



## William Herlong

August 16, 1933 - November 14, 2009

### Obituary of William Herlong

William Frederick Herlong, Jr., 76 of Leesburg, Florida, died peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of November 14, 2009.

He was a loving and devoted husband, father and friend. Bill loved his family and his church and was always willing to serve.

Bill was born in Leesburg on August 16, 1933, to William "Fred" Herlong and wife Louise, both also from Lake County, Florida. He was raised as an only child, but enjoyed close familial bonds with his many cousins, uncles, aunts and friends of the Herlong clan, a family related to the Lee family, founders of Leesburg. After graduating from Leesburg High School in 1951, Bill attended the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida where he and Margaret Ann LaBorde, also from Leesburg, discovered a love borne from a 20-year friendship and married shortly after both graduated, Bill with a degree in Business Administration, from UF in June 1955.

Bill joined the National Guard and entered the U.S. Army as a Sergeant

stationed at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina where he and "Marg" lived until fulfilling his military duty and returning to Leesburg with their first child, Ann Louise, in 1957. They settled into what remains the family's primary residence on Shore Acres Drive. The birth of two more children, another daughter, Mary Frances (Fran) and a son, William (Bill) F. Herlong III, took place in 1959 and 1965 accordingly.

Bill joined the family citrus business as a manager of the A.S Herlong Packing Company for 10 years until in 1968, Bill ran for U.S. Congress, once again demonstrating his willingness to serve both his community and nation. Although narrowly defeated in his run for office, he gained widespread respect and trust among many people of prominent stature in both the private and public sectors, serving as Chairman and Board Member of the Oklawaha Basin Recreation and Water Conservation and Control Authority from 1969-1972 as well as Chairman of Florida's ASC Committee for the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1969-1974. It was during this time that he and Margaret were invited to dine at the White House with the President of the United States.

He then took a position as Vice President of Public Relations at locally owned Citizens' National Bank. Upon his retirement at the age of 50, Bill continued to serve on the Board of Directors until the bank was sold to Huntington Bank. Through the years, Bill received numerous civic awards and accolades for his many contributions including serving as President of the Leesburg Chamber of Commerce in 1967, President of Lake Sumter Community College Foundation from 1983-1985, board member for Leesburg's Public Library and numerous other community organizations. In recent years, he was also instrumental in establishing the Center State Bank of Mid-Florida in Leesburg for which he served as an organizing Director on the Board of Directors, and

was subsequently appointed as Director Emeritus.

Much of Bill's life revolved around his close relationship with the Episcopal church. His mother and father were deeply devout and his father, the Rev. "Fred" Herlong, entered the ministry when Bill was attending university. Bill and all of his and Margaret's children, as well as three of his grandchildren, were baptized at St. James Episcopal church in Leesburg. He and Margaret were also married at St. James, where he served numerous times as Senior Warden and Vestry member, as well as server, lector, usher and choir member. Between the years of 1970 and 2005, Bill also served 7 terms of 2-3 years each on the board and standing committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida.

Bill is survived by his wife of 54 years, Margaret Ann of Leesburg, daughter Ann Louise Tuke and husband Richard Haydon of Ponce Inlet, Florida, daughter Mary Frances (Fran) McDonald and husband Mark of Kalaheo, Kauai, son William (Bill) F. Herlong, III and wife Katie of Orlando, and five grandchildren Kelsey Lee McDonald, Kyle Marshall McDonald, Natalie Lorraine Tuke, Grace McConnell Herlong and Anna Frances Herlong.

## Services

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Monday, Nov. 23, at St. James Episcopal Church followed by an interment of ashes in the St. James Memorial Garden. Friends and family are invited to a celebration of Bill's life following the service (approximately 12-2pm) at the Opera House at 108 S.

5th Street in Leesburg.

## Memorials

In lieu of flowers, contributions are requested to be made to the St. James Episcopal Church Memorial Fund, 204 Lee St., Leesburg, Fla. 34748-4915.

