



William H Cole Jr.

July 10, 1933 - August 14, 2023

William H. "Bill" Cole, Jr. passed away at 1:43 PM on August 14, 2023 in Community Hospice at Baptist South Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. Bill was born July 10, 1933 in Chicago, Illinois and recently celebrated his 90th birthday. He was preceded in death by his parents, William H. Cole, Sr. and Elda Snyder Cole, brother, James D. "Jim" Cole and his aunt, Lorna Hartman. Bill grew up in South Bend, Indiana and graduated from James Whitcomb Riley High School where he played on the varsity basketball team. After high school he served in the U.S. Air Force as an aviation electronics specialist on B-36 bombers. While serving in the Air Force Bill met his future wife, Marjorie, during a tour of duty in England. Following their marriage, they initially settled in Texas. After he was honorably discharged from the Air Force, Bill and Marjorie relocated to the Atlanta area and he spent the balance of his career as an electronic engineer for the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration). While in Atlanta Bill enjoyed spending time with his family on Lake Lanier in his sailboat. Bill also liked their frequent trips to England to spend time with Marjorie's family.

Following his retirement, he enjoyed keeping busy with special projects. Bill was a skilled craftsman and he had the technical talent to fix things and complete intricate projects. He could repair cars, lawnmowers, appliances, watches, clocks or almost any mechanical object. He finished off the basement in their home, built a grandfather clock, enjoyed day trading in the stock market and kept busy doing general repairs and maintenance around

the home and for friends and family.

Bill is survived by his wife of over 65 years, Marjorie, daughter Gail Abbott and her husband Darrell Abbott, daughter Julie Anderson, son Paul Cole and his fiancé Kathy Kondrath, grandson Eric Anderson and his wife Kristen, grandsons Austin Wilson and Evan Anderson and great grandson Hawke Anderson, Marjorie's brother Philip Bailey and his wife, Marie, Darrell's daughter Brittany and her children, Bryson and Brianna, Darrell's son, Brandon and his wife Rachel and their sons, Corbin and Kason and daughter Callie.

Bill moved from the Atlanta area to St. Augustine, Florida 6 years ago, where he has enjoyed taking walks on the beach, flying his large kite, and watching the birds from the lanai at his home. He loved his wife and family and enjoyed spending time with them. He always had a love of animals and liked taking care of pets for family members. Although large in stature Bill has always been gentle in nature and he was a very gregarious and fun loving person. He greeted others with a smile, had a hardy laugh and liked to introduce himself as "friendly Bill". His larger than life personality will be sorely missed by friends and family.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 AM on Saturday, August 19, 2023 at St. Johns Family Funeral Home and Bill will be laid to rest in a family burial plot at Southlawn Cemetery in South Bend, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing may make a contribution in his memory to the St. Augustine Humane Society, PO Box 133, St. Augustine, FL 32085.

For those not able to attend the services will be live streamed via the following link: <https://iframe.dacast.com/live/2a7a09ae1c0559a83ef537e05e6a14a6/2a7d5f-98fd-a9e6-32a7-b774547cf42c>.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

AUG **19**. 10:30 AM (ET)

ST JOHNS FAMILY FUNERAL HOME
385 State Rd 207
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Tribute Wall



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of William H Cole Jr.*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - August 19, 2023 at 02:54 PM



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William H Cole Jr.*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - August 18, 2023 at 01:24 PM



Beautiful memories of a long happy life ... Well done Dad xx

Julie Anderson - August 18, 2023 at 03:54 PM



We all will one day be together again 💕💕 I love you Dad

Paul Cole - August 18, 2023 at 03:59 PM

GA

We all had so many fun times together. We will miss you every day. I love you Dad ❤️

Gail Abbott - August 18, 2023 at 08:46 PM

BT

Julie , my thoughts and prayer are with you and your family

Brelenda Tolliver - August 22, 2023 at 02:17 PM

JK

Bill was a very special person. Margorie his wife will always be my special friend. A long time friend from the age of 11yrs inEngland

Judith Kowalski - January 17, 2024 at 09:33 PM

GD

“ *So sorry to hear of Bill's passing. He was one of life's gentlemen a kind and caring soul. Our thoughts are with you Marjorie at this sad time. Much love from Graham and Alison.*

Graham Davy - August 22, 2023 at 04:56 AM

AU

“ Granddad never met a person or an animal he didn't get along with. Affable, warm, and happy he always was, with a little smirk on his face and handkerchief in his pocket.

