



Billy Dillard

April 8, 1934 - April 12, 2013

Conway...Billy Lee Dillard, 79, died Friday, April 12, 2013 at his residence. Mr. Dillard was born April 8, 1934 at home in Wynnburg, TN, son of the late Bernard Lee and Zada Lucille Raines Dillard. He graduated in 1952 from Tiptonville High School as Valedictorian. Mr. Dillard entered USAF November 14, 1954, and married Nancy Lou Opdyke July 19, 1959. He graduated Memphis State University (now University of Memphis) in 1965 as Cum Laude. Mr. Dillard retired from the USAF March 1984, he was Command Pilot, Senior Navigator of various aircraft, primarily C-124, C-130 and C-141 with various assignments worldwide. Primarily operational flying or staff including, A-10 Operations Plans, 130 Squadron Operations Officer, C-141 major command tactics officer developing airdrop, tactical air land, and formation and airdrop procedures. He toured as an Air Force Liaison Officer to the United States Military Academy. He was in Real Estate Sales from 1984-2008, primarily with Hall Development earning various BS awards through the years. Mr. Dillard was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church from 1980 until present. He was involved with Seaside Emmaus from 1983 until present, including Community Lay Director, Co Founder of Coastal Carolina Chrysalis from 1990 until present, Community Lay Director and longtime Registrar. Mr. Dillard was Co Founder of Billy's Boys from 1991 until present and adviser to Billy's Boys, Inc. He was a board member of Mercy Hospice. Mr. Dillard was a CHS All Sports Booster Club Member, serving 2 terms as president. He was preceded in death by his wife of 32 years, Nancy Lou Opdyke Dillard.

Surviving are two daughters, Pamela Jo Angel of Myrtle Beach and Kelly Anne Covington (Kevin) of Conway; one son, Larry Raines Dillard of Myrtle Beach; four grandchildren, Ryan Spence Covington (Laura), David Blue Covington, Charles Austin Angel and Nancy Ann Angel; and three great grandchildren, Caitlin, Ailey and Eric Covington.

Funeral services will be held 3:00 PM Monday at Trinity United Methodist Church with Rev. Dr. Sandra Stevens Poirel and Rev. Carl Hunsucker officiating. Burial will follow in Hillcrest Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5-7 PM Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be sent to Billy's Boys, PO Box 1091, Conway, SC 29528 or to Chrysalis, PO Box 1084, Conway, SC 29528.

Sign a guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

1000 Hwy 544
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 347-4909
<https://www.hillcrestcemetery.com/>

Previous Events

Service

APR 15. 3:00 PM (ET)

Trinity United Methodist Church
198 Long Avenue
Conway, SC 29526

Tribute Wall

LT

“ *BD, BD, BD.....I miss you already. After 40 years as a Realtor my fondest time is the 10 years I worked side by side with you. Never a dull moment. Boundless energy, a kind word, support (I'll never forget you saved my job....Thank you again). Wilma and I cherish the brief time we spent with you in early April.....God Bless us all for the time we spent knowing this fine gentleman. Len & Wilma Toth*

Leonard C. Toth - July 29, 2013 at 07:53 PM

CW

“ *CHARLES WINSTON lit a candle in memory of Billy Dillard*



CHARLES WINSTON - April 24, 2013 at 06:45 PM

JW

“ *JOYCE WINSTON lit a candle in memory of Billy Dillard*




JOYCE WINSTON - April 24, 2013 at 06:44 PM

BF

“ Billy was a kind and wonderful man. He helped many young people in the Conway area find their way in life. My son, Michael, was proud to be one of Billy's Boys and we are grateful to Billy for sharing his life with him. Billy will be greatly missed.

Bryan and Patti Fink

Bryan Fink - April 22, 2013 at 09:18 AM

 Sarah Godbey

“ What a footprint he left for us to follow! He will be missed, for sure, but his legacy and the memories live on and for that I am very thankful! My thoughts and prayers are with the family...God Bless. Michael and Sarah Godbey Walks 121 & 122



Sarah Godbey - April 18, 2013 at 07:44 PM

AH

“ I was so saddened to hear of Billy's passing. I knew this kind, loving and generous man for 20 years...he started out by being my realtor and ended up being my friend. Billy would bring his boys to my property so that they could fish and what fun we had. The world has lost a wonderful man while heaven has gained a special angel.

