



William "Bill" Foster Backus

January 30, 1949 - February 17, 2024

William "Bill" Foster Backus, age 75, of The Villages, Florida, passed away on February 17, 2024. He was born on January 30, 1949, in Toledo, Ohio. Bill was the beloved husband of Kay Backus and the loving father of Jason (Laura) and Jeffrey (Regan) Backus and adored his grandchildren Caroline (18), William (15), Harper (15), Griffin (13), Bryson (11).

Bill attended Westfield High School in Westfield, New Jersey. He went on to attend the University of Maryland where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing degree. While there, he played on the Maryland Terrapins football team for two years. After college, he dedicated over 30+ years of his career to E&J Gallo Winery, achieving the position of VP of Sales for the United States Southern Region. Bill took great pride in helping people develop and grow their careers.

Outside from his professional success, Bill found joy in attending his children's and grandchildren's sports, dance and music events. He loved all animals but had an affinity for his English Springer Spaniels, most recently Bailey. He enjoyed playing golf, traveling, socializing with friends, spending time on the beach, visiting Starbucks, relaxing at his cottage in Northern Michigan as well as attending and watching University of Michigan and Detroit Lions football games. He was a member of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church.

Bill is preceded in death by his father Foster Eldon Backus, mother Pauline Payne Backus, and stepmother Charlotte Lucille Backus.

In the memory of Bill and in lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the

Georgia Transplant Foundation where Bill held the position of President for two terms. Bill was a heart transplant recipient in 2010 and an avid champion for the Georgia Transplant Foundation (<https://support.gatransplant.org> or 678-514-1180)

Bill's warm spirit and zest for life will be dearly missed, but his legacy of love and laughter will endure through the memories shared by those who knew and loved him.

A Visitation and Memorial Service will be held on March 16th, 2024, from 2:00 - 3:00pm with services starting immediately after. Services will take place at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church. 4886 County Road 472, Oxford, FL 34484. With the Visitation March 16th, 2024 from 2:00- 3:00pm.

You may stream the live service on the link below:

youtube.com/atamazinggracelutheranchurch7318/streams

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **16**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
4886 Co Rd 472
Oxford, FL 34484

Memorial Service

MAR **16**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
4886 Co Rd 472
Oxford, FL 34484

Tribute Wall



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Foster Backus.



March 07, 2024 at 09:14 AM



“ Bob Crawford, Chad Kelly & United Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Foster Backus.

Bob Crawford, Chad Kelly & United Family - March 07, 2024 at 09:14 AM



“ A relationship of five former Maryland football players came together to create a bond that continued over 55 let's go years. The memories are many that will continue to be special for the rest of our lives. We will miss you "the Pear"



Thomas D Heyse - February 21, 2024 at 07:15 PM



“ We are so saddened to hear of Bill's passing. He was a true gentleman and great guy. Our thoughts are with Kay, Jeff, and Jason and families. Doug and Linda Osborn

Linda/Doug Osborn - February 21, 2024 at 05:38 PM

SH

We are so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. May God bring you and your family peace that he is in a better place 🙏 Dave and Sandi Hutchinson.

Sandra Hutchinson - February 21, 2024 at 08:05 PM

BR

Bill was a fine gentleman. Prayers to the family. May he Rest In Peace. AMEN The Lord be with you Kay in this time of sorrow.

Bruce L Rockwell - February 22, 2024 at 04:24 AM

MG

So sorry to hear this Kay. Peace be with you and your family.

Mark D. Grueneberg

Mark D. Grueneberg - February 22, 2024 at 07:20 AM

CC

So sad to hear this news Kay. He will be missed by all, especially those who worked and played with him - the Winona crowd. My deepest condolences to you and yours and hope you all remember your good lives with him.

Carol Crafts - February 26, 2024 at 11:43 AM