



William Joseph "Bill" Lewis

May 8, 1943 - February 27, 2026

William Joseph "Bill" Lewis, age 82, of St. Augustine, went to be with the Lord on Friday, Feb 27, 2026 at the Bailey Family Center for Caring with his family by his side. Bill was born to Joseph and Maxine Lewis on May 8, 1943, in Louisville, Kentucky. He grew up in Louisville and then proudly served in the United States Air Force from February 13, 1963, until his honorable discharge on February 10, 1967. During his service, he bravely participated in the Vietnam War, earning the respect and admiration of his peers and family alike. Following his military service, he embarked on a career in the telecommunications industry. He excelled and experienced the favor of the Lord in his workplace. For a short period of time, while working on a project in downtown New York City, Bill lived separate from his family due to the high crime rate. Every morning while walking from his apartment to his workplace, he always prayed to the Lord for protection from danger. No one ever messed with Bill during this time. On the final day of this assignment, Bill entered the office building where he reported daily for duty. Two of the security guards wished him well but asked who the tall men were who always walked beside him as he walked to and from work? Bill smiled, thought for a second, and with tears in his eyes, he said "that must have been God's protective army of angels with me." Bill retired from BellSouth Mobility as a Field Engineer after many years of dedicated service.

Many will remember Bill's uncanny likeness to KFC's Colonel Sanders. He

even applied to make it official, but that just wasn't part of God's plan, so he enjoyed appearing in costume at family and friend gatherings and bringing a smile to many faces.

Bill's faith was very important to him. He wanted everyone to know he loved his Lord and Savior. He was very creative sharing his faith with non-believers. He loved life and loved bringing a smile to everyone. He was charismatic, generous, funny, hardworking, and was a peace maker. He enjoyed fishing with family and friends, golfing, travel, and family get togethers. Bill loved all animals, but he especially loved golden retrievers and big sweet loving dogs.

Bill lived a life marked by dedication, service, and unwavering support for his family, his church and his community. He was a longtime member of Anastasia Baptist Church where he sang in the choir, taught Sunday School, assisted with the audio-visual ministry, and was a member of the facilities staff for many years.

The family would like to specifically thank the amazing caregivers who so kindly helped care for Bill in his final year of life on earth. They have all been and continue to be the greatest blessing with their gift of care, time, and friendship.

In reflecting on Bill's life, we remember a man who embodied generosity, kindness, and a remarkable spirit of perseverance. His smile, laughter and wisdom will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him, but we know we will see him in Eternity!

In addition to his parents, Bill was preceded in death by his brother, Charles Lewis. He is survived by his devoted and loving wife of 35 years, Jeannie Brewer Lewis of Palatka and St Augustine, Florida; his sister, Sally Osborn (Mark); his three daughters: Heather Proffitt (Jesse), Janet Nichols, and Karen

Alting; his two step-daughters: Sheila Chandler-Gaubatz (Dean) and Kelly Cates-Thornton (Jack); his three grandchildren: Kennedy Nichols, Andrew Alting, and Caroline Alting; and finally his step grandchildren Jessica Cates, and Joshua Chandler (Mary) and his 7 month old great-grandchild, Julia Chandler, who ALL brought him immense joy in his later years. He took great pride in his role as a father and grandfather, and the bonds he formed with his entire family will forever be cherished.

A celebration of Bill's life with military honors will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at Anastasia Baptist Church. Those unable to attend can view the live-stream by going to: <https://iframe.dacast.com/live/2a7a09ae1c0559a83ef537e05e6a14a6/0d926f14-3fd3-923f-c556-1f0bb777106f>. A committal service and interment will be held at 9:30 am on Monday, March 9, 2026 at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims, Florida. For those who are inclined to send flowers, please consider a live plant, or donations in his memory can be made to: K9s for Warriors at <https://k9sforwarriors.org>

St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery

5525 U.S. 1 North
Mims, FL 32754

Previous Events

A Celebration of Life

MAR 7. 2:00 PM (ET)

Anastasia Baptist Church
1650 A1A S
Saint Augustine, FL 32080

Committal Service and Interment

MAR 9. 9:30 PM - 10:30 PM.

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery

Tribute Wall



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William Joseph "Bill" Lewis*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - March 05 at 05:01 PM

JN

“ Even when life carried us miles apart, the bond we shared never felt distant. Blood runs deep—and the love between a father and daughter doesn’t weaken with time, space, or circumstance. It simply is.

These moments, these memories, are part of a story that lives quietly but powerfully within me. Not always seen, not always told—but always present, always real. And if you knew my dad, you know there was usually a little laughter mixed in there too... whether you were ready for it or not.

My dad’s life was full of meaning, faith, laughter, and legacy. The kind of man who could make you smile, think, and probably shake your head all in the same breath. And I carry pieces of all of that with me—woven into who I am, how I love, and how I show up in this world.

These photos may not have been displayed, but they hold a lifetime of connection—and maybe a few stories he’d still insist on telling his way.

Forever his daughter. Always.



Janet Nichols - March 17 at 07:21 PM

WO

“ 1 file added to the album William "Bill" Lewis



Wayne Osterling - March 16 at 12:23 PM

LA

“ Love, Jim, Cecelia, Tracy and all planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Joseph "Bill" Lewis.

Love, Jim, Cecelia, Tracy and all - March 06 at 01:31 PM

LA

“ Love, Jim, Cecelia, Tracy and all purchased the *Divine Light* for the family of William Joseph "Bill" Lewis.



Love, Jim, Cecelia, Tracy and all - March 06 at 01:31 PM

WN

“ With Love & Affection, Bogie & Nita purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of William Joseph "Bill" Lewis.



With Love & Affection, Bogie & Nita - March 05 at 04:12 PM

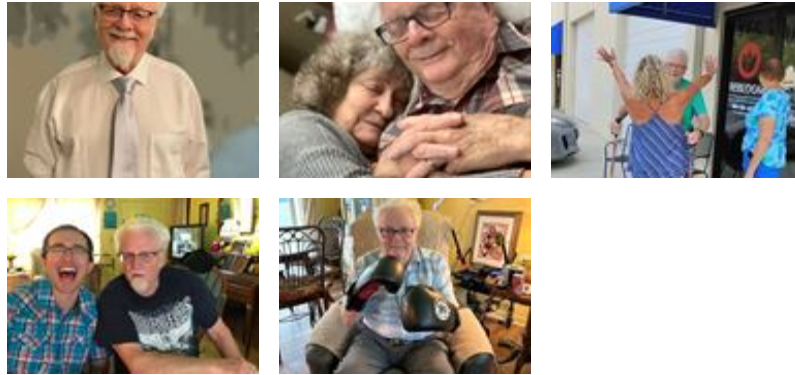
WN

“ With Love & Affection, Bogie & Nita planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Joseph "Bill" Lewis.

With Love & Affection, Bogie & Nita - March 05 at 04:12 PM



“ 70 files added to the album Life Tributes



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - March 05 at 04:07 PM

US

“ University Eye Specialists Drs & Staff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Joseph "Bill" Lewis.

University Eye Specialists Drs & Staff - March 03 at 03:52 PM

US

“ University Eye Specialists Drs & Staff purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of William Joseph "Bill" Lewis.



University Eye Specialists Drs & Staff - March 03 at 03:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Joseph "Bill" Lewis.*



March 03 at 02:35 PM



“ *My best memory of Bill was at the Carver Christmas party. Bill would always play Santa Claus for all of the kids. My children loved that party and Santa always added a special touch. My best to the whole family at this time. Love, Barbara Stivers (cousin to Bill) 🙏*



Barbara Stivers - March 03 at 11:36 AM