Ann Herrington - April 16, 2013 at 05:37 PM

KH

“ I'll always be grateful to you Billy Dillard for all your love, support, and guidance for the last 15+ years! You are an amazing person and I'll love you forever! I'll always remember what you taught me and I will strive to be a much better person because of it! Rest easy my friend, my heart is always with you!

Love Always,
Kellye Hendrick- Columbia SC

Kellye Hendrick - April 15, 2013 at 11:30 PM

RB

“ Not a day goes by that I don't owe to Col Dillard's dedicated professionalism and generosity. He gave his all, to all, and made us who we are for having known him.

Rick Baldwin
USMA '75

Rick Baldwin - April 15, 2013 at 05:35 PM

MO

“ Pam, Kelly and Larry,

We are so sorry to learn of your dad's passing. He and your mother were such fun to be around. Now they are together once more.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this difficult time. Wish we could be there and give you all a big hug.

Love, Billy and Mary Opdyke and family

Mary Opdyke - April 15, 2013 at 11:46 AM

JT

“ *Joe And Rose Triacca lit a candle in memory of Billy Dillard*



Joe and Rose Triacca - April 15, 2013 at 10:47 AM

JT

*Billy has been part of our lives for over 10 years since we moved here from Connecticut. He was always a gentleman and always there to help when needed. Billy, you will be missed by us all. Enjoy heaven, save us a place.
Blessings, Joe and Rose.*

Joe and Rose Triacca - April 15, 2013 at 10:50 AM

LA

“ *Lorrie Alfano lit a candle in memory of Billy Dillard*



Lorrie Alfano - April 15, 2013 at 10:19 AM

JB

“ *I am grateful for knowing Billy. The kindness that he showed me during my illness, the visits, the cards, the gifts. Also, for being a mentor to others in my family. He touched many lives and will be missed by all.*

God bless you Billy!

Judy Barnes

Judy Barnes - April 15, 2013 at 09:24 AM

DE

“ *The world has lost a very bright light, but surely Heaven has gained a very special angel. I feel privileged our paths crossed in real estate. He was a joy to work with and a most unforgettable personality. He made me laugh... a lot. Love and prayers to your family.*

*God Bless You Billy,
Danielle Eiler, Myrtle Beach*

danielle Eiler - April 15, 2013 at 09:23 AM

LR

“ *We are praying for God's comfort for you today. You have been truly blessed to have been raised by such a caring and generous man. He was certainly an example of sharing God's love with others. He will be missed by more than you will ever even know. His life has touched so many and that will keep his memory alive forever! We love you and will continue to pray daily for your family!*



Lisa Rowell - April 15, 2013 at 08:16 AM

LB

“ *Thoughts and prayers go out to the Dillard family. My boys are Billy's Boys. Matthew(Farley) and Jake would not be the men they are today without Billy in their lives.*

God Bless, Lisa Bennett



Lisa Bennett - April 14, 2013 at 10:00 PM

JK

“ Prayers for the Dillards as they celebrate a wonderful man.

I remember when I was 17 and I was volunteering at Chrysalis. I was trying a new hair dye and dyed my hair purple unintentionally. Leave it to Billy to be the first to comment on my hair dye mishap! We laughed about it as we continued to prepare for the caterpillars next talk. He never let me live that down! It became a continuous joke throughout the remainder of our friendship.

I'm grateful for the kindness he shared not only with me but with all the others he cared for unconditionally. Never judging, always there to help. Billy, I know that you're in heaven celebrating a new life. One that is pain and cancer free. I also know God is enjoying your company. You're probably sharing a joke right now :)

Godspeed Billy! Love, Jillian Griffis Krueger

Jillian Krueger - April 14, 2013 at 08:41 AM

PK

“ PK Keating lit a candle in memory of Billy Dillard



PK Keating - April 14, 2013 at 06:24 AM

PK

Technology wins again. I was trying to place my comments with the candle, like the entry below. This will have to do.

