



Dr. William George

Dr. E. William “Bill” George, 82, of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, went home to be with his Lord on October 20, 2008. A native of Girardville, Pennsylvania, Bill graduated from Girardville High School, received his B.S. from John Brown University, an M.A. from Azusa Pacific University, and did graduate study in theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from JBU in 1998. Bill served in the Department of State in the Foreign Service Division, then began his life’s ministry with JBU, managing radio stations in Arkansas, Oklahoma and California, and consulting for stations in Texas, Florida, and Missouri. Bill served as Vice President of Western Operations for John Brown Schools and Vice President of the John Brown Schools Foundation. Bill received a citation from the Arkansas House of Representatives and the Distinguished Achiever Award from JBU in recognition of his outstanding performance while serving as Interim President of the university in 1994. Bill was elected a Trustee of JBU in 1954 and continued to serve in that capacity until his death.

Before moving to Siloam Springs, Bill was a long-time resident of Long Beach, California, where he gave to his community through his church and his work with many civic organizations, including serving as President of the Long Beach Rotary Club. He held positions on numerous national, state, and local boards, including Thru-the-Bible radio and the national board of National Religious Broadcasters. He received many awards and honors throughout his lifetime. Bill was a member of The First Baptist Church of Siloam Springs.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 56 years, Mary Eva; son, Eric of Indiana; daughter, Marsha of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; daughter-in-love, Cindy of Indianapolis; grandson and granddaughter, Ryan and Sarah George of Austin, Texas; granddaughter and grandson, Lindsay and Monty Alexander of Rock Hill, SC; great granddaughters, Sophia and Nyla George; and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to the Bill and Mary Eva George Endowed Scholarship Fund at John Brown University, 2000 West University Street, Siloam Springs, AR 72761. Visitation will be 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, October 24, 2008, at Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs. Memorial services will be 3:00 p.m., Sunday, October 26, 2008, in John Brown University's Cathedral of the Ozarks, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. A reception will follow in JBU's Kresge Dining Hall.

Tribute Wall

LE

“ *May God keep you and your family in His arms always.*

Lenora

Lenora - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

BW

“ *Mary Eva,
Isn't it great to know he is in heaven with our Heavenly Father. I know you will miss him but the comfort is knowing where he is. I think back to our younger days and how much fun we had, coming to your house and watching two or three ball games at the same time. The games we played and a few who could get by with anything. I know you have many happy memories of Bill. I am praying for all of you, may God grant you peace and comfort.*

Love

Bette Sue

Bette Sue West - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM



“ *Fred and Janet Broling*

655 Woodland Drive

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

jbroling@comcast.net

Dear Mary Eva:

We are so sorry to hear of Bill's promotion heavenward ? not for Bill ? but for you, your family and all of us who loved and admired him so very much.

Bill was an inspiration to those with whom he served on the Board of Trustees of John Brown University. He always exhibited courage to make the hard decisions ? the right decisions -- for the students, school, administrators but most of all for the Lord. All who knew him will miss his smiling face, but he has left a great legacy for those who come behind him to follow. He finished well!

We will miss Bill!

September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

LC

“ Dear Mary Eva and Family Our family is saddend to hear of Bill's death. We have thought of you and Marsha often and hope you are well. I have an exercise class at Bixby Towers (John Brown Towers) and remember Bill's connection well. Our hearts,sympathy and prayers are with you and the family. Cecilia Canut

Lou & Cecilia Canut, Teri & Candy - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

LC

“ My memories of Bill George go back pretty much to my earliest memories of attending programs at JBU. If there was a special event, like our annual Homecoming, you can bet that Mr. Bill was there! Homecoming especially just wasn't complete without him. Although due to his health, Mr. Bill missed Homecoming 2008, along with my Dad and many others, he was paid special tribute and recognition for all his years of service to JBU.

On behalf of all the Ralph Kennedy kids, I wish to thank Mr. Bill's family for his service to his family, his God, and his alma mater, JBU!

