



William J. Bell

DEC 7, 1920 - DEC 1, 2015



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William J. Bell lived a full 94 years before joining the Angels in the early morning hours on Monday, December 1, 2015 at Genesis Healthcare's Milford Center in Milford, DE. He was born on December 7, 1920, son of the late William A. and Pearl Bell.

Mr. Bell was born and raised in Bristol, PA where he grew up loving sports his whole life and umpired or refereed many of the community children leagues. He fell in love with bowling through a church league, bowled on travel leagues and ended with the Senior Olympics in Delaware. Mr. Bell continued to bowl till the age of 88 when his dementia overcame the quality of life he had enjoyed.

Mr. Bell served his country proudly as a WW II veteran in the 8th Army Air Force #915, where he was a mechanic on the B-17 aircraft. After his honorable discharge, he returned home, met and married his first wife, Veronica M. Bell and began his family.

His career path led him to a long standing position with USG as an OTR Truck Driver where he retired after a serious stroke. His love of travel, work or pleasure, was a constant enjoyment while he was able to drive.

Mr. Bell began his next stage of life by marrying, Madeline L. Bell and moving to Amarillo, TX where he lived until her death in December of 1999. He would then move back east and finish out his long life's journey under the care of his daughter and her husband in Lewes and then Milton, DE. He continued with various senior programs and home health aides until his passing. These wonderful programs gave him purpose to continue as long as he did.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Bell was preceded in death by his first wife, Veronica M. (Haggerty) Bell, his wife, Madeline L. Bell and two sisters: Pearl and Laura Mae. He is survived by his six children: William M. Bell of Levittown, PA; Anne T. Dozier of Newburg, PA; John J. Bell of Fairless Hills, PA; Catherine V. Nagy of Milton, DE; Margaret A. Romett-Jones of Smyrna, DE and Mary E.



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Zonetti of Stevensville, MD; ten grandchildren; eleven and half great-grandchildren; two brothers: George and Marvin of Florida, and his extended family with Elaine Smallridge and her children in Amarillo, TX.

A Funeral Service will be held at a later date in Texas and he will be interred with his late wife, Madeline, in their perpetual resting place.

Please sign the guestbook on this site.



Tribute Wall

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Ashley Prough shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Grandmom (Madeline "Madge" Bell) and Grandpop (William "Bill" Bell) with me as a baby (in 1982). I miss them always and I'm so thankful they were always the amazing grandparents, they didn't have to be.



July 25 at 10:30 AM



Cathie & Joe Nagy shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

As we move forward to the finalizing of my Dad's life I would like to share with all visiting this site. Dad and I spoke often about his wishes to return to Texas and rest with Madge. Unfortunately, the costs were too great to do it the intended way, so he and I came up with this plan and his son Bill worked to execute his wishes. Within his last year we picked out a chair and table/ottoman for the porch or near the front door during winter. It was the last fun thing we did together. He enjoyed the screen porch that we started building on Christmas Day 2014 and loved sitting in his chair or at the table playing solitaire. This chair is the only item I wanted as it represents our last happy fun time together. He was so proud to pay cash for it and pick out the cushion and pillow. We loaded it up in the back of the jeep drove home and he told Joe all about his purchase with such pride. Now the chair sits in the house near the front door. I can sit in that chair with Grady (his buddy and pal) our Labradoodle and see the beautiful urn (cherry box) containing his ashes and staying with us until his trip back to Texas in March to be laid to rest with Madge. His extended family in Amarillo then taking over the watch. By now he has already met his friends and family in heaven and connecting him back to Texas and his family there will complete the physical journey of William James Bell; Husband, Father and Friend to many.



December 3 at 9:12 AM



John Bell posted:

Dad thanks for all the memories , whether it was baseball, bowling or going fishing. I know you wanted to be there more but being a truck driver kept you away. But the lessons I learned from you are still with me today. Rest in peace Love you John

December 14 at 3:58 PM



D Allen posted:

Please accept my heartfelt sympathy in the loss of your loved one . May the fond memories shared with him be a source of comfort doing this time of grief and pain . John 5 : 28,29

December 11 at 3:16 AM



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Joe Walls posted:

John and Bill, sorry for your loss. Your Dad is in our prayers. Jane&Joe Walls

December 7 at 7:32 AM



Terri Jackson lit a candle in honor of William.

I knew it was Uncle Bill's birthday as well as Pearl Harbor Day today. I'm just so sorry to hear of his passing. I remember him coming over to my house to visit his sister, my mom, Pearl. He was here several times checking up on her as she had dementia, also. She was so happy to see him. Lura Mae was here a few times, also.

He would just show up. It was always good to see him. We had such nice visits and good memories of those times. My husband, Ken and I would enjoy talking with him about the church bowling league we all belonged to and the memories we had of the good and bad games we played. Although, I don't think Uncle Bill ever bowled a bad game that I can remember. I have very fond memories of him teaching me to roller skate at the Croydon roller rink when I was little. We went early to his roller hockey games and he would take me out on the floor to practice skating until they were ready to start playing. I had so much fun and too many goodies. Ken and I lived in San Antonio, Texas for ten years. He and Madge came down to visit when my mom was there visiting. I have a lot of good memories about Uncle Bill and a lot of love to go with them. I will miss him and his visits enormously. God bless you and keep you until we meet again. Terri (Peltz) and Ken Jackson



December 3 at 9:12 AM



Cathie & Joe Nagy December 8 at 3:19 AM

Thank you for sharing, Terri. It is nice to hear the stories from others how he touched their lives. Cathie



Cathie & Joe Nagy lit a candle in honor of William.