# Tribute Wall



“ *William Herlong*

October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *We will miss you dear friend*

**Jody and Beryl** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I love you all... he was a great friend!*

**Tom Grizzard** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *We all are deeply saddened with the passing of Mr.Bill. Mr. Herlong was always so friendly to me even though he was 20 yrs older. He could not have had a mean bone in him and was always so pleasant to be around. I'm so glad he was able to spend time with his grand children as he realy must have cherished them. May God give you all comfort in this very sad time. God Bless the Bill Herlong family. Best regards Jeff Cherry*

**the Jeff Cherry family** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Marg, I would like to believe Bill and Frank will watch the Gators together again. And I know you will be ok as time passes, although moments of grief and sadness will never go away. When you feel alone and have doubts, just ask "what would Bill do". It will make you feel better. Love to you all.....see you Thursday. Nancy .*

**Nancy Ezell** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Marg: Thank you for letting us know. What a shock. Words can not express my sadness at the loss. I have just shared the news with Bob, and we will try to be with you for the memorial service. Love, Charles

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**Charles Lewis** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Dear Marg, Bob and I are shocked and saddened to hear about the passing of your Bill. He was too young to leave this world! You have our deepest condolences and we pray that God's love will provide you with the strength you need to to get through this period in your life.

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**Bob & Joan Ford** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ Aunt Marg, Please know our love and prayers are with each and every day. I hope you are able to find some comfort in the fact that he did not appear to have suffered. Glve our love to all. Nancy Pattilo Baron

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**Nancy Barron** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NR

“ We're so sorry to hear about Bill's death. We always knew he was a great guy, but we learned even more about what a nice and generous man he really was all through his life by reading his obituary. He will be truly missed. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you and your family. Nancy and Greg

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**Nancy and Greg Rhodes** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ *Camilla and I are shocked and saddened. Bill was one of the nicest men that either of us has ever known. We will miss him, and we pray that God may comfort you in your loss.*

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**Camilla and Bob Dick** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ *Dear Aunt Marg, Ann Louise, Fran and Bill, I was so sad to hear from mom the news about Uncle Bill. He is a part of so many good memories I have of my Leesburg family. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Tom, Anne (Pattillo), Patrick, Nathan and Christian Kail Sugar Land, Texas*

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**Anne Pattillo Kail** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

IR

“ *I will always cherish the times Bill and I had as friends, especially during football season. I think he loved the Gators as much as I love the Seminoles . To this day , I can hear Bill everytime I walked by him as he called out,"Gator Bait, Gator Bait."He will ever remain my special Gator Buddy. Thank you Marg and family for sharing Bill with us.*

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**Iris Robuck** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *I love you Daddad. You were an amazing grandfather and friend.*

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**Kyle McDonald** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Dear Marg, We were all shocked and deeply saddened to hear of Bill's sudden passing and he will be sorely missed by his relatives in Southern Africa. Bill's concern and interest in our family and country has meant a great deal to us and we have lost such a good friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Marg, Ann Louise, Fran and Bill. God bless you all and give you strength during this very sad time. Love, Jill and Chris Bourlay

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**Jill and Chris Bourlay, Knysna, South Africa** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ While we knew him only briefly, the memories of his wit, charm and laughter bring quick smiles. Our deepest sympathies for your loss.

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**Jim & Jil Crawford** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ In every sense, Bill Herlong was one of the good ones. We will miss his loyalty, his judgement, and his kindness. We have lost a good, and irreplaceable, friend. Frank Bouis

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**Frank Bouis** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ Dear Marg & family, I am so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. Although we only had a short time on the French barge trip, I really enjoyed his company as well as yours. Please know that you are in my prayers. Carolee

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**Carolee Thomason** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ Dear Margaret, I remember Bill from when you were dating at Florida. It sounds as if he had a wonderful career and was a great family and community oriented man. I am so sorry for your loss and that of your extended family. May God comfort you and bring forth memories of wonderful times together. Warm regards, Your former classmate and cheerleader friend: Karlene Knutsson Duke

