



## William E. "Bill" Powers Jr.

April 18, 1939 - February 2, 2020

William E. "Bill" Powers, Jr., 80, died peacefully on February 2, 2020 after a short illness. He is survived by his wife Karen, his children Bill Powers (Jennifer) and Emily Downing (Rhett), his granddaughter Charlotte Downing, his siblings David Powers (Mary Janice) and Virginia Powers and 17 nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7th at Bevis Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, where he was a parishioner since 1976. Burial will be at a later date at Tallahassee National Cemetery.

Bill was born and raised in Chicago, IL. He was a graduate of the University of Dayton and the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He obtained a LL.M. in labor law from the New York University School of Law and was an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

Bill practiced law for over 40 years as a pre-eminent attorney in the field of public sector labor relations and employment law. He began his career with the National Labor Relations Board in Cleveland, OH before relocating to Tallahassee, FL to become the General Counsel for the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission; he subsequently served as its Chairman. He then entered private practice as a partner with a large firm prior to

founding his own practice which grew to employ six other attorneys. He represented most of the Florida Sheriffs and became General Counsel for the Florida Sheriffs Association which dedicated its library in his honor.

Bill served as co-chair of the American Bar Association Committee on Government and Employment Law and as an adjunct professor at Nova College of Law and Florida State University. He was a charter member of the Stetson Law Center for Labor Management Disputes and served on the National Advisory Board of Cleveland State's Marshall College of Law. He was a frequent lecturer at seminars across the country and was inducted as a fellow in the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.

Bill and Karen were generous supporters of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches; he was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Coalition of Children. He was a lifetime honorary member of the Florida Sheriffs Association which awarded him the Golden Star and Grand Star for his continued support. Bill loved playing and watching sports, traveling around the world and spending time at residences in Chicago and St. George Island. In lieu of flowers, his family requests donations in Bill's honor to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. ([www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com) 850-385-2193)

# Tribute Wall

CF

“ Sending our love to Karen & family. The Lukens & Figi family is very blessed to have many fond summertime memories of visits with Bill & Karen. We have been keeping you all in our prayers. Jim, Anne, Craig, Carolyn & girls.

Carolyn Figi - February 09, 2020 at 10:26 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of William E. "Bill" Powers Jr..



February 07, 2020 at 01:07 PM

BF

“ Bob Cramer & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William E. "Bill" Powers Jr..



Bob Cramer & Family - February 07, 2020 at 07:01 AM

DP

“ Brother Bill, we had some good times together, especially as we aged and our boys would meet up in Vegas. Thank you Karen for taking good care of Bill. You both have wonderful friends and great children that have your back plus family you can always count on if needed. We love you and will miss your visits with Bill falling asleep in chair. R.I.P. Bill.

*Sending healing thoughts and prayers.*

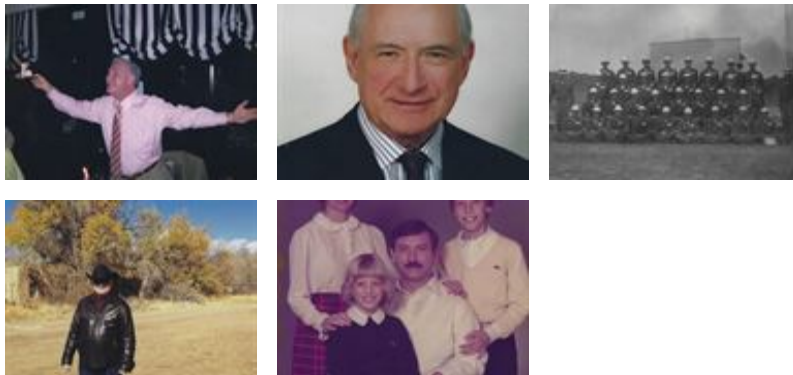
*Dave and Mary Janice Powers*

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**David and Mary Janice Powers** - February 06, 2020 at 01:48 PM

B  
BEVIS

“ 115 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Bevis Funeral Home** - February 05, 2020 at 06:50 PM

DC

“ Dan and Jan Condon purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William E. "Bill" Powers Jr..



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**Dan and Jan Condon** - February 05, 2020 at 04:23 PM

TB

“ This is a sad day for me. I've enjoyed Bill's friendship for 40+ years. In the 15 years that I spent on staff at the Florida Sheriffs Association, Bill served us as a legal counselor and trainer of sheriffs, jail administrators and other command staff personnel. Whenever I needed someone to do a lengthy training block in any corner of the state, Bill was always ready, willing and able to put on the show...and a show it was! His valuable counsel and advice on labor law was second to none. On a personal note, his friendship is something that I will value forever. And, those of us that knew him well will find it quite ironic that Bill died on Super Bowl Sunday. An invitation to the Super Bowl parties that he and Karen hosted at their home for years were highly sought-after and worth the price of admission! They borrowed television sets from all over their neighborhood and set one up in every room in the house. As a result, they had more TV sets going than most sports bars. Thank you Karen for sharing Bill with us all these years. We loved him too and share in your grief.

*Tom Berlinger  
Longmont, Colorado*

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**Tom Berlinger** - February 05, 2020 at 12:22 AM

WH

“ Sending Sheriff Wendell Hall(retired) Mrs Powers and family I am very sorry for your loss. Bill's served the Florida Sheriff for many years as a remarkable lawyer. He was a good friend and will be missed.

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**Wendell Hall** - February 04, 2020 at 07:54 PM

PH

“ Dear Powers family,  
oh how my heart aches for you all. I know it has been rough the past few years, but the good memories shall surpass. Bill's brother David has been my brother in law for the past 56 yrs. I not only gained a brother in law but the whole Powers family. I have many many great memories and know that I was Bill's favorite. RIP Bill, and say Hi to Grandpa Bill. ( To the rest of the family, let God wrap you in his arms, surround you with comfort and peace. Love you,  
Patti Lynne

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**Patti Geniesse House** - February 04, 2020 at 06:21 PM

AH

“ Sending prayers to Karen and the family. Bill was a lion of a lawyer and a GREAT friend to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. It was an honor to learn from him.

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**alison evans, CEO The Methodist Home** - February 04, 2020 at 04:17 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of William E. "Bill" Powers Jr..



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February 04, 2020 at 02:11 PM

JE

“ Philip and I were so sad to get this news. Bill was always so kind, friendly, warm, outgoing and welcoming to us. I always enjoyed going to your family gatherings such as the reunions at the church, Maumee Bay, and weddings. Bill always stood out for being friendly and making us feel very included. He lit up a room! You are all truly blessed with great relatives and a christian family. Phil and I stayed up talking with him at Billy's wedding, and we have fond memories of Bill any time we all got together.

Aunt Karen, Billy, Emily and families, we send our sincere condolences. We are all there for you in love, prayer, and support. Lean on your family. You have a great one, and everyone is saddened by this news. Bill left a lasting impression on all of us and he will not be forgotten.

Love,  
~ Philip and Jennifer Cramer

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Jennifer - February 04, 2020 at 02:06 PM