2017 at 05:20 PM

KW

“ Bill & I were close friends from our days at HHS through Texas A&I. In fact both of our parents blamed the other of us for the mischief we got into. While at A&I, Bill was instrumental in getting me the student sports publicity job which led to a lifetime interest in the details of sports. I regret that we lost touch over the years, but I will cherish our "together memories" forever. My sympathies go out to your family!

*Ken Weber
Kerrville, TX*

Ken Weber - February 19, 2017 at 10:14 AM

TM

Thanks for sharing, Ken. Dad shared many stories with us over the years about his mischief when he was younger. I'm glad he shared his love of sports with you.

Tracy Mortensen - February 25, 2017 at 10:06 AM

BA

“ *Nina; our deepest sympathy to you and family. He was such a part of the bowling community. We missed seeing him over the years. May he rest in peace!*
Paul and Ellen Bailey

Bailey - February 17, 2017 at 01:02 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



T - February 16, 2017 at 09:48 PM

GM

“ *When I start bowling in my new league, our team name will be Bill's Balls in a nod to my father. I love him and miss him. God bless you, Dad.*



Ginger Mortensen - February 16, 2017 at 09:27 PM

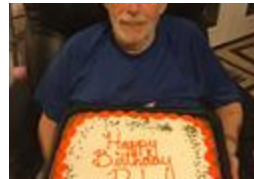


Nice

T - February 16, 2017 at 09:42 PM

NO

“ 10 files added to the album Dad



Noelle - February 16, 2017 at 08:38 PM

TR

“ Miss you, Dad!

Tracy - February 16, 2017 at 09:38 AM