Lucy (Kennedy) Cundiff - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

BC

“ We were sad to hear of Bill's passing, but rejoicing that he is home. Bill and Mary Eva you were our Sunday School teachers at FBCOL. Both of you made us special at church or in your home. We were often surprised to see Bill at Arnold's Restaurant when he would return to our area. It was if he had never left. I remember the times that Mary and my mother, Arnetta Leas, served together at the visitors table. Those are fond memerories for me.

Bob and Sheila Carley - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM



“ We remember "Bro. George" most fondly. We have wonderful memories of being in the youth group at First Baptist Church of Long Beach where my dad (Dale Aycock) was pastor....and the George's would have the youth group over to their house after church on Sunday evening. He was a wonderful Christian man and we thank the Lord for his life and his influence in our lives...as well as Mary Eva and their two, fine children, Marsha and Eric.

Blessings to the Family,

Steve and Yvonne Shumaker

Yvonne Shumaker (Aycock) - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

KS

“ It is such a wonderful thing to read the tributes of high regard for Bill.

From the time I first saw him in church in the early 1950's, I liked him. His marriage to one of my own favorites in Siloam Springs High School made an acquaintance with him even more special.

It was always a blessing to see the two of you at times you visited our mutual "home church" from your California home. We were in Sunday School on Oct.

12, and asked several people there about Bill's health and about you. I

had looked forward to your being there perhaps. Thank you, Mary Eva, for bringing such a special and wonderfully

friendly guy into the presence of many in our town, Siloam Springs. I wish and pray for God's love and blessing for your future and that of all the family that you and Bill shared. We will hope to see you on a future trip back to that "home church."

Keith (and Mary Ann) Sutterfield

Keith Sutterfield - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

MF

“ *Losing a mate is so painful and sad. But despite the fact that it is so universal...we can never be prepared for the loss. There are thousands of JBU people praying for you and offering love and support.*

Bill was always so nice to me...and I took inspiration from how he put JBU first in the things he did. I loved him for that.

Mike Flynn

Mike Flynn - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

GM

“ *Family, since Bill was a humble man perhaps you did not know how important he was in Christian circles and to APC. I first met Bill, through Dr. Haggard (President of APC). Dr Haggard told me I was going to meet one of God's Special Gifts and coming from Dr Haggard that was a real statement. I expected a giant of a man, I met "Bill" a man with a giant spirit and important role in the Kingdom, over the past 30 years I have worked with hundreds of Christian College Presidents and Leaders, Bill George is at the top of the list. He listened, thought, prayed and acted with the qualities of inspired leadership. God must of needed his skills in Heaven to keep everything going, OK. His impact on APC, JBU and Christian radio will go on to the trumpet is sounded. Thanks for sharing him. His spirit is/was special. Greg Markovich*

Greg Markovich - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

RD

“ My sincere condolences to Mrs. George and all the family. My memories of Bill go back many years, when I was a young man and interested in gospel music and gospel radio. He took me under his wing and gave me a real education on being a gospel music disc jockey, but, most of all, along with that, always being sure that there was always ministry involved on my radio programs. He was a pillar in the industry and my respect for him goes beyond words that I have. God bless all the family.

Ralph Dean - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

TG

“ Uncle Bill was a strong and unwavering example of faith and the peace that it brings. During the years that I lived in a manner contradictory to his beliefs, he never judged me. And when I finally changed my ways he was not surprised. As Marsha said, "We always knew you would change because we prayed for you, we just didn't know when." It is that quiet strength and unshakable faith that has been an example to me for many years. Uncle Bill, I know you will be greatly missed by those you have left behind, but I rejoice in the knowledge that you have returned home. Keep praying for me.

Thom George - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

BF

“ Uncle Bill was so much like my father -his brother, Jim - that he had a very special place in our hearts. They were the epitome of sincerity, integrity, warmth, love, and concern for others. Uncle Bill was a true gentleman, and his faith - and that of his family - served as a model that most of us can only aspire to. We know that Daddy was there to welcome Uncle Bill to heaven upon his arrival.

Our prayers, wishes for peace, and love are with Aunt Mary Eva and Marsha.

