



William "Bill" Puckett

August 9, 1944 - October 20, 2020

William "Bill" Puckett, 76, passed away on October 20, 2020 at the Windsor of Gainesville in Gainesville, FL after a long battle with early-onset Alzheimer's disease.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Sally. He is survived by his son David Puckett of Staunton, VA , and his brother Thomas Puckett of Denver, CO. He was born in Tulsa, OK, on August 9, 1944, the eldest of two sons born to Howard and Genevieve Puckett. Bill was a loving husband, father, and uncle, and quick to make friends with his warm smile everywhere he went.

Raised in Cherryvale, KS, Bill was voted most likely to succeed in the Cherryvale High School class of 1962 and played varsity basketball and appeared in several plays. At Kansas State College of Pittsburg, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and met the love of his life, Sally Annette Souder. Bill went on to earn his Master of Business Administration (Health Care Administration) at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Bill was a respected leader in the field of healthcare. He worked at Decatur Memorial Hospital in Decatur, IL from 1971 to 1987, rising to the position of Senior Vice President. In 1987, he took a position with AvMed-Santa Fe and served in a variety of positions, including Chief Operating Officer of Alachua General Hospital in Gainesville, FL. Bill finished his career as the CEO/Administrator of Accent Physician Specialists in Gainesville, retiring in 2005. He was a life fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and active in various community organizations including the United Way and Rotary International.

A special thank you to the staff of The Windsor of Gainesville for their gracious care and support during his residence there.

Due to health concerns, the family has chosen to do a memorial service at a later date.

Comments



“ Tom and Judy and David. It is Jan. 26, 2021, and I just learned of Bill's passing. The last I heard from him was ten years ago when he let me know of Sally's passing. I tried to contact him again but was unable to make the connection. I am truly saddened to hear of his passing as I was of Sally's. Judi and I send our sincere best thoughts to all of you. Bill was a true friend, roommate and frater in the bond of Tau Kappa Epsilon at Kansas State College of Pittsburg. We were inseperable at times and spent many pleasant times together during our college years. My wife Judi and I were in Bill and Sally's wedding in 1966. Frater Tom and Judy i hope this message finds you and that you are well. It has been over fifty years since we spoke. David my most sincere condolences to you in the loss of both of your folks. Sincerely John (Mahin) and Judi.

John Mahin - January 26 at 07:45 PM



“ Dear Tom and Bill and Sally’s Son, David,
My deepest sympathy is extended to you with the great emotional loss of your brother and father. Bill was well-respected by everyone in Cherryvale for his emotional intelligence, maturity, Christian values and morality. Tom, you and Bill, lost your beloved father at very young ages; however, your mother raised you by herself, to become fine men who respected others with extraordinary abilities. May The Holy Spirit comfort you at this most difficult time. You will be in my prayers for healing of the painful loss and that pleasant memories of your brother and father will fill your mind forever.
With heartfelt memories of Bill, Christian Love,
Suzanne Lassman Brostrom
Reddick, Fl

Suzanne Lassman Brostrom - October 30, 2020 at 06:15 AM



“ Mr. Bill, I am so crushed to learn of your passing. I grew to love you while you were at the Windsor. The last 7 months while the facility was on lick down due to COVID-19 was hard. I not only missed being able to visit my dad, but also the little family all of as as family if residents, or residents themselves. I missed being able to see you. I am so sorry you left this earth. You will truly be missed. Thanks for the laughs, Mr. Bill.

Renee Shifrin - November 01, 2020 at 06:52 PM



“ I was saddened to learn of the passing of Bill. I actually was visiting my mother at The Windsor, the morning of his passing. He was such a ray of sunshine. I am so sorry, David, that you lost your father, this way. My mother, Phyllis Ratliff, Jean and Bill were the first residents at the Windsor, Reflections. My sweet mother developed dementia, years ago. And I realized very quickly that I was unable to care for her at home. She lived alone for almost 17 years after my father passed, it was very devastating for her to leave her home. I remember very vividly, leaving her behind locked doors that first day at The Windsor. She was not happy to say the least, and your father, Bill, sat with her for hours, talking and comforting her. He was such a kind and gentle man. He spoke of his wife, Sally, and how he missed her. But he would see her again soon...The 3 musketeers, as I referred to them, lived there for at least 3 weeks alone before more residents moved in. They developed a special bond. I had the honor of visiting them daily. And they were truly happy. Which was a blessing. The facility and staff doting on them,Ann, the activity director was essential in keeping the atmosphere upbeat and alive with activities!When March arrived, I was fearful, as to what was going to occur. The lockdown was detrimental in the loss of many... I grieve for the losses. But am proud of the stance, The Windsor took. My mother is alive, yet she lost so much.. A true friend, Mr. Bill.. There will never be another, and my biggest regret, is I never got the chance to tell him, how appreciative I was, of that first night... and all the other nights, he was that knight in shining armor! God bless you, David, in the loss of your Father...what a wonderful man! That touched many lives..

Nancy Ellis - November 02, 2020 at 08:02 PM



“ I came to know Bill from visiting my mom Faye at The Windsor. I came to love all the residents and Bill was special to everyone. All the ladies loved him! He will be missed by so many. His journey with Alzheimer’s is over as is my mom’s, I will always remember Bill and all the special residents at The Windsor, I miss seeing them.

Stephanie Nowell - November 04, 2020 at 05:30 PM