December 7 at 1:34 AM



Cathie & Joe Nagy December 7 at 1:37 AM

Happy Birthday Dad. May the flames of this candle guide you on your way and celebrate your life here on earth and through eternity. Love Cathie, Joe and Grady



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MJ

Margaret Romett-Jones posted:

Dad, I still can't believe you are gone. I am so glad that you are not longer suffering and are at peace. I remember how you and I would go into the woods to drop trees for the wood burning stove. We have many great talks about everything from life to bowling. You always had great advice. Always enjoyed bowling and learning from you. We also had a great road trip going out to Texas to move you back to the East where your family was. I know it was hard leaving Madge but that one day you would be together again. We talked and you showed me so much on that trip. Once back home you began to make friends and enjoy life. Doing the things you enjoyed. Having you in my home for that time brought back memories of us watching tv, or playing games with the kids. You filled their lives with your wisdom and stories on history and the military. Once you made your decision to move south to be closer to your daughter I was glad because you had missed so much time with her that now you could reconnect and make new memories. I know you never held a grudge against anyone because it was not who you are. You always made everyone laugh with jokes and just being you. I wish the family had had more time with you to say these things in person but that is the hand we were dealt. Like you always said while playing cards, use the hand you are dealt with. I will miss you so very much. You are all together now so please play nice, just kidding. You all are at peace now and that is all we down here could ask for. Give Mom a kiss for me. Love you always, Your daughter and bowling partner Peggy Romett-Jones

December 6 at 4:47 AM

AD

Anne Dozier posted:

Dear Dad, I have so many memories of you as a father. My picking on you when your bowling score wasn't quite as good as you usually got and the "bowler's crying towel" that I got for you as a gift. I remember as a young child riding the sled to the store during a blizzard, but having to walk back because the sled was full of groceries. I remember the long talks we had while I was living in Hawaii and you had reached out to me. Also the times we spent talking while you were with Madge in TX. I remember the heartfelt conversations that I had with Madge during her final illness. I remember every fall going to the apple orchards to pick up a bushel of apples and a gallon of apple cider. I remember going strawberry picking with you in the early summer. Like I said, so many wonderful memories. Mom was always my "backbone" but you Dad were always my heart. Your kindness and never holding a grudge always touched me. I love you very much. Your daughter, Anne Dozier

December 5 at 9:30 AM



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Cathie & Joe Nagy shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Dad Thank you for trusting me to help you get through these past 13 years in Delaware. Your strength and fight to tackle each medical crisis and continue on was uplifting. Even with the dementia robbing you of your favorite things like driving, bowling and group card playing you just fixed onto other things like solitaire, word puzzles and counting coins and when those tasks wore you down there was always John Wayne or some travel DVD that you would tell us "you were there". I know you have joined up with your Mom, Dad and loved ones who have gone before you, so I know you are enjoying yourself and I suspect by now you have already bowled a few games like you were a young buck again. I will not miss your pain and frustration from the illness as it was hard to see you wear down, but I will miss our visits to Dunkin Donuts and our favorite meal spots, taking rides to the little beach, driving around to look at Christmas lights and sitting in the screen porch just talking. You are going home to Texas as we discussed and planned and I am so happy we could make that happen for you. I will miss you as I miss Mom and I look forward to seeing you both when my day arrives. I love you both, thanks for the crazy journey. Until then could you both please watch over me and guide me through any rough patches in my future. You will always be my parents I will need you till the end. Much love and hugs. Cathie

December 3 at 9:12 AM



Cathie & Joe Nagy shared an album called **The Solider**.



December 3 at 6:44 PM



Cathie & Joe Nagy December 3 at 8:41 PM

Some History: He travelled to England in the bottom of the Queen Mary and returned to the states in the bottom of the Queen Elizabeth cruise ships. Each day they received one hour of open air deck time and some money to buy candy, which was a real treat. He danced with Shirley Temple at a USO show and even though this sounds interesting it took years to gather these few tidbits. He did not like talking about the war because he saw some horrible things. He was proud of his service and we would like to thank all who serve, the families waiting for your return and peace to all who have seen the ugliness of war.



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Barbara Harding posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Bill's passing he was a joy to transport to and from adult day care. I enjoyed his stories of his truck driving days. Peace be to his loved ones.

December 3 at 9:12 AM



Cathie & Joe Nagy December 3 at 6:26 PM

All you drivers were the best, it was often his favorite part of the day. Thank you ALL.



Media

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Ashley Prough shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

July 25 at 10:30 AM





Media

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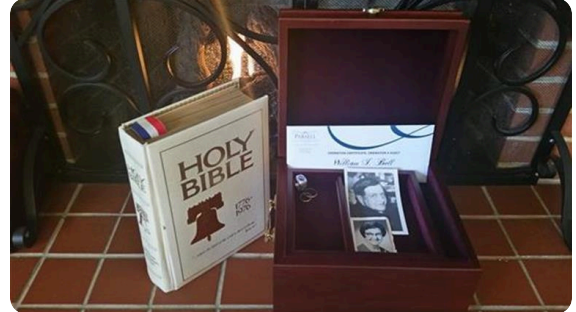


Cathie & Joe Nagy shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 10 at 6:31 PM



His CHAIR!



Urn / Ashes of Wm. J. Bell



The top of the lid.



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Cathie & Joe Nagy shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 3 at 9:58 PM



December 7, 2014 Your last Birthday. Age 94



Media

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Cathie & Joe Nagy shared a photo to the **The Solider** album.

December 3 at 6:44 PM



Sgt. William J. Bell US Army Air Force WWII 1945 Mechanic B-17



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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