Bill and Lorraine Fitzsimmons - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

CF

“ *My condolences to Bill's family. I recall him as a kind, happy fellow-student.*

Connie

Connie (Baker) Freriks - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

NP

“ *Mary Eva,*

You are a very special and loving wife to take care of Bill as long as you have.

I have a lot of memories from HS of you, and Moose has lots, from Rotary of Bill.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

God Bless!

Nancy and Moose

Nancy & Moose Van Poucke - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

DM

“ Dear Mary Eva and Marsha,
When my Dad became too ill to safely live at home, our family began a journey with many new experiences. We did not realize the blessings God would grant us, along with the difficulties. Our richest blessing has been meeting wonderful people like you and being inspired by your strength and kindness. Christians share a wonderful bond knowing the promise we have in our Lord. "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine" is one of my favorite hymns because it reminds me of that promise. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
God Bless your family,
Donna and Randy Murphy
Paul and Willie Mae Magness

Donna Murphy - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

DZ

“ I saw the newspaper notice this morning and was glad that it included the web address for this guest book. I lost your address long ago, but the impact Bill made will never leave us. Mary Eva, you and Bill were our firstborn's "extra grandparents" when Bob and I, as new parents, were learning the ropes of parenting. I remember the class baby shower that was held at your home; how warm and friendly your home always was. Bill with his twinkling eyes. He always looked like he was planning some mischief. How much he loved the Lord. How glorious it is for him to be with the Lord he loves so much! But it must be hard for you, not to have him there with you. I know you know all the things that are said for comfort, but you'll make it even though it will hurt sometimes. You and Marsha (& Eric too, although we never got to meet him) will be in our prayers, that God will give you his comfort and that you'll be able to comfort each other.
Love, Diane

Diane Zalk - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

SC

“ I never knew Dr. George, but I want to relay my condolences to the family. As a student at John Brown University, I have benefited from Dr. George's tireless work in ways I probably do not even realize. I am so grateful for the legacy Dr. George leaves.

Sarah Cowles - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

RN

“ Mary Eva, Eric, Marsha,

Some men work hard to earn respect. The character of your husband, father earned him that respect instantly. His integrity was etched into his words, deeds and even appearance for all to see. I can only imagine this coming from a lifetime of following God's will!

Rick and Janet Niswonger

Rick & Janet Niswonger - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

ES

“ Mary Eva,

Bill will so much be missed here in my office, there were many days he would come in and just sit and visit and talk about his days in California, his family, and of course JBU. He loved JBU. He was always so kind to me, every time he called or came by the first thing he would ask, "how is our boy?" Our children were his children, everyone counted to him, he cared about everyone.

We miss him.

Elaine Sbanotto - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

WM

“ Dear Family. We were saddened to learn of Bill's passing but strengthened by the knowledge that he is surely with the Good Lord. Some 30 years ago, we came to know him as a model of a gentleman, a faithful family man, and an exemplary Rotarian. Bill encouraged me to become his successor as president of the Rotary Scholarship Foundation, and I'll always be grateful for his friendship and advice. Bill was very proud of his family, and I know how much Marsha's success as a LBUSD teacher meant to him. In the days ahead, we offer our love and prayers as you await your reunion with him in heaven. God bless you.

William and Claire Marmion - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

MR

“ Many have benefitted from the foundation Dr. George layed. Those who were fortunate enough to work at KUOA and KUOA-FM are especially appreciative of his work.

Maurice Rankin - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

JT

“ I met Bill in August 1945 at JBU..he was personable and smart, and was a friend to everyone. His life is a good example of what one can accomplish in the United States if he is willing to get an education, work hard, and maintain his integrity. Bill did oll of these and more..Sincerely..John

John V. Terry - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

RF

“ *The world has lost a great man. Hard working, full of love and compassionate to all who knew him. The Lord has rejoiced in welcoming him to Heaven. The world is a better place because of him. Many thoughts and prayers to the family and my special friend Marsha. Russ*

