



William Morrison McGee

March 14, 1937 - November 25, 2021

William M. McGee

A consummate gentleman

If the benchmarks of a person's life include integrity, honesty, kindness, humility, generosity, and moderation in all things, so defines the life of William "Bill" Morrison McGee, who departed this life on November 25, 2021, at age 84.

Regarded by most as the consummate, elegant gentleman, Bill was born in Brazil, Indiana, son of Louis and Virginia (Morrison) McGee. As a young man, he was certified as an Eagle Scout, graduated Ball State University with a Bachelor of Science degree and enjoyed membership in the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. In 1960 he was selected to appear in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. He served honorably in the US Army Reserve Program where he attained the rank of Specialist 4.

His move to Baltimore in 1961 marked the beginning of an illustrious career as an interior designer, specializing in residential assignments. He enjoyed many multi-generational relationships, working with parents, their children and then their grandchildren. He was a master of color, balance, proportion, and appropriateness, and enjoyed combining the old with the new resulting in a signature, eclectic look.

In 1992 he was recognized by Traditional Home magazine as one of the nation's Innovators in Residential Design. Shortly thereafter, several of his commissions were featured in Southern Accents, Baltimore and Style magazines. In 1998, he was featured on the cover of Baltimore magazine voted Baltimore's Best Dressed Man. His homes in Ruxton, Maryland, Baltimore City, and Lewes, Delaware, were all featured in national publications.

Bill retired to the Delaware shore in 2002 when he and his partner/husband, of 44-years, John Roman, introduced Circa Home Antiques & Decorative Accessories, to the retail mix

on Second Street, in downtown Lewes. The store would remain a presence in the community for nearly thirteen years, before closing in 2013. Circa Home was featured in national and regional publications including Delaware Coastal Press and The Cape Gazette.

Both Bill and John enjoyed an active wanderlust, traveling extensively, oftentimes in search of that perfect decorative accessory or work of art.

He is survived by his sisters: Nancy Cross of Terre Haute, Indiana and Cindy Robinson of Paris, Illinois; his cousin, Shelley Hatch of Greeley, Colorado; and many nieces and nephews. An older sister, Janet Pell, of Carbon, Indiana, died earlier this year.

Bill was a remarkable presence. He will be remembered as a quiet, handsome, kind, gentle, and amazingly talented Prince Among Men. He enriched the lives of so many, and those who knew and loved him are diminished by his departure.

Services are private. A Celebration of Life memorial will be held later this year.

Please consider a contribution in Bill's memory to: The Historic Lewes Farmers Market, P.O. Box 185, Nassau, DE 19969; or, Cape Henlopen Food Basket, P.O. Box 168, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971; or, Beebe Medical Foundation, 902 Savannah Road, Lewes, DE 19958; or Delaware Hospice, 100 Patriots Way, Milford, DE 19963.

Tribute Wall

SU

“ I am so sorry to learn of Bill’s passing. He defined refined grace and dignity to me. From the minute, I entered the McGee -Roman household (where I was graciously greeted with my favorite cocktail), to a sumptuous meal out on terrace at Seagull Drive prepared by either John or Bill. The food was divine, the company always engaging, and everyone felt quite special to be there. Bill, I know that you are walking with the Gods now.

Susan Pomerantz

Susan - February 02 at 03:50 PM

PC

“ John,
My deepest sympathy- so difficult to realize we won’t have Bill’s artistic eye to grace our world. I regret we never had the opportunity for you and Bill to give me some pointers on how to decorate. I will live vicariously through the sage advice you and Bill have showered Adele with. May Bill be at peace surrounded by family and friends and beautiful things.
Fondly, Patrice

Patrice Cooper - December 12, 2021 at 10:41 AM

SP

“ I count myself Blessed to have been invited to know and work for John & Bill in their exquisite home doing service for several dinner parties. The table settings so gorgeous with every detail addressed. Serving cocktails to guests, each one being very gracious. It’s true that you can know a person by the company they keep! I often knew several of their dinner guests and every one of them had in common an elegant demeanor yet not above taking the time to chat with me (the help) Bill always seemed to “float” through the room silently checking that each place setting on the table was perfectly spaced and complete. He politely greet each guest and smile sincerely. I’m sure that I may never know another icon of style and gentility.....other than his partner John. My heart breaks for this loss of such an example of class, kindness and elegance.
May God take him into His Loving Embrace



Stella Irene Pope - December 04, 2021 at 09:02 AM

ZD

“ I have often thought of Bill during the past few years and have missed seeing him and John at the market. I used to precede or follow Bill and John in the market's coffee duty and always enjoyed having the opportunity to spend a little time with them. Bill was my model for coffee service, but I could never match the patience and charm with which he served each customer. As many of written, he was a true gentleman.

Zita Dresner

Zita Dresner - December 02, 2021 at 07:46 AM

BH

“ The obituary captures Bill so well. He and John were icons at the Historic Lewes Farmers Market, graciously serving coffee to so many for so many years with that wonderful warm smile. We were fortunate to have won the first HLFM dinner that was auctioned off. It was at their house. They made it such an amazing experience. Their hospitality and graciousness were unsurpassed. Bill exuded an inner calm and a kindness. Bill also was only one of two person I knew from Brazil, Indiana. The other was my father. May Bill rest in peace, a peace he so richly deserves. A hole is left in the community, but we can fill it with wonderful memories of such a fine gentleman. In the meantime, we send love and support to John and Bill's entire family.

Brook Hedge and Bonnie Osler

Brook Hedge - December 01, 2021 at 04:58 PM



“ We are deeply saddened to learn of Bill's passing. He was a true gentleman in every way. We send our sincere condolences to John and Bill's entire family.

Lynette and Mike

Diane Palen - December 01, 2021 at 04:18 PM