



## William "Bill" Herman Dyer Jr.

June 4, 1942 - March 12, 2023

William Herman Dyer, Jr., Bill, was born on Davis Island, Florida to William Herman Dyer, Sr., and Estelle Grimes on June 4, 1942: he was the oldest of three children

Bill was raised in Atlanta and a graduate of Grady High School where he played football and was a member of ROTC. Bill served in the United States Coast Guard and graduated from University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with an Engineering Degree.

In 1965, he met Brenda R. Mills while she was working in Atlanta. They married in Orangeburg, South Carolina in August of 1967. Bill and Brenda were enjoying their 56th year of marriage. Nancy and Billy made their family complete.

Bill was a third generation contractor.

His grandfather, a home builder in Gainesville, Ga., built many of the grand homes that still stand today.

Bill's father, a commercial contractor, was the superintendent on the Franklin County, Apalachicola Court House during WWII which stands today. Knowing that he wanted to follow tradition as a contractor, Bill worked all holidays and summers for Ira H. Hardin Co in Atlanta. After graduation from UTC, he began working full time. In 1970, IHH sent Bill to Tallahassee to assist in building the Barnett Bank bldg. In late 1970, he came back to build the downtown Hilton which at that time was the tallest building in Tallahassee. During that time, he and Brenda maintained an apartment in Tallahassee and a home in Atlanta.

Bill's next assignment was to return to Tallahassee to build the Commonwealth Building. During that time Bill and Brenda decided that Tallahassee would be a wonderful place to raise a family. In 1973, W H Dyer Company, General Contractors was established and the move was never regretted. In 1977 Bill built his first Publix and Shopping Center (Killearn Center), after that he built many, many Publix Super Markets and shopping Centers in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina before retiring in 2017. Throughout his life, Bill was a hobbyist. Shortly after marriage Bill developed a love of orchids from Brenda's parents and no matter where Bill lived, he maintained a green house. Bill had a love of car racing which he gave up after marriage. Over the years he began raising macaws, cockatoos, and finches. When daughter Nancy developed her love of horses, Bill sold his macaws to Busch Gardens for breeding. For 42 years Bill has enjoyed raising quarter horses and their babies for Nancy to show. In 1985 Bill decided to show his favorite horse "Fanny" Justa Fantasy one time. Bill won a World Championship. After a dash to the airport in Oklahoma he made it back to Tallahassee just in time to take a taxi from the airport for the FSU kickoff with trophy in hand. From the time Bill arrived in Tallahassee he was an avid fan and booster of FSU athletics. Until covid he had not missed a home game in 35 years. Loving all sports, he had season tickets to football, men and women's basketball, baseball, and softball. Many fun times were had traveling to away games with friends. A member of Tallahassee Rotary Club Bill had over 40 years of perfect attendance. A past member of Springtime Tallahassee served as Krewe Chief and on Jackson's staff. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, his son Billy (W H Dyer, III) his brother Robert, and sister Mary. Bill is survived by his wife Brenda, daughter Nancy and fiancé Ted Turner, sister-in-law's Robbie Fulmer and Joanne Dyer and a number of nieces and nephews. Bill is also survived by Sophie D. Barnes (George), Stevie

DeSimone, and Sydney DeSimone who Bill dubbed his “adopted granddaughters” and their parents Steve and Tracy DeSimone of Hilton Head Island, SC.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Big Bend Hospice or your favorite charity.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held at 2:00 PM, Thursday, March 16, 2023, at Bevis Funeral Home Chapel, 200 John Knox Road, Tallahassee, FL 32303. Rocky Bevis and Todd Wahlquist are assisting the Dyer family with their arrangements (850-385-2193, [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAR **16**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of William "Bill" Herman Dyer Jr.*



Bevis Funeral Home - March 16, 2023 at 09:25 AM



“ *I loved Bill as one would love a brother We grew up in Atlanta where we both attended Grady High School. Bill would join my family for lunch and I would join his family as well We were as close as brothers could be. Bill attended the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga and I Georgia Tech and during that time we remained close friends. After college we both joined the US Coast guard and attended boot camp together in Cape May, New Jersey. We remained close until Bill's marriage, I called and left a messagewhen his mother was ill as well as when she passed away, and again when his father passed away. I feel he did not get those messages however. I hope Bill knew just how much I loved him, and that I miss him terribly.*

*Till we meet again,  
Johnny Peppas*

John Peppas - July 05, 2025 at 02:44 PM

JP

“ Bill, as he was known, was my best friend since high school and although I have not spoken to him for the last 35-40 years I recalled the memory of him and our wonderful times from high school, thru basic training in the U. S. Coast Guard, to our automobile racing days, and beyond, in my mind often. I fondly recall the many times we watched TV at his home on Adair Avenue in Atlanta along with his dad and mother. I left several messages for him, some on his answering machine, and one or two with his wife but all were to no avail. I hope and pray that he did not call only because he did not get my messages. I guess only God knows why Bill did not return my calls. I will always treasure Bill and the memories we made over the years. I hope God holds Bill safely in the palms of His hands forever. Hopefully we will be reunited with one another someday in the clouds.

*I love you Bill and will until my dying day.*

*Your friend,*

*Johnny*

---

**Johnny Peppas** - November 08, 2023 at 08:09 PM

JE

“ Brenda and Nancy,  
Bill was such a great guy. Loved his family deary. My hearts go out to you guys. My prayers and thoughts are with you during this time.  
Love Rich & Jackie

---

**Jackie Elliott** - March 16, 2023 at 06:34 PM

DF

“ dac Family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of William "Bill" Herman Dyer Jr..



---

**dac Family** - March 16, 2023 at 03:07 PM

CH

“ *Christi Hale purchased the Love's Tapestry for the family of William "Bill" Herman Dyer Jr..*



---

**Christi Hale** - March 16, 2023 at 10:45 AM



“ *Bright and Beautiful Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Herman Dyer Jr..*



---

March 16, 2023 at 09:32 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Herman Dyer Jr..*



---

March 16, 2023 at 08:30 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Herman Dyer Jr..*



---

March 15, 2023 at 02:08 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Herman Dyer Jr..*



---

March 14, 2023 at 06:50 PM