



Bill Smith

March 20, 1950 - March 2, 2014

Early on Sunday morning, March 2, Bill Smith left this earth and was carried by angels to his home in Heaven. Although Bill had been ill for some time, his strong will helped him to continue to do some of the things he loved. Those who knew him well understand that "taking it easy" was not part of his ethic. Born Will M. Smith on March 20, 1950, he was the second child of Captain Will M. Smith and Ruby (Lowe) Smith, who both preceded him in death. Surviving him are one brother, Michael M. Smith; one sister, Mitzi (Smith) Farley; and a first cousin/brother, Jim Chafin, who is the son of Ruby's twin sister, Ruth Chafin. In addition, he is survived by one uncle, Retired Colonel Thomas Argyle Lowe; one niece, Jessica (Farley) Evans; one grand niece, Harper Evans; one grand nephew, Grady Paul Evans; and two first cousins, Mark Lowe and Tom Lowe. A humble man, Bill, during his 30 plus years of teaching and coaching, developed strong relationships with Burch High School students and athletes that have continued until he died. Fellow teachers and coaches came to count on Bill's steady strength as they worked with him in various ways. One cannot describe the man without reference to his marvelous sense of humor. Students and teachers alike who felt as if they had "put one over" on Bill soon discovered the lengths to which he would go to repay their efforts. Having had an illustrious career in coaching both girls' and boys' basketball, Bill became a vital part of the fabric that was the Burch Nation. According to longtime stat keeper, James Ferrell, Bill coached the Burch Lady Bulldogs for 29 years, beginning in 1977 and recording 374 wins

and 155 losses. Other accolades are his 1990 state championship, his 1991 state runner-up status, his winning streak of 43 games, and his seven-time appointment as Coach of the Year. Taking his Lady Bulldogs to the state tournament nine times, Bill produced a number of outstanding players: Five played Division I basketball. Many played college basketball at other levels. Coaching 11 first-team all-staters, he had 22 all-staters, all told. Bill's girls were his girls for life when he coached them because he considered all of them family. He remained particularly close to the members of his state championship team, several of whom took him to doctor appointments and visited him when he was hospitalized in the last few years. A great assistant coach for 29 years as well, he was part of the coaching staff with John Maynard, Mike Smith, Jim Chafin, and Kevin Hatfield. With those men, he won three state championships and two state runner-ups. A lifetime fan of the New York Yankees, Bill kept up with them via MLB on radio and television. He and his mother and his siblings have had that devotion in common. One hardly ever saw Bill upset, except when his Yankees weren't doing well. Because of his love for baseball, Bill coached Burch Baseball from 1977 to 1981, traveling from field to field because his team did not have one. Bill's devotion to stray animals was a piece of his psyche that was common knowledge to anyone who knew him. From adopting pets on his own, to feeding any stray that he found in Delbarton, to buying food for other pet lovers who were in dire circumstances, Bill spent much of his life in carrying on his mother and aunt's tradition of caring for unfortunate pets. In lieu of flowers in Bill's memory, his family has asked that individuals who want to memorialize him make donations to Tug Valley Veterinary Clinic or Williamson Animal Hospital in Williamson, West Virginia, in Bill's name. At the gathering on Friday, there will be an opportunity to contribute to this cause that was so dear to Bill's heart. On Friday evening, March 7, the family and friends of Bill Smith will gather from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Burch Middle School to remember this man. On Saturday, March 8, at 1:00 p.m., a Home-going Celebration at the Regional Church of God, where Reverend Mitchell Bias, Ralph Farley, and Britt Moore

will be officiating.

Tribute Wall



“ *Bill Smith*

November 21, 2022 at 02:05 PM



“ *In high school, at a time when my self-esteem was probably the lowest in my life, Bill let me be on Burch's first baseball team in decades.
I wasn't very good, yet he still let me play in a few games. I never got on base, but Bill made a home run for me... His act of inclusion helped me more than he knew. He was like that, as you know.
Mike, Mitzi, my sincerest condolences. My heart and prayers are with you.*

Kevin Bannister - March 20, 2014 at 11:28 AM



“ *Just seeing this today, RIP you will always be remembered.*

Claudette Morrison - March 08, 2014 at 05:42 PM



“ *The passing of coach Bill was a surprise. Bill was loved and will be truly missed. My families deepest sympathies go out to coach smith and his family as well as the community that has lost a beloved member and icon. R.i.p coach smith, will see you again on the other side of the Jordan!*

Rick Preece - March 08, 2014 at 11:12 AM

HF

“ have such wonderful memories of when we took trips to David Wilkerson Crusades to be w/Dallas Holm and Praise. Bill had a lot of patience w/all of us, especially when one of the "kids" pulled a joke on him. He was special and I feel blessed to have know and loved him. Poochie

hazel farley - March 07, 2014 at 03:16 PM

SR

“ So sorry to see a good man gone but hes in a better place than he was here. He will surely be missed by me and the others he taught.

Stephanie Stepp Rice - March 06, 2014 at 07:35 PM

CF

“ Sorry to here a good man had to go praying for the family he was a good man thinking of u always charles jordan an family

Charles Jordan @ Familiy - March 05, 2014 at 11:49 PM

TR

“ Bill Smith was a very good man he always had a smile on his face everytime I seen him and he would help anyone if he could ... And he was very loved and he is going to be missed by a lot of people... Rip Bill Smith.

Timothy Russell - March 05, 2014 at 11:33 PM

MA

“ My sister Val and I were saddened to hear of Bill's passing. We both had him as a teacher, and he was also my coach(JV), assistant coach, and prayer club sponsor.

Bill was a positive influence on us and our friends to an even greater extent than we realized at the time. His willingness to teach through role play and other exercises helped bring his subjects to life and made his classes unlike any others. His caring about us as students and as people was real and deep. Other than always being a sharp dresser, Bill was unassuming and allowed his deeds to speak for him, which is an outstanding example of how it should be done.

We will miss you Bill. We are better for having known you.

Michael Adkins - March 05, 2014 at 07:59 PM

ST

“ So many good memories! Great teacher, coach and friend loved by so many! May we all hold our memories close to our heart and may God provide comfort to his family and many friends!

Sheila (Davis) Trippett - March 05, 2014 at 05:32 PM

CD

“ Where has time gone, seems like yesterday I insured Bill when he first started driving, my kids remember his first days teaching at Burch, and everyone knows of his big heart! Our thoughts & prayers are with his many friends and family! Til we meet again Mr. Smith!

Clifford Davis - March 05, 2014 at 05:12 PM

RC

“ I was the secretary at Burch High School when Bill went there. I remember him well. I am sorry to hear about his death. My love to Mitzi and the family.

Ruth Hensley Crigger - March 05, 2014 at 04:29 PM

MC

“ you will be missed but never forgotten and everything that you taught us will carry with us throughout our lives

michael coleman - March 04, 2014 at 09:56 PM

KL

“ Our thoughts an prayers go out to the Smith Family.

Kelly Lowe - March 04, 2014 at 09:44 PM

RG

“ Dear Coach Bill Your home going left to many of us heartbroken. Promise me that while you sit around the Heavenly throne with our Heavenly Father, that you will ask him to comfort your brother Mike, sister Miz, cousin/brother Jimmy immediate family and the to many to name others whom loved you. Beloved until we see each other again, keep an eye on us up there as we try to finish the good fight as you so graceful did. Love You and Miss You already. R.I.P. Beloved R.I.P.

Richard Gravely - March 04, 2014 at 08:47 PM

MB

“ Bill Smith

Misty Baisden - March 04, 2014 at 08:45 PM

MB

“ I'm so very sorry to hear about Bill (Mr. Smith). He was a wonderful person as well as a great teacher, coach and friend to all. He will be missed by everyone. My thoughts and prayers are with you. God Bless Always

Malena (Coleman) Browning - March 04, 2014 at 08:39 PM

AH

“ Bill was amazing. He introduced me to literature. Yes, all those who gasp. He broke through my teenage angst and touched me with *Dantes Inferno*. He was substituting one day and I was anxious to get cheerleading practice started but Bill stood in front of us and shared his thoughts on this amazing book and I was amazed. Bill was more than a sports coach he touched some of us on other levels! Bill, you changed lives friend. See ya in heaven. We can discuss *Dantes Inferno*.

Angie Farley Hunter - March 04, 2014 at 08:27 PM

LC

“ As it has always been, this family is a package deal. If you became friends with any member of the Smith/Farley/Chafin clan, you were automatically inducted into the family circle. So it was with Bill. I knew Mitzi, Ralph & Jessie before I knew any of the rest of the family; and it wasn't long before Bill, Mike, Benny, Ruth, the whole gang became dear to my heart. I heard wonderful stories about Bill long before I got to know him, so I felt like I'd always known him. Our favorite place to chat was at the post office or out in the parking lot. It was never speak-and-move-on passing, but almost always some heavy-duty discussions about life, God, politics, or our wonderful neighborhood. His favorite discussions lately were always of Jessie's babies. Even though I'm a cat lover and Bill was a dog lover, we talked about our pets too, and how that the Word talks about godly people taking good care of their animals. My earnest prayer is that, in spite of the void he has left in family and community, Bill's memories will spark story after story of laughter and heartwarming thoughts to all of us who knew him and loved him. Some of the most meaningful friendships we can ever be blessed to receive in this life are those where we have to tap into the still waters beneath someone's surface. I look forward to seeing him again in heaven.

Lisa Crum - March 04, 2014 at 08:23 PM

EK

“ *I am so sorry for your loss.*

Elizabeth Keatley - March 04, 2014 at 08:10 PM

LC

“ *So sorry to hear about Bill. Praying for comfort for all of the family.
Love and Prayers!*

Letha Adkins Coleman - March 04, 2014 at 08:08 PM

WS

“ *so sorry to hear of coach smith passing he was a great teacher
coach and friend and was loved by many he will be missed by many
prayers for his family and friends*

wendy smith - March 04, 2014 at 08:05 PM

DB

“ *Mike and Mitzi,
My heartfelt sympathy is with you. Bill's passing is sad news;
however, knowing of his strong faith and yours, I love that you are
making this occasion a celebration of a great life. How happy he
must be as he leaves behind the wooden courts and "enters God's
courts with praise!"
Love and prayers, Detra*

Detra Bannister - March 04, 2014 at 07:39 PM

JF

“ *I am truly saddened by Bill's death. His passing will leave a void in the hearts of everyone who knew him.*

If there is anything that I can do to help you in anyway, please do not hesitate to call me at anytime.

My sincere thoughts and prayers are with you.

With deepest sympathy,

Judy Farley

Judy Farley - March 04, 2014 at 05:56 PM