Russ Widman Family - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

CL

“ *Memories, we all hold dear of times spent together. I cherish the many special moments with Uncle Bill during family gatherings. I especially enjoyed how much happiness my Dad and Uncle Bill would share when they were together. I will always hold his memory close to my heart.*

Carl & Margie Lawing - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

AC

“ *Bill,*
It not possible to articulate the respect and admiration we have for you. Your keen perspective and wise counsel made you cherished by so many. A man of God, a servant of Christ, and someone who truly lived his faith, that was Bill George. Thank you for the time you spent with us, your influence in my life, the commitment to JBU, it's students and your unwavering faith. Patrick and I send our love, thoughts and prayers to Mary Eva - may the Lord bless you and comfort you at this time.
With deepest respect - Adriane and Patrick Carr

Adriane Carr - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

CW

“ *I know that he is happy in Heaven! I will have all of you in my prayers.*

Cheri Wallace - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

MH

“ *Dr. George was interim president when I first started working at JBU. I so appreciated his kindness, humility and servant leadership. And, I'll never forget his warm smile when he served as a greeter at FBC. He will be missed by many! May God provide peace and comfort to Mrs. George and the many others he left behind.*

Mindy Hunt - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

TG

“ *Dearest Marsha & Family*

May love become your shelter and may the precious memories be your comfort.....

You all are held in gentle thought & prayer!

Your friend,

Terri

Terri Genewich-Corona - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

CB

“ Marsha,
I remember the first and only time I had the pleasure of meeting your dad. Dez and I drove to Long Beach, from Bakersfield, to bring you some presents. Your dad had come to stay with you for a couple weeks to help out. You weren't feeling up to company, but he answered the door with such a hearty hello and made Dez and I feel so welcome. It was such a pleasure to meet him and spend a few minutes with someone that was such a devoted father. It was such an honor to Rod and I to be able to create the picture of him with his beloved golden eagle. I sit here and read these tributes and know just how many people that he touched. He lived life to the fullest, ("no whining!") and just the way the Lord intended. I wish I had had a chance to spend more time getting to know him! My love and prayers are with you and your family.

Cheryl Loudenback Baker - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

JR

“ *Words can not express my sadness!! My thoughts are with you all.
Love Jeff*

Jeff Rosenbery - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

CB

“ *My sincere thoughts and prayers are with the family. God is so good and will bless them and hold them during this time of loss and celebration for a beautiful homecoming!*

Cheryl Loudenback Baker - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

RS

“ *Bill George and his family have been a help and inspiration to me almost all of my life. My sympathies to all who will miss him.*

Robert Seeds - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

CI

“ *My deepest regards to you Mary in this trying time of loss. May the Lord comfort you with all his goodness. May you find peace in knowing that Bill is with the Lord and the troubles and sorrows of this life are over. God bless you. I will keep you in my prayers.*

Curtis Irby - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

GM

“ *Dearest Mary Eva and Marsha:*

My love, prayers and fondest memories are with you today and always. It was incredibly emotional being with you two last Oct., singing in your home, watching you and your dearest loved one holding hands and listening to the group that you held together with your gracious love, integrity, and wisdom. I will remember that day always. But, I will remember the many honest talks we shared, the gentle way he shared those feelings, and the consistent love he displayed through all my ups and downs (you, too).

*Love you so very much,
Ginny*

Ginny Hubbard Moore - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

DG

“ Last evening I received the news that your prostate cancer finally took you from us. Its not easy for me to say how I feel right now. You have always been my favorite uncle.I remember all the good times we had together when you and the family came east to visit us in Washington, D.C.& during our visits to Long Beach. Another generation has past. All of the "George Boys" from Girardville are gone now, you being the last and youngest of the six brothers. My thoughts and prayers are with Aunt Mary Eva and Cousin's Marsha & Eric at this time.May your faith and love of our creator give you comfort and peace knowing Uncle Bill is in a better place.
Uncle Bill, when you see your brother and my dad in heaven, please let him know how much we miss him.
I know you are walking with the Lord.

