



William Avant

November 25, 1928 - November 6, 2011

Conway...William David "Billy" Avant, Jr., age 82, passed away quietly on Sunday, November 6, 2011 at his residence after a long illness.

Mr. Avant was born in Kingstree, son of the late William David Avant, Sr. and Ruth Cribb Avant. He grew up in Conway and was educated in Horry County School system, graduating from

Conway High in May 1945. Attended Clemson A&M College (then a military school for boys) for 2 years. Mr. Avant was unit administrator for the National Guard of Conway for 35 years.

Retired as Chief Warrant Officer W3. Accepted as an active member and Knight into "The Military Order of Saint George." He was past member of Conway City Council. Mr. Avant was a member of the First United Methodist Church for 64 years, and a member of Men's Christian Club. Life member of the SC National Guard Association. Received the Minuteman Trophy, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Active Service Medal, and US National Guard Bureau's Retirement Medal. Mr. Avant had 25 years Real Estate experience. He was an active member of Coastal Carolina Board of Realtors, serving as Sales Associate Broker in Charge, on site manager and attended many real estate courses/schools. Mr. Avant was awarded CCAR's Realtor Image Award. He was a member of The Greater Conway Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Avant served as Chairman of Horry County's Salvation Army Advisory

Council, Board of SC Legislative Committee, member of Clemson University Athletic Department's IPTAY for 53 Years having attended 66 consecutive Clemson/Carolina games, and have served on REP Board for the past 15 years, member of the Rotary Club of Conway since 1972, having attained 100% attendance, and served as secretary and treasurer for 14 years. He received the Paul Harris Fellow Award, Rotary Benefactor, Distinguished Service Award, and Rotarian of the Year Award. Mr. Avant was preceded in death by a brother, Wesley Avant; and one sister, Betty Calhoun. The family would like to thank Dr. Paul Richardson and Regency Hospice for their care of Billy.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Sylvia Jo Thompson Avant of Conway; a son William David "Bill" Avant, III and fiancée, Janice Burkhart of Senaca, SC; a daughter, Susan Avant Hendrick of Conway; three grandchildren, Le Hendrick and wife Heather of Conway, Ellie Avant of Jasper, GA, and William David "Will" Avant, IV and their mother, Diane Kinzer of Jasper, GA; one great-grandson, Joey Hendrick; one sister, Ruth Ann Stokes of Pawleys Island; one aunt, Corine Ray of Georgetown; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held 2:00 PM Thursday at the First United Methodist Church of Conway with Rev. Mac Kinnett and Rev. Carl Harris officiating. Burial will follow in Hillcrest Cemetery directed by Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 PM Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be sent to Regency Hospice, 11943 Grand Haven Drive, Suite A, Garden City, SC 29576.

Sign a guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries

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

NOV **10**. 2:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Conway
1001 5th Avenue
Conway, SC 29526
<http://www.fumcconway.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Goldfinch Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of William Avant*



Goldfinch Funeral Home - November 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *Praying for peace and comfort for your family.*

*With deepest sympathy,
Mildred Gore*

Mildred Gore - November 12, 2011 at 10:03 AM

EH

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you. I loved Billy very much.*

*Lovingly,
Evelyn Hammond*

Evelyn Hamond - November 10, 2011 at 11:34 AM

DP

“ We will truly miss Billy, he was an inspiration to all who met him. Ed always appreciated and enjoyed his visits.

Lovingly,

Dr. Ed and Birdie Proctor

Dr. Ed and Birdie Proctor - November 10, 2011 at 11:32 AM

VH

“ I have only known Billy for a few years, but, i enjoyed talking with him. He was a kind and compassionate man.

May God richly bless his family and comfort them in this time of loss.

Billy will be missed.

Virgil "Bud" Hale

Virgil P. Hale - November 10, 2011 at 11:04 AM

DJ

“ Billy - I always enjoyed sitting next to you at CCAR legislative meetings. Your whispered commentaries were priceless plus you kept me from being the oldest in attendance. I looked to you for honest dedication with not an ounce of self interest or self promotion. What a loss!!! Dave Jenkins

Dave Jenkins - November 08, 2011 at 11:01 PM

GY

“ BILLY I WILL MISS YOU, NOT TOO MANY LIKE YOU. EVERY TIME I GO BY THE ARMORY I SEE YOU AND JERRY. I LOVE YOU AND MISS YOU BOTH.

TANKS GENE D. YOURKO

GENE D. YOURKO - November 08, 2011 at 07:25 PM

JS

“ I have known Billy for so many years it is hard to think back that far but I do remember when his family lived on main street between about 10th. and 12th. avenue. He was always pleasant to be around and always informative. He loved the Military as I do and the last time I spoke with him was at a Retired National Guard Meeting and luncheon on 3rd. avenue, Conway. I also remember the night Wesley and a station wagon loaded with kids left the First Baptist Church in Conway going out in the direction of Homewood, when that fatal wreck happened. Wesley and I were in the seventh grade at that time. Our thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family in this time of sorrow, knowing there is a better life ahead for all of us that believe in Jesus Christ.

Joe F. Sellers - November 08, 2011 at 06:56 PM

DP

“ I have fond memories of Billy through Rotary with my late husband, Jim Polatty. They both also loved Clemson. Billy was such a caring and wonderful man and we all will miss him tremendously. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.
De Lis Melton Polatty



De Lis Melton Polatty - November 08, 2011 at 05:08 PM

MM

“ I will always remember Bill with love and fondness he will surely be missed. My deepest condolences to Sylvia, Susan and Bill please know y'all are in my thoughts and prays!!
Mari Medstar



Mari Medstar - November 08, 2011 at 11:14 AM

BR

“ I remember Bill as a great friend to my late husband Tom. They were both loyal Clemson fans. I have good memories of going to games with Bill and Sylvia. My deepest sympathy to his family.

Betty Reid - November 08, 2011 at 09:49 AM

LC

“ My memories of Billy were very vivid because he was a doer and a proactive soldier. He never allowed something to go undone if there was time NOW to accomplish that task. I always respected Billy for the focus he had concerning his work and the welfare of his soldiers! Those memories of Billy still live on in my mind although many years have passed since our last meeting at 1 BN 263rd HQ. His broad smile will be missed! Godspeed Billy.
Lt Col (Ret.) Bobby L. Childress

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Bobby L. Childress - November 07, 2011 at 07:26 PM

DC

“ Danny And Cindy Calhoun lit a candle in memory of William Avant



Danny and Cindy Calhoun - November 07, 2011 at 05:18 PM

GS

Uncle Billy was always ready to be a friend, a mentor, and an example for what was good in this world. ONE , of my favorite memories , a company Halloween party at Margarets home, Scott and I dressed up as "Clemson" Billy and "Toothbrush" Henry !!! What a hoot and a great night for all !! Love you Uncle Billy and Mrs. Sylvia. Grace

Grace Sayre - November 08, 2011 at 07:12 PM