Billy, Col "D," was my mentor, friend, and father figure. We kept in touch over the 40 years since we met at West Point whether one of the numerous Army-AF Football games we attended as a group or with a visit by Conway during my travels from a Germany assignment to MacDill AFB, FL. He made me a better person both personally and professionally.

He touched many of us for a long time and many more since. I miss him now but am thrilled that he is with our Lord.

*Rest in eternal peace,
PK Keating*

PK Keating - April 14, 2013 at 06:35 AM

HF

Mr. Dillard was such a fine person and will be missed by all who knew him. We will always remember him fondly and the examples of love compassion he gave to everyone he came into contact with. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all.

Blessings and love,

*Haley, Loretta and Lauren Booth
Booth's Christmas Tree Farm
Conway, SC*

Haley Booth, Booth's Christmas Tree Farm - April 14, 2013 at 07:56 AM

JD

“ *Billy was a very special man and will always be remembered by his twinkling eyes. He was loved by many and I know the Lord welcomed him with open arms. Thanks Billy for being our present from the Lord. A good friend will never die and will always be in our hearts.
God Bless
Joyce and Art Demharter*



joyce and Art Demharter - April 13, 2013 at 05:32 PM

 Shirley
Brown

“ *To the Dillard Family:*

*May the memories of a life well-lived help comfort you during this difficult time. And may the strength that God provides, sustain you.
(Psalm 46:1)*

*My condolences,
SBA.*

Shirley Brown - April 13, 2013 at 02:12 PM

BB

“ *Special man. Wonderful husband, father, and grandparent . Bonnie and Leighton Blue*

Bonnie Blue - April 13, 2013 at 11:46 AM

KC

Sorry we did not get to spend time with you all, glad i got to see you though. It means a lot that you came. Love you guys! Kevin

kevin covington - April 18, 2013 at 09:41 AM

DH

“ My deepest condolences go out to Pam, Kelly and Larry - they have lost their Father - a man who was not only a wonderful Father to his children - but a Father to many of us.

I was in the class of 1976 at West Point. I was one of the few cadets that received a commission into the United States Air Force - I will never be able to thank Billy enough for his tireless efforts to make our transition into the Air Force as smooth as possible.

I spent many days at his home through the years. Billy, Nancy and the children treated me like a member of the family. I have truly been a blessing to stay in touch - and visit Billy numerous times through the years. I will be forever thankful that I spent 2 days with Billy at Christmas. He was so very proud of his new "man cave." We had a chance to talk about his life - the mark he has left on other peoples lives - and the Billy's Boys organization for many hours. He has been such a great friend and mentor for my entire 34 year Air Force and Air National Guard career. I called him numerous time to get great advice and guidance through the years.

I will miss his Birthday calls - and I will miss his calls just to say "hi - call me." I will miss his Christmas cards - I will miss his laugh. I am grateful for the enrichment all those "little things" gave to my life. Rest in peace Billy.

With the greatest love, respect, admiration to Billy - and my deepest sympathy to his family,

Donnie Harvel and Family

Donnie Harvel - April 13, 2013 at 10:48 AM

TH

“ I have much to be thankful for due to Col D's efforts. He was a friend to all.

Billy made this world a better place. Well done Billy, be thou at peace.

He will be missed by many.

Tom Helms

USMA 1975

Tom Helms - April 13, 2013 at 09:56 AM

JS

“ *Judi Spencer lit a candle in memory of Billy Dillard*



Judi Spencer - April 13, 2013 at 08:42 AM

AA

“ *A loving man who was dedicated to his family and God. We loved to play the bickersons together because we were so much like. I loved the attention and care he gave to our shared grandchildren...Austin and Nancy Ann.*

Ann Angel-Parker - April 13, 2013 at 07:56 AM

DD

“ I got to know Billy Dillard (and Nancy) as a senior cadet at the US Military Academy while he served as the US Air Force Liaison officer back in the mid Seventies. His efforts changed my life, and several of my classmates who graduated with me in 1975. I know several of those guys stayed in close contact with Billy over the years, as noted by the planned "get togethers" at various times and spots. I was delinquent in getting to many those events, but regardless, I will always remember His undying loyalty and friendship to those he touched. He often called, wrote, and sent cards to keep in contact.

His diligent and persistent effort helped a bunch of us become US Air Force officers at a time when the policies had changed to prevent that cross-commissioning from happening. I was luckier than most, because compared to others in our group, I was a latecomer to the party and a "stretch" candidate, to say the least. Not only made the cut, but got a Pilot Training slot as well.

When it was over, Lt Col Billy Dillard, had accomplished his goal of getting 16 of us into the Air Force, and there was no question from Billy's perspective, it sparked a relationship that would go on forever.

Both Billy and Nancy were kind and gentle people, who I am sure were loved and appreciated by many, and will be not forgotten. He was the best.

My deepest sympathy on his passing.

David DiGiacinto

USMA Class of 1975

David DiGiacinto - April 13, 2013 at 06:35 AM



“ *Glorious Grace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Billy Dillard.*



April 13, 2013 at 06:16 AM



“ *Billy was a blessing to all of those he met! He had so many gifts in that huge warm heart of his! I know his time spent here on earth in his earthly body touched many lives! We will all miss him! The Burns' family. (John, Teresa, Corey and Melissa)*

Teresa Burns - April 13, 2013 at 05:19 AM



“ *What a legacy Billy has left to us all! A true Christian inside and out! It was a pleasure knowing him.*

Judy Guyton - April 12, 2013 at 10:56 PM



“ *A true modern Abraham - father of many. What a godly legacy this man left. He was an inspiration not only to the young men he loved like his own, but to us parents as well. Thank you Billy for your example to Zack and your encouraging words to the both of us. Enjoy your rewards because I know there are many.*



Theresa Ross and Zachary Ross

Theresa Ross - April 12, 2013 at 07:44 PM

MF

I know Billy Dillard because my parents, Joan and Vin McDonald, and I shared a duplex with him, Nancy, Pam, Kelly & Larry at West Point. I always felt like their home was my home. Billy was one of the first to reach out to me and my Dad when my Mom died, and then he's checked in every couple months since for 3 years now. Thank you for being such a nice man. I miss you.

Maureen McDonald Fehrs - April 13, 2013 at 08:09 AM

KG

“ *In memory of a modern day Christian hero and role model like no other! Our thoughts & prayers are with his family, as they know and feel Gods comfort.*

*With Admiration,
Chris & Kelly Guidera*



Kelly Guidera - April 12, 2013 at 06:27 PM

JE

“ I was the Associate Pastor at Trinity UMC in Conway from 1997-1999. But before that I was a summer intern appointed from Duke Divinity School. I worked with Youth at Trinity during the summer of 1996, I believe. I lived with Billy that summer. Billy was a great man, a dedicated Christian, and made a difference in the life of many young people whose lives he touched. I remember my time with Billy that summer fondly. One of the things I remember most is hearing Billy tell me, "MAKE YOUR BED!" He told me if I didn;t do it, I would come home to see my stuff out by the road! Ha, Ha Billy. I am saddened to hear of Billy's passing, but comforted to know that he was received into the arms of Jesus. He surely heard those familiar words, "well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master!" My prayers are with Billy's family and all who loved him. I love you Billy and the community of Conway will miss you.



*Rev. John F. Evatt and Family
Sneca, SC*

John Evatt - April 12, 2013 at 05:07 PM

LM

“ Our family was so blessed to know Billy. He was such a blessing to both the Chrysalis and Emmaus communities. We will surely miss his physical presence at the community events, but he will always be with us in spirit. Thank you to his family for sharing him with all of us.

The Morse Family (Bert, Linda, Brandon, and Nikita)

Linda Morse - April 12, 2013 at 04:07 PM