David Carter George - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

SS

“ Mary Eva: Bill was the finest man I ever worked for. He was always caring and had a kind word for everyone. He never got upset. When I first went to work at the university, I was told if Bill George calls make sure you take good care of him and don?t hang up on him. Well guess what? He called and I hung up on him twice!!!! The third time he called, I figured he would be mad at me, but he said: ? Honey, hit the red hold button on the bottom left when you put me on hold.? He had such a kind spirit. Always eager to pray with you and for you. He did so much for JBU and the students. My family has always loved you and Bill. He will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with you and Marsha.

Sherry Shrum - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

JY

“ Dear Mary Eva and Marsha,

Before there were "Sounds," there were Harmonaires. And, where there were Harmonaires, you would find the Georges. One of my forever memories of Bill is the warm and gracious welcome that would always greet us at your home. Whether it was the first arrival of the summer, or the third time in three days, when the brown JBU station wagon would pull into your Driveway, the ever-present smile on his face would say, "Welcome!"

Of all the performances by the Trumpet Trio, the ones I hold dear, are those premieres of Johnny's latest arrangements in your living room. You and Bill were our favorite audience. It was only fitting that the last performance of the trumpet trio, would also occur in your living room, in Siloam Springs.

Bill's commitment to JBU and the values it upheld, were an inspiration to all that knew him. Students far into the future are indebted to him for his efforts to ensure that a quality, Christian education would be theirs at John Brown University. While heaven and Bill rejoice at his arrival, JBU alumni around the world share the pain of your loss.

Thank you for sharing this wonderful man with all of us.

Jim Young, 3rd trumpet and almost alumni

James Young - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

MK

“ *Dr. Bill George:*

You were one of the most optimistic, humble, and Godly men I have ever known. Not only did I experience these characteristics firsthand in our relationship, but I also observed and witnessed them from a distance in the manner in which you loved your wife, your family, and all the many people associated with John Brown University. My friend, you will be missed.

With love from California,

Michael & Gail Kairis

Michael & Gail Kairis - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

SC

“ *Bill George was a faithful and regular Rotary club member. He was a longstanding member of the Long Beach, California, club where he managed radio station KGER for many years, and he joined us in his retirement years as an Honorary member. Bill was one of those people who seemed as busy in retirement as when he worked, committing himself enthusiastically to numerous community activities. We will remember him with a twinkle in his eye, a good word for everyone, a gentle man and a complete gentleman. Mary Eva and his family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Siloam Springs Rotary Club - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

MO

“ *Bill will be sorely missed. He was a kind and gentle man who went way out of his way to greet even the people who would not normally be recognized and appreciated. He always made people feel important and honored.*

I will miss his warm, strong hand shake and gentle smile. I know you will hear those words of our Saviour "Welcome, Bill, thou good and faithful servant, Enter in to the joy of your Lord."

Michael O'Neal - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

JB

“ *One of the first memories that came to mind was one of the last times we sat with you and Bill at church. You had just told me about his diagnosis of prostate cancer. I asked if I could sit by Bill, so you traded me places. We hugged, held hands and smirked all through that service, and you tisk-tisked us a couple of times, and Bill just winked and kept on giggling. The thing that stands out the most was when we got tickled at each other during communion. I ate the cracker too quickly and then had nothing to pray over...under my breath I utter "oops, I always do that!" Bill laughed. Then when the juice came around he held my hand down until after the prayer and then whispered, "ok now." Of course that led us to laugh some more. You leaned over and said, "You two need to go catch the afternoon mass at the Catholic church, that one didn't count." He whispered to me with a wink, "It counted." Mary Eva- that is how I will always love and remember Bill. Everything he did counted, to me, to Andy, to the kids and to anyone he came in contact with. He made it count first to the glory of God, and then to the people who he cared for here. He is so deeply loved, and will be forever here in our home. His laughter and smile, his words of wisdom and his love will be with me always.*

Jenny Benson - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM

JS

“ *Dr. George, You are one of the most kindest men I have every met. Our family will miss you very much. Thank you for all that you have done for JBU. With love, Jeff and Amy Soderquist and kids.*

Jeff Soderquist - September 19, 2012 at 12:01 PM