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**Karlene Knutsson Duke** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Marg, I am saddened by Bill's untimely passing and the loss of a great LHS Class leader, ATO Fraternity Brother and fellow lifetime Gator. God Bless & your Family. Bob Frierson

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**Bob Frierson** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Margaret Ann and Family, Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers during your very difficult time of sorrow at the loss of Bill. We have great memories of our time with him as a fellow choir member. We will be in touch! David and Susan

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**David and Sue Aiken** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ I speak for three generations of the Scales and Lytle families in sending our deepest sympathy for your loss, not to mention the community's loss. Bill will be remembered with smiles and love. He was one of the good guys!

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**Leslie Scales** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Mrs. Herlong, David and I are friends of Katie and Bill and were so sorry to hear of the passing of your husband. We have only met at Katie and Bill's wedding or engagement party but my family is long time friends with the Johnson family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Sincerely, Kerry & David Sharpe

David and Kerry Sharpe - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ As a friend of Katie and Bill's, we are deeply saddened for your loss of such a kind, loving, giving husband/father/Dad-Dad. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Ward, Staci, Jack and Nina Parker

Ward and Staci Parker & family - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ many condolences to Bill, Katie the girls and the entire family. I am sorry for your loss, but I was glad to read the obituary of one with a life so well lived. You are all in our prayers.

rogers turner - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GD

“ Dear Marg: You are in our thoughts and prayers and are deeply saddened at the loss of Bill. We will always remember his wonderful smile and the fun times we have all had together. Love to you and your family. Genice

Genice and John Dickerson - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ Our deepest sympathies to the Herlong family. Our love and prayers are with you during this time of loss.

Tee & Mary Grizzard - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ Marge and family, Our heart felt thoughts are with you. Bill and I enjoyed our time with both of you. It was a pleasure to get to know you on a one on one basis. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you experience this time of sorrow

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**Bill and Shirley Gray** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Dear Marge and family, We were stunned to hear of Bill's death. It is comforting to know that he died so peacefully and with his family. We appreciate how you and Bill have kept us informed of family news both there and in Zimbabwe and South Africa. We will all miss Bill, but we are grateful for the fond memories of his life.

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**Charles and Joy (Bourlay) Hambrick** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ Our deepest sympathy, we are so sorry for your loss, you all are in are thoughts and prayers.

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**Tim & Darald** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ We were saddened to hear of Bill's passing. We're sorry we won't be able to attend the memorial service on Monday. But our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family. Jim and Flossie

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**Jim and Florence (Bourlay) Gammage** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ DEAR MARGE AND FAMILY, AS YOU KNOW, I FIRST KNEW BILL IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL . OVER THE YEARS IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE BILL AS A LOVING HUSBAND,A PARTNER FILLED WITH PRIDE RAISING A FAMILY,A GRANDFATHER SO FULL OF LOVE AND JOY IN HIS GRANDCHILDREN AND A FRIEND I COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON. BILL HAS BEEN A SPECIAL PART OF MY LIFE--HE WILL LIVE ON IN MY HEART.LOVE, HELEN

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**HELEN KESSLER HYMAN** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Mrs, Herlong, Sorry to hear about your loss. I know everyone in Leesburg will miss him. I enjoyed working with him for many years at the bank God bless you and your family. Betty

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**Betty Richey** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ Hi Marg & all the family, So sad to hear this news on Bill's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. I am following this message with an email Love from us all Howie & sarah, Lex & Lorna

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**Howard & sarah Southey** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HL

“ It was with heavy heart that I learned this morning, November 26, about Bill's death. I remember him fondly through all of my years of having known the wonderful Herlong family. Marg, you are in my thoughts at this very difficult time. Lots of love, Helen Lots of love, Helen

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**Helen Pickett Larsh** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ *Our deepest sympathy to you all. Bill was a great link between the extended families and will be missed.*

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**Grahame and Anne Cousins(nee Bourlay)** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM