



William Howard Taft

July 7, 1939 - October 24, 2025

William Howard Taft was born July 7, 1939 in Chicago, IL. He was adopted by the late Mr. & Mrs. Howard B. Taft and enjoyed a wonderful childhood. A beloved

father, son, brother, and friend, he passed away peacefully on October 24, 2025 at the age of 86. A

descendant of one of America's most storied families, William carried his name with quiet dignity, strong character, and a deep sense of purpose.

William grew up with a love for history, service, learning, and horses. Not only did he serve in two branches of the United States Armed Forces, but he also attended Georgetown University, where he developed a passion for public policy and civic engagement. Colleagues and fellow soldiers remember him for his thoughtful leadership, humility, and steadfast integrity.

William's career reflected his belief that meaningful change begins with compassion.

Whether working in government service, or volunteering in his community, William was

guided by a genuine desire to make life better for others. William served in both the US Army (as an Airborne Ranger and Green Beret) as well as the US Navy, completing 7 tours in the Vietnam War. Among the distinguished awards

he received were the Bronze Star, three Purple Hearts, and the Presidential Unit

Citation before his Honorable Discharge from the US Military.

Afterwards, Williams opened his own business, Hobby Horse Farm, and also served as a two time District Governor for the Rotary International (District 7280). Outside of his professional life, William Howard Taft was known for his wit, warmth, and kindness. William married the love of his life, Theresa Elaine Taft in 1972 and adopted their daughter, Victoria. He later fathered 2 additional children. He was preceded in death by his wife, Elaine, and daughter, Victoria Lee Taft. He loved classical music, travel, and engaging in conversations about philosophy and the future of democracy. To his family, he was a source of steady love and gentle humor- a man who listened deeply and led quietly. A strong leader and family man, William is survived by two children Joseph William Taft and Scott Robert (Kristie) Taft; a grandson, Bryce, and a wide circle of relatives, colleagues, and friends who will forever cherish his memory and legacy.

A memorial service will be held for Taft on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at the Neilltown Cemetery in Forest County, Pennsylvania at 10AM. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to a local charity in William's honor. William Howard Taft will be remembered not only for his remarkable lineage, but for his generous spirit, his intellect, and his unwavering belief in the power of kindness and service.

“Remember Me”

Remember me with smiles not tears,
For all the joy through all the years.

Recall the closeness that was ours,
A love as "sweet" as fragrant flowers.

Don't dwell on thoughts that cause you pain,
We'll see each other once again.
I am at peace...try to believe.
It was my time.... I had to leave.

But "what a view" I have from here,
I see your face. I feel you near.
I follow you throughout the day,
You're not alone along the way.

And when God calls you...you will be,
Right by my side...right here with me.
Till then, I'll wait by Heaven's door,
We'll be united....evermore.