

William Andrew "Bill" Schaeffer

December 13, 1927 - February 1, 2020

On Saturday morning, February 1, 2020, William Andrew "Bill" Schaeffer passed from this life to be reunited with his parents William G. and Sarah E. (Fortna) Schaeffer, his son-in-law Friedrich Diebus, and the many wonderful dogs in his life, as well as his aunts, uncles, and cousins who knew him as Sonny.

Raised in Jonestown, PA, Bill graduated from Jonestown High School. He joined the Navy and served on battle escort ships and mine sweepers during WWII. After the War, he was stationed in Washington, D.C. where he helped to install NEWS, the first electronics system at the Washington Navy Yard. While there, he was 'volunteered', along with many other Sailors, to participate in Operation Crossroads, early atomic testing in the desert. After his discharge from the Navy, he went to the Lebanon Business College and graduated on the GI Bill.

A part-time job with the local tombstone maker in Jonestown led Bill to South Ryegate, Vermont, where he began an apprenticeship in the stone sheds of C.R. Davidson. He progressed to Journeyman and then Master Craftsman before leaving Vermont to start Schaeffer Memorials in Jonestown in 1954. During his career, he hand-carved granite and marble tombstones and sculpted raised lettering and dimensional ornamentations. His work is also evident in such civic projects as the carved lettering in the limestone at the Armor Bordner cabin, sandblasted lettering in the entry arch at Boeshore Scout Camp, and the commemorative sundial on the Square in Annville. Bill retired from his tombstone business in 2019 after 72 years in the trade. Throughout his career, he generously donated tombstones, markers, and cornerstones to civic and private organizations. There was also a second career for Bill while he operated his memorial business. He was a rural letter carrier for the old Jonestown RD# 1. His mail truck was decked out with airhorns and whenever folks heard them, they knew they had a package. His favorite time on the mail route was Christmas when he received plate upon plate of Christmas cookies and handmade candies.

Bill enjoyed music, especially singing. He was often heard whistling to classical music on the radio or an LP. In the late 1940s, he was a tenor soloist in the well-known and highly traveled North County Chorus of Wells River, Vermont, and he played the lead in their presentation of "The Mikado." After returning to Jonestown, Bill joined The Jonestown

Male Chorus where he also soloed. He sang with JMC for 63 years. Bill was a leader and soloist in the choirs of the South Ryegate Presbyterian Church and St. John's United Church of Christ, Jonestown. Many brides included him as soloist in their weddings; he had "Ave Maria" memorized. Some of his best singing was done in the Lazyboy with Melanie as they followed the bouncing ball and watched "Sing Along with Mitch."

He was a member of The Jonestown Male Chorus, The Order of Eastern Star No. 115, Lebanon, Pulaski Lodge No. 58 of F&AM, Wells River, VT, Lebanon County Shrine Club, Harrisburg Consistory AASR, Zembo Temple where he served on the ambulance crew for the Circus, Walmer's Union Church, Fort Indiantown Gap, Rural Letter Carriers' Association, and the Jonestown American Legion Post 883. He was an authority on cookies and ice cream and never met a dog he didn't like or that didn't like him. Many times, the pockets of his jackets which once held Sausages or Beggin' Treats were discovered chewed out. He loved NASCAR and liked to remind family and friends that he was at the last race on the beach at Daytona and the first one at the Speedway.

Bill is survived by his daughter Melanie Ann Schaeffer of Jonestown with whom he lived, granddaughters Sarah E. and her husband Kevin Anderson of Greensburg, PA, and Katherine A. Schaeffer and her husband Hilliard Kutscher of Buffalo, and great-granddaughter Lia Anderson who was named for him, and by his son Brian Scott Schaeffer and his wife Tracy and granddaughter Jenna of Jonestown.

Bill Schaeffer was a good father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was a loyal friend and honest worker. He loved dogs, cookies (especially his mother's Toll House), ice cream, and cigarettes. And he will be very much missed.

A service in celebration will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2020, at the Creamer & Lum Funeral Home, 5 Campmeeting Road, Jonestown, PA. The family will receive guest for visitation at 10AM. The service for Bill will begin at 11AM. All are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to The Humane Society of Lebanon County, 150 Ramona Road, Myerstown, PA 17067, or Hospice of Central Pennsylvania, 1320 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

Events

FEB **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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Kreamer & Lum Funeral Home & Crematory
5 Campmeeting Road, Jonestown, PA, US, 17038

FEB **Memorial Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

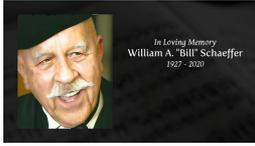
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Kreamer & Lum Funeral Home & Crematory
5 Campmeeting Road, Jonestown, PA, US, 17038

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Kreamer Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. - February 07 at 11:48 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Andrew "Bill" Schaeffer.



February 07 at 05:36 AM



“ Greta Rank lit a candle in memory of William Andrew "Bill" Schaeffer



Greta Rank - February 06 at 07:52 PM



“ I remember Bill the Mailman's special air horn announcing there was a package waiting if anyone was home to run out to the mailbox get it. We will never forget all the time and effort he put into the Joseph Johns "Old Black Joe" memorial stone at Camp Bashore. Two pictures of Bill working on the stone can be found on page 28 in the book "From Slavery to Freedom Joseph Johns. And more recently (abit months ago) when I would take my dad Francis Ditzler out to Miller's Restaurant for our Wednesday morning breakfast, Bill would be sitting at the counter enjoying his breakfast. As we would be leaving my dad would ask "What time are you delivering the mail today? and don't bring me any bills", to which Bill would answer" all your getting is bills" then they would talk a few minutes always ending with a "Hey see you folks later" He will be missed, We are so sorry for your loss. Greta Ditzler Rank

Greta Rank - February 06 at 07:52 PM



“ Thank you for that memory, Greta. I can hear that conversation.

Melanie Ann Schaeffer - February 07 at 10:34 PM



“ I didn't know Bill well, but I used to look for him mowing the lawn when I would drive by his house. And I remember I was so impressed with his generosity when he donated the cornerstone for the addition to our church in Bunker Hill.

Melanie, I am sorry for your loss. I recently lost my father also.

Crystal Tobias

Crystal Tobias - February 05 at 03:31 PM



“ Thank you Crystal.
My sympathies to you as well.

Melanie Ann Schaeffer - February 07 at 10:33 PM



“ Crystal Tobias lit a candle in memory of William Andrew "Bill" Schaeffer



Crystal Tobias - February 05 at 03:23 PM



“ Melanie & Family

So sorry for your loss.

Rachel Noll - February 05 at 10:09 AM



“ Thank you, Rachel.

Melanie Ann Schaeffer - February 07 at 10:35 PM



“ Bill That's one of the most kindest generous man I've ever met

Ann Smith - February 04 at 10:22 PM



“ Thank you, Ann. He was certainly one of the good guys.

Melanie Ann Schaeffer - February 07 at 10:36 PM



“ When I met Mr Schaefer. He said are you here for me? Because I came to visit Ms Melanie to prepare for their family photo shoot. I was so blessed by his sweet disposition.



Angie Sellers of AM Photography Forever - February 04 at 01:07 PM



“ Thank you, Angie. We are so grateful to have those family photographs.

Melanie Ann Schaeffer - February 07 at 10:36 PM



“ Melanie Ann Schaeffer lit a candle in memory of William Andrew "Bill" Schaeffer



Melanie Ann Schaeffer - February 04 at 10:06 AM