Whether he was spending hours on Stocktrade, working on repairing a trinket of some sort, or taking an afternoon nap, you could always feel his subtle, calming spirit when he was around.

I'll always have the fond memories of playing Mario Brothers together, him cheering me on at my sporting events, and wearing all my hand-me-down clothes and ball caps.

I'm going to miss his loud sneezes that would startle the whole room. I'm going to miss watching him enjoy any meal you put in front of him and wait to take a sip of water until the entire plate was clean. I'm going to miss the smell of the Obsession cologne he always wore.

Nothing but fond memories I have of granddad. And knowing he lived a long, happy and healthy life gives me peace with his passing.

Granddad, thank you for always being a light on this earth whenever it got a little dark. I know you will be watching out for us in heaven. I love you, always.

Austin - August 20, 2023 at 02:09 PM

“ Part Two of Philip and Marie's memories...

We remember Bill's love of figurines and of the Royal Doulton jugs that he and Philip collected over the years. He relished going to London, to the famous market at Portobello Road and seeking out any jugs they hadn't already got. He would study them, barter with the seller and come away with his prize purchase. Then he would spend even more hours studying them again – and again. He also loved clocks; remember the grandfather clock? He had a great love of natural history too.

We remember when he bought the piece of land and proudly claimed to be a landowner... such a big beaming smile always accompanied those discussions. And the boat on Lake Lanier gave him a lot of pleasure, didn't it? We remember being there and meeting Gail Clarey and family one time.

His bar in the house in Luxembourg Drive was legendary with the clock whose numbers were backwards, and the Laurel and Hardy characters that so tickled him.

Philip remembers Bill being fascinated with Schubert's 9th Symphony and listening to it over and over and over again. We used to give him CDs from New World Music that he loved. And books always fascinated him – even to his last days, didn't they? Maybe it was all the time he had to spend in Stockport Library when Granny sent him there!

And so Bill, William H Cole Jr, Old King Cole – however we think of him – will live for ever in our hearts and memories, as it will in each of yours. It's a great tribute to anyone that the mention of their name brings a smile to your face and a warmth to your heart. That's always going to be the case for us and we thank God for having him in our lives. May he claim his eternal reward in heaven and be at peace. Amen.

Philip Bailey - August 20, 2023 at 11:19 AM

“ Our special memories of Bill, from Philip and Marie in England. Part one.

We have so many memories of our dear brother-in-law over the years. Obviously, going back to the really early days of his stays at Warwick Close, Philip recalls it was Bill who helped him learn how to ride a two-wheeler bike, patiently going up and down the Close. We really are talking many, many years ago!

His many subsequent visits were memorable in different ways. We recall that, having picked up him and Marjorie from the airport and driven them to Warwick Close, he was very aware that his name had been mentioned to the neighbours there: “Our Marjorie and Bill are coming...” Needless to say, some were checking at the window as we pulled up in the Close. Bill got out of the car and turned to where some of the curtains were twitching and, with a big wave, shouted “Hey, neighbour!”

On one of those trips, Granny had mentioned that the plant growing up the outside of the kitchen wall, which could be seen from the lounge window, was getting a bit out of hand. Bill set to and, before anyone could say anything, had cut it right back to the roots at ground level. There was almost nothing left of it and indeed it took about three years to recover! Needless to say, Granny made sure he never touched it again!

Marie remembers making him some leek and celery soup one day. “Ooo, my favourite!” beamed Bill. A few days later, she made some chicken soup... “Ooo, my favourite!” came the response. “I thought leek and celery was your favourite,” Marie asked. “Ah, I like ‘em all” Bill explained.

One thing we do know that was always a real favourite was Bassett’s Liquorice Allsorts – we usually made sure there was a giant box ready for him coming!

Granny often suggested he went into Stockport – either with her on the bus (and to bring the shopping back for her), or to go to the library and spend the day there! He usually obliged, but then we discovered he never got the bus back to Warwick Close. He walked up the hill – and then we found out why. He would stop at every pub on the way back and have a pint of beer and chat with the locals! On the subject of beer, he used to maintain: “I’ve had a beer in every pub – never had a bad one yet. But I’ll keep looking!”

