



William Kelly Gay II

July 10, 1954 - February 9, 2017

William Kelly “Bill” Gay, II (1954-2017) passed away Thursday February 9 holding the hands of his beloved wife of 41 years, Karen Gay, in their Tallahassee home.

Bill was born in Hattiesburg, MS to Kelly LaVern and Toshie Yano Gay, and is survived by his siblings Riki, Yumi, Sam, Mike, and Jerry Gay. Bill met his wife at Oceana High School in Pacifica, CA, married in 1975, and in 1979 they relocated from Lake County, CA to Tallahassee where they raised their children, Edward Kelly (39) and BillieAnne (32).

Bill worked at the Printing House and then as a UPS driver for 29 years, where he earned the prestigious Circle of Honor distinction. Bill was a leader in Teamsters, acting as a legislative liaison, and also participated in Christ Renews His Parish and the Men of Good Shepard fellowships. Bill and Karen were repeat winners for Eastgate Yard of the Month and were known for their passion for gardening and birdwatching. Their band, the Driveway Campers, brought beautiful music to establishments in the tri-county area and most Tallahassee events such as the Winter Festival, Downtown Market, Southwoodstock, and Swampstomp. Bill was also the house band guitarist for the historic Sopchoppy Opry, an avid golfer, and the best darn fixit man around.

A visitation is scheduled at Bevis Funeral Home on Friday February 17, from 5-7pm. The celebration of Bill’s life will be held on Saturday February 18 at Blessed Sacrament Church, full mass at 11am, reception following in the

Parish Hall. A music memorial will be held at the Tallahassee Museum of History & Natural Science in the coming weeks—details TBD.

To honor Bills memory, and the things that brought him joy, the family requests donations to: Sopchoppy Opry, c/o Jessie Quigg, 859 Oak Park Road, Sopchoppy, FL 32358; or to Redhills Junior Golf (Memo line: Bill Gay Scholarship Fund), 1334 Timberlane Road, Tallahassee, FL 32312.

Rocky Bevis of Bevis Funeral Home of Tallahassee (850/385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Gay family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Memorial Mass

FEB 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
624 Miccosukee Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Reception for family and friends following the service

FEB 18. 12:00 PM (ET)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
624 Miccosukee Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Tribute Wall



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers go out to your family. With the love of Eddie and Billie you all will get through this time of hurt. Knowing God has him now you will meet again.
Love the Jiraks

Joann Jirak - February 20, 2017 at 07:49 AM



“ I only met Bill a few times as our grandsons excitedly ran to his UPS truck to say hello to him. He always stopped to talk to them even if the delivery was not for them. Sometimes it was just a wave and always a smile. Your UPS boys miss you!

Heather Wolfe - February 18, 2017 at 09:29 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Kelly Gay II.



February 16, 2017 at 06:13 PM



“ CG Funk lit a candle in memory of William Kelly Gay II



CG Funk - February 15, 2017 at 12:02 PM

CF

“ My cousin, Bill gave me my love of Texas and Southern Rock music. I remember sitting in his garage bedroom as he played his favorite albums. I was 15 years old and swept away by the magic of the melody and poetry. I first connected with the wild dancer in me at one of Bill's concerts in Lake County, California in 1977. His band was playing outdoors on a flat bed hay truck. The dance floor was an open, dirt area. I danced, and danced and started to find my own rhythm which would be a lifelong pursuit. The more we danced, the more dust and dirt swirled around. I remember my face covered in dust and sweat. I also remember my spirit soaring and my physical body pulsating (could have been more than just the dancing, but I'm just not saying.....)

Bill and I didn't see each other often over the past many years but when we did it was just like we had.

I'll remember through the music and dancing his smile, his love of life, his sense of humor, performing with him at family reunions, and the time he saved me from a creep at the beach (another story for another time).

Bill loved his family deeply and I hope that Karen, Eddie and Billie Ann take comfort in this love - because this kind of love is everlasting.

Hugs,

Cousin CG



CG Funk - February 15, 2017 at 12:01 PM



“ *Fruits and Blooms Basket was purchased for the family of William Kelly Gay II.*



February 14, 2017 at 06:29 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Kelly Gay II.*



February 14, 2017 at 07:51 AM



“ *Bill was a truly good man, devoted husband, loving father, great friend. There's so much about him that I will miss, his wit, his wisdom, talking guitars and and amps and music as we would drive to the Sopchoppy Opry. My heart and prayers go out to Karen, Eddie and Billie and all of his family and friends that loved him so much.*

Reggie Bradley - February 13, 2017 at 06:16 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of Bill's death, but know he is at home in the arms of Our Lord. Prayers for you Karen, Billie, and Eddie. The Gertel clan still remembers him getting Jeanette on stage at the Good Shepherd festival and helping start her on her singing career!*

Susan G - February 13, 2017 at 10:53 AM

DS

“ I dedicate this song to my dear friend and brother Bill Gay. It was 41 years ago when I sat with him on the front porch of his house on Washington street in Upper Lake Ca. having just recently met. In those days we all knew Bill as Willie. Anyway, I had stopped by for a visit and sitting there the both of us with our guitars, Willie played this song which I had never heard before and I was so moved. Of course if you know Bill / Willie you also know that his heart and voice are perfect for the delivery of this song. Anyway....I'll never forget that day and we've been friends ever since. So...for you my brother ----- I love you Willie

Jackson Browne - These Days

Jackson Browne sings 'These Days' on acoustic guitar

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Don Sweatman - February 13, 2017 at 09:19 AM

CF

Amazing.

CG Funk - February 15, 2017 at 06:40 PM

CC

“ Bill was always humble and kind. A great musician. A hardworking UPS guy. But, most of all ,A Friend, A husband, A father, An Example of what a true man is. Always spoke a kind word. His VOICE was more clearly heard thru his singing, music playing and the LINCOLN SOFTBALL ANNOUNCER at his daughter's Softball games. He will be greatly missed. Good People, Good Memories!!! Fly high, Angel Bill.
Condolences Robert, Cathy, JD, Renée, and Abbie



Cathy Coburn - February 13, 2017 at 09:07 AM

SS

“ My heart goes out to Karen, Billie and Eddie during this time of sadness with the loss of her husband and their father. Bill was an amazing person, may he find comfort in the arms of his Savior. My prayers will continue that the Lord will give peace and comfort to his family.



Sharon Scribner - February 12, 2017 at 04:54 PM

KE

“ Family Reunion Talent Show (1997)



Kendra - February 12, 2017 at 12:30 PM



“ I remember Bill & Karen when we all lived in Clear lake CA, and have great memories. Sorry for your loss Karen & family. RIP Bill



Delena Clark - February 12, 2017 at 10:19 AM

SV

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Bill was a special person, God takes the best too soon. Love to you all

Susie Vaughn - February 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM

BB

“ *Bridget Baxley lit a candle in memory of William Kelly Gay II*



Bridget Baxley - February 12, 2017 at 09:17 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Kelly Gay II.*



February 12, 2017 at 12:23 AM

CL

“ *Great memories FSU softball in California RIP Billy.*



Case & Martha van der Linden - February 11, 2017 at 11:37 PM

SH

“ *I feel very honored to have known such a wonderful person. Mr Bill your the best . My thoughts and prayers are with the family Shawn*



Shawn Hoover - February 11, 2017 at 01:44 PM