



William (Bill) M. Austin

May 10, 1936 - November 1, 2025

William (Bill) M. Austin, 89, resident of Tallahassee, Florida, died peacefully in his sleep on November 1, 2025. He was born on May 10, 1936, to Glades and William Roy Austin in Water Valley, Mississippi. He was one of six children and spent his formative years in Mississippi before joining the Air Force and subsequently moving to Savannah, Georgia, where he met and married his wife of 62 years, Barbara Anne Smith Austin.

William (Bill) enjoyed a distinguished career in the banking industry in Savannah, Georgia, and Columbia, South Carolina. He made notable contributions to C&S Bank and Bank of America and was a founding executive officer and organizer of First Chatham Bank.

He was an elder at the Independent Presbyterian Church, and he loved serving the Lord every day of his life. He lived his life caring for others, encouraging those around him, and showing his positive and outgoing personality daily. His love and spirit were very engaging, and he greeted everyone with warmth, kind words, and an incredible smile. No one ever left his presence without feeling inspired by him or through him.

Bill is predeceased by his wife, Barbara Smith Austin, his parents, William and Glades Austin, brothers Jimmy and Barney Austin, and sisters Charlsie Parks, Janie, and Carol Austin. He is survived by a daughter, Renee Austin Ereckson

(Jeff); grandsons, Boone and Blake Ereckson; nephews, Bill (Beth) Parks and Robert (Lillian) Parks, Allen Austin, David (Stephanie) Austin, Powell (Ellen) Smith, Ted (Jennifer) Smith, and nieces Abby (Brad) Miller, Margaret McLennan, Marilyn (John), Calhoun, Carol Anne (Mark) Nail, Julie (Bubba) Sowell, Karen (Mark) Berry, and Kristy Austin Payne.

Please join us in celebrating his life on Friday, November 7, at 1:30 p.m. at Independent Presbyterian Church, 207 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Independent Presbyterian Church, 207 Bull Street. Savannah, Georgia 31401, or Big Bend Hospice of Tallahassee, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd. Tallahassee, Florida 32308.

Arrangements are by Bevis Funeral Home in Tallahassee, Florida, and online condolences may be expressed at <https://www.bevisfh.com>.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 7. 1:30 PM (ET)

Independent Presbyterian Church
207 Bull Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Tribute Wall

AC

“ Bill hired me at CandS in 1978, one of the best things anyone ever did for me, and my family—it WAS a family, and we were trained to take care of each other, and our clients. Bill always did the right thing—gentle, good, effective, and quite often funny. I remember, long before we were even talking about computers, he found someone to put the lock box accounts on file—we thought he was crazy—after all Patty Roberts and I had that old IBM selectric we did analysis memos on!! We should have bought it and gilded it. I am sorry I cannot be with all of you tomorrow—I am out of town—but please know how much I treasure each of you, and our time together—and shall always hold dear Bill and his friendship and care for each of us. Ann Crowder

Ann Crowder - November 06, 2025 at 08:39 AM

JF

“ I met Bill in the 1960's when he was working with the C&S Bank and we quickly became friends. I also had the pleasure of spending time with Bill for the many years he contributed to the success of the First Chatham Bank. The old saying “if you have five true friends in a lifetime, you are lucky”. Bill was five in one and will be truly missed. As the years passed, I would joke with him that when we first met, he had a 32” waist and I had red hair!

My most sincere condolences to Renee and all of Bill's family and friends.

*Sincerely,
Jack Forehand*

Jack Forehand - November 05, 2025 at 09:51 PM

JS

“ Please accept my love and sympathy in the passing of your father, Renee.

June Stivers

june stivers - November 04, 2025 at 04:41 PM

VG

“ I have many fond memories of Bill while working at C&S Bank. Praying for the family at this difficult time. Through His tender love and divine understanding May God grant the family the comfort He alone can give.

Vickie and Harry Godbee

Vickie Godbee - November 03, 2025 at 08:25 PM

LC

Bill was a very nice person to have known and I was blessed to have been one of the people to have known Barbara and Bill! Praying for Renee and the family to feel the presence of God in the grieving time and treasure all their memories together.

LaWanda Creech - November 07, 2025 at 05:31 PM