We went one day to Granada Studios Tour in Manchester – a television studio that was open to the public so you could see where some of the famous television programmes were filmed, like Coronation Street. At the end of the tour, we’d had a cup of tea and a sandwich, probably and Bill strolled outside the café. When we caught up with him a little while later, he was sitting on the wall with a host of children round him. “Do you know Old King Cole?” he was asking them. They were enthralled to hear this big American man, really enjoying his moment. “Well, that’s me!” he told them. He showed them something from his wallet with his name on it. “See, I’m Old King Cole!” The children couldn’t wait to tell their parents who they’d met that day! It was a lovely scene.

We remember Bill’s love of figurines and of the Royal Doulton jugs that he and Philip collected over the years. He relished going to London, to the famous market at Portobello Road and seeking out any jugs they hadn’t already got. He would study them, barter with the seller and come away with his prize purchase. Then he would spend even more hours studying them again – and again. He also loved clocks; remember the grandfather clock? He had a great love of natural history too.

We continue on the next page!!

GA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gail Abbott - August 19, 2023 at 06:19 PM

GA

Your family will all miss you so much Dad❤️

Gail Abbott - August 19, 2023 at 06:20 PM

MG

Bill was such a very sweet man.

Margaret Gott - August 19, 2023 at 10:37 PM

JS

“ Bill was a wonderful person who enjoyed the company of friends and always greeted you with a smile. He was tall in stature and sprit. He will be missed. The world needs more like Bill because then everything would be repaired and in working order. A reflection of his character is evident in the loving and devoted children he and Margery raised.

John and Andrea Smith - August 19, 2023 at 08:52 AM

BK

“ Bill was such a loving man with a gentile spirit and a kind heart. He was a wonderful husband to Marge, and an excellent Father, Grandad, and Great Grandad. When I picture Bill, I see him with that big happy smile and I hear his glorious deep belly laugh. He was loved by all who knew him and he will truly be missed.
-Brittany Kennedy

Brittany Kennedy - August 19, 2023 at 07:12 AM

BA

“ *Bill was a gentle giant that was always a joy to be around. He was kind and sincere and beloved by his family. His memory will eternally live on through his loved ones and he will be greatly missed!*

-Brandon Abbott

Brandon Abbott - August 18, 2023 at 08:13 PM

 Julie
Anderson

“ *Julie Anderson lit a candle in memory of William H Cole Jr.*



Julie Anderson - August 18, 2023 at 05:24 PM

 Julie
Anderson

“ *A special thanks to my sister Gail who was very hands on and coordinated all Dad's dementia care through thick and thin, bright and dark times. She stayed strong and found much joy in helping make Dad more comfortable and happy.*

*TO LOVE A PERSON IS TO LEARN THE SONG IN THEIR HEART,
AND SING IT TO THEM WHEN THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN.*

-Arne Garborg

Julie Anderson - August 18, 2023 at 05:14 PM

GA

Thanks Julie. It has definitely been a family affair. We have all loved and cared for our Dad. I already miss him so much. Love you always Dad.

Gail Abbott - August 18, 2023 at 09:29 PM

RA

“ *Bill was such a wonderful and loving man! He was always laughing and pleasant to be around. He will be missed dearly. May his memories bring you peace and comfort. We send our deepest condolences and prayers during this sad time.*
-Rachel Abbott

Rachel Abbott - August 18, 2023 at 05:06 PM



“ *64 files added to the album LifeTributes*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - August 18, 2023 at 01:13 PM

RA

Love all of these!

Rachel Abbott - August 18, 2023 at 05:22 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of William H Cole Jr..*



August 17, 2023 at 03:31 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William H Cole Jr..

August 17, 2023 at 03:31 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William H Cole Jr..



August 17, 2023 at 07:51 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William H Cole Jr..

August 17, 2023 at 07:51 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William H Cole Jr..



August 16, 2023 at 07:42 PM

DA

“ I was fortunate to have Bill as my father-in-law. I always respected his calm demeanor and his patience. He had a positive attitude and it was a pleasure to be around him. He lived a happy life. I will always remember his smile and his unique laugh. We will miss you Bill.

Darrell Abbott - August 16, 2023 at 04:08 PM

DS

“ My condolences to a beautiful family who lost their loving dad. Marg, stay strong and please visit when you are in Winter Garden.
Donna

Donna Singh - August 16, 2023 at 03:04 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William H Cole Jr..



August 16, 2023 at 11:50 AM