



William "Bill" Ray

August 1, 1940 - December 30, 2022

William (Bill) Ray, loving husband and father passed away on Friday, December 30, 2022 at the age of 82. Bill was born in Atlanta, Georgia to Roy and Winnie Ray. He graduated from Georgia Tech University with a Master's degree in Industrial Management. Bill's compassion for law enforcement took him to a career with the United States Department of Treasury retiring in 1992.

After retiring from the government, Bills passions took him to country and western dancing, not only for couples but also line dancing. He taught both for many years and he also competed in couples dancing. Bill was the organizer and director of the Desert Sands Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada from 1994 through 2000.

Bill and his wife Violet moved to The Villages in 2008 where Bill was an essential part of Aloha 'O Ka Hula Dance Troupe and the Shaka Crew Dance Company as their emcee and storyteller. Bill's hobbies included reading, hiking, traveling, competitive shooting and of course, dancing.

Bill was preceded in death by his father, Roy and his mother, Winnie. He is survived by his wife, Violet, his son, William Jr., granddaughter Dagny, brother Kenneth, stepchildren Ryan Morgan, Heather Morgan, Dawn Aryazand, Jason Hyams, and niece, Karin.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held on Friday, January 20, 2023, 2:00 PM at Beyers Funeral Home in Lady Lake, Florida.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Lady Lake, Florida.

Previous Events

Celebration

JAN 20. 2:00 PM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory - Lady Lake
134 N US Highway 441
Lady Lake, FL 32159
(352) 753-4444

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Bill" Ray*



Beyers Funeral Home - January 16, 2023 at 09:25 AM

KR

“ *It's not surprising that Bill would end his life putting on shows. He had a flair for showmanship from the very beginning. Back then, he took up magic as a hobby and would turn our main hallway into a theater for magic shows on a regular basis. For our childhood games, whether it was cops and robbers, cowboys and indigenous people, or G.I. Joe, he'd always think up a scenario to make the game a little different each time. He had a photographic memory and could relate events in a way that would have you doubled over with laughter. I'm sure St. Peter is laughing so hard as Bill evaluates his life that he's having trouble getting the keys out of his pocket to open the Pearly Gates.*

Goodbye, Big Brother; and thank you for all the times you stood up for me, bailed me out of trouble, and put me up when I needed a place to stay. At the end, you were the last person on earth whom I could say has known me all my life.

Ken Ray - January 19, 2023 at 08:27 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Ray.*



January 16, 2023 at 04:20 PM



“ *I will always remember the special moments that I got to share with Bill from both Shaka and Hula. Thank you for all the wonderful memories. Your going to be missed.*

Dawn Jasinski - January 10, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *The best memories I have of my dad are from our adventures in the high country of Colorado in the late '70's. Being a kid aged only in the high single digits, I had the best & most memorable times of my young life exploring the Rockies in his International Harvesters Scout. It would go anywhere, especially with the winch he had on it. I'm 52 now, so it's been over 40 years since these experiences happened. But so many of them I can remember now, like they happened yesterday. Rest well, dad. Your granddaughter & I will miss you.*

William L Ray Jr - January 09, 2023 at 12:52 PM

TH

“ Bill, thank you for your friendship, showmanship and stories as Aloha Oka Hula narrator. You were able to be entertaining and still impart both legends and factual history about hula and Hawaii. I have many good memories from my time as photographer and working with you and Violet. You made a great team together. And, Johanna and I looked forward to meeting you and Violet for lunch at Woody's Bar-B-Que. You will be missed you friend.
Terry

terry hannah - January 08, 2023 at 05:04 PM

PS

“ Pam and Jim Smothers purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of William "Bill" Ray.



Pam and Jim Smothers - January 08, 2023 at 03:28 PM

SH

“ Jack and I are so sorry for your loss, Violet. Bill was a special gentleman and a loving husband to you. I have such wonderful memories of him with Aloha 'O Ka Hula and of his amazing way of telling the Hawaiian stories. He will be missed by many. Keep him close in your heart where he will live on forever with you. A hui hou, Bill . . .

Sandy Hensel - January 07, 2023 at 06:11 PM

RH

“ Bill was always so supportive, not only of Violet and the ladies of the Aloha O' Ka Hula Troupe but to all those he loved. I will always appreciate and remember his enthusiastic love of music. Bill's encouraging words have meant so much to me. I cannot help but think of Bill each time I sing his favorite, "Momma, He's Crazy"! And, crazy he was of his Violet! Bill will be sadly missed by so many. Rest assured, my Friend, the Ladies of the Troupe will surround your Violet with love and encouragement until you meet again. Go rest high upon that mountain...

Rhonda House - January 07, 2023 at 04:17 PM

LH

“ Violet, my thoughts are with you and the family. Bill will be missed by all. Sending you love and hugs.....

Louise Henry - January 07, 2023 at 04:16 PM

BE

“ Bill will be greatly missed by all the girls of Aloha o'ka Hula troupe. He was always so supportive of Violet & the hula & Shaka troupes. His wealth of knowledge regarding the history of Hawaii was appreciated by many audiences over the years. Rest in peace sweet Bill.

Beverly Edwards - January 07, 2023 at 02:46 PM

RI

“ My deepest condolences, very sorry for your loss. Bill was a wonderful soft-spoken Southern-style gentleman. He brought everything together as an announcer/storyteller for our performances. Always captivating the audiences with his interesting upbeat stories of what the songs meant in Hawaiian. Blessed to have met and performed with both Bill and Violet. Always your friend Roseanne Vinci Igoe

Rose Ann Igoe - January 07, 2023 at 01:42 PM

TD

“ You're always in my thoughts, please know how sorry I am for your loss. Bill was an incredible man who loved his wife, family and friends with every ounce of his heart. He will be missed every day.

Tara, Mike, Sidni & Brody Duff - January 07, 2023 at 01:41 PM

BB

“ Mahalo nui loa, Bill, for teaching me Hawaiian folk lore and for a terrific tour of Las Vegas! You and Violet made wonderful neighbors, you will be missed!

Bonni Bateman - January 06, 2023 at 07:16 AM

DJ

Bill will sadly be missed and I'll always remember the wonderful times that I was able to share with Bill in both Shaka and Hula.

Dawn Jasinski - January 08, 2023 at 07:42 PM

KF

Violet, my sincere condolences for your loss of Bill. I hope we will have a great send off dancing for him. He was such an asset to the hula group. I am sure he will smile and love you from above.

Kimberly Foreman - January 15, 2023 at 05:32 PM