



Charles William "Bill" Swain

July 30, 2014 - December 25, 2014

Charles William "Bill" Swain, age 77, died unexpectedly early Christmas morning. He was born in Des Moines Iowa to Sara and Charles Swain, who predeceased him.

He grew up in Des Moines, graduating from East High School in 1955. He got his BS degree at the State University of Iowa in 1959, followed by his PhD from Brown University, Providence, RI. He taught at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio from 1963 until 1965 when he was called to teach as one of the first two full time Professors in the newly formed Dept. of Religion at FSU. In 1967-68 academic year he did post doctoral work at Harvard University in Asian Studies and traveled extensively in S.E. Asia and Japan and taught in a University in Taiwan the 1985-86 academic year. He also traveled on Mainland China, and served as Director of Asian studies at FSU on his return. He retired from FSU in 1998.

He volunteered for a number of years with the Funeral Consumer Assoc, locally and nationally on the Board for many years and lobbied for consumer issues. He was a member and Elder at First Presbyterian Church since 1965 and actively involved in it's community outreach. He loved chess and started a chess program at the character and faith based prison at Wakulla Correctional Institution which he did until his death. He was a performer at Tallahassee Little Theatre over the years and a member of FSU Musical Associates, being a lover of music and the arts. He thought of himself as a man for others and truly lived that.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Elaine, his daughter, Carol Willow of Minneapolis MN, son, Charles (Michelle) of Tallahassee, two sisters, Margy Norman of Tallahassee, Linda Power (Gary) of Des Moines, IA and a loving uncle to many nieces and nephews, granddaughter Alexis Miller, and great-granddaughter, Madisyn.

He has been cremated and a Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, January 10th at 11:00am.

Donations may be made to this church's pastor's discretionary fund or to The Open Door Community, 910 Ponce De Leon Avenue, Atlanta, GA. 30306-4212.

Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (www.bevisfh.com, 850-385-2193) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
110 North Adams Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Tribute Wall

DH

“ *Diana Hurlston-Piccolo lit a candle in memory of Charles William "Bill" Swain*



Diana Hurlston-Piccolo - January 29, 2015 at 03:50 PM

DC

“ *Bill and I worked together for many years at First Presbyterian Church. He was Special. I will miss him greatly. Dave Custis*

David Custis - December 31, 2014 at 09:14 PM

RB

*Dear Mrs. Swain and Family:
I worked with Bill over the years on the business of funeral service legislation in Florida. He was a smart, honest, committed and good man. I am so glad to have know him!
Richard Baldwin*

Richard Baldwin - January 05, 2015 at 08:52 AM

JB

*Mrs. Swaim and Bill's family,
Over my years with the Florida Board of Funeral, Cemetery and Consumer Services, Bill and I addressed various issues and collaborated on several projects. Bill was the consummate advocate for the consumer and led with a passion and fairness admired and appreciated. Friend and associate, Bill will be missed by all those he touched.
Jody Brandenburg*

Jody Brandenburg - January 05, 2015 at 10:29 AM

EH

On behalf of the Florida State University Association of Retired Faculty (ARF) we would like to extend our condolences to you and the family on the loss of Bill. We hope the support and loving concern of others will give the strength needed from day to day. Please know that he is remembered fondly and will be listed in our Association's Memorial. Sincerely, Tom & Esther Harrison, Memorial Chairs

Esther Harrison - January 07, 2015 at 12:50 PM

DC

To me he seemed the most wonderful of men, almost a saint. His helping hand was a God send to me on many occasions. Life will be all the more empty now that he is gone. I think he was also a God send to many others through the years.

Don Conner - January 09, 2015 at 07:20 PM