



William Briney

June 12, 1930 - June 6, 2025

Dr. William Finney Briney

William Finney Briney, M.D., of Roswell NM, died on June 6, 2025, six days shy of his 95th birthday. He was the beloved husband of Sue Bartoo Chianta, whom he married on January 3rd, 2015, loving father of Laura Huette, John (Cheryl) Briney, and William (Diane) Briney. He was the dearest grandfather of BrieAnne, Mark, Erin, Jennifer, Kristen, and William III and great grandfather to many. He was preceded in death by his first wife Margaret Stevens, his sister Betty Ann Fairhead and husband Jim, and his brother Dr. Robert Briney and wife Maria. His younger brother, Dr. Walter F. Briney Jr., and wife Susan reside in Illinois. Bill was born and raised in the city of Chicago where he attended primary and secondary schools. He studied at the University of Illinois for both undergraduate and medical school. Upon his graduation from the University of IL College of Medicine, he did an internship and residency in thoracic surgery at Cook County Hospital, Chicago. He spent the majority of his medical career in Prescott, Arizona at the Veterans Hospital, rising to chief surgeon before retiring in 1990. Bill entered the United States Army in 1957 and ended his career in 1993 in the Army Reserve. He achieved the rank of full colonel and served in many leadership positions including commander of the Army hospital in Phoenix, AZ, from 1979 to 1985 and head surgeon of the 403rd Combat Support Hospital in the 1st Gulf War. His many outside interests included birding, bee keeping, woodworking, wood carving, opera,

and repairing antique clocks. He was active in many environmental groups including holding a national leadership position in the Isaac Walton League and serving as president of the board for the Friends of Bitter Lake NWR. Late in life he became an enthusiastic practitioner of Tai Chi. Bill was an active member of Westminster Presbyterian Church and loved singing in the choir. In spite of his full professional schedule, Bill always found time to spend with his children, whether leading various 4H groups to pass on his woodworking knowledge or taking the family on camping trips to explore the outdoors. He was a wonderful father and mentor.

A memorial gathering will be held on Saturday, June 21, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2801 W. 4th St. in Roswell, starting at 10:00. In lieu of flowers, please donate in Bill's memory to the Friends of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, 4200 E. Pine Lodge Rd, Roswell, NM 88201 or to Westminster Presbyterian Church Outreach Program, 2801 W. 4th St., Roswell, NM 88201.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 21. 10:00 AM (MT)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2801 W 4th St.
Roswell , NM 88201

Tribute Wall

BE

“ Bill is one of the best Waltz dancers in our ballroom class. I deejay (dj) for the seniors at the Senior Circle from 2017 to 2020 at the previous location next to Family Dollar store and mind you this is before Covid. We all danced there and we were all alive and full of energy. Sue was the one who always approached me for the right music for Bill to dance to and that is Waltz music. I put on Tennessee Waltz and there he goes gliding & dancing with his favorite partner Sue. Either Foxtrot or Waltz was the best choice. If I say...

"Bill you have to dance the Cha Cha Cha too coz I downloaded lots of Chacha music". He would smile & followed with a soft laugh saying...

"no! Bengjie Waltz Bengjie". I would laughed and say... okay Bill.

He dressed up as a Bee Keeper on our Halloween costume party Oct 2019. I dressed up as Bert of Sesame Street. Most of us dressed up that year. Yeah, that was a lot of fun. Other groups there thought of us as "the kool" group. They show up & joined us for our potluck party and they feel like they are one of us even to just listen to the music and mingle. But then WHOA!!!

Covid came the building closed. It just reopened to the new location but there is no space to dance to. It's carpeted. "Bill cannot glide gracefully & swaying on a carpet I said to the one in-charged!" it is not the same. But that will not going to stop us to dance. We found another place at Barbara Scheer's mobile homes clubhouse. Where we did a couple of potluck parties and I saw Bill & Sue dance again and we all enjoy Bill's company & his stories of what keeps him busy at home. We all love Bill and one day when it's time... all the seniors I played music to will be in one big party, imagine Bill in his black & white tuxedos, looking sharp dancing Foxtrot & Waltz with unlimited energy to glide & sway & swag. Thank you Bill for giving me the opportunity to get to know you & for being open and enjoy my dj skill all those years.

This is the statement I told the seniors at Avamere Assisted Living

facility , Peachtree Retirement Housing...where I shared my talent to play music: if you all go before me and it's my time to meet you all up there...I want you all lined up at the Heaven's gate high 5 ing me and yelling ---

"Let's get this party started !!!" I expect Bill to hand me the mic. Let's Do It!

Bengjie - June 27, 2025 at 05:17 PM

JK

“ *Jerrold K. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William Briney.*



Jerrold K. - June 19, 2025 at 04:53 PM

SD

“ *shauna Daffern lit a candle in memory of William Briney*



shauna Daffern - June 16, 2025 at 10:21 AM

ME

“ I loved Bill. He was a beautiful human being who cared deeply about his neighbors and community. He had a compassionate heart and a tenderness that made him very dear to me. I shall miss his laugh, his kind eyes, his thoughtfulness, his love of music and dance, his gentleness with animals (especially Bodhi, Blue, and Junebug), and the way he opened himself to my beautiful mother, his wife, to whom he gave great fulfillment and joy. He is dearly missed. I love you, Bill. Thank you for your sweet presence in my life. ❤️❤️❤️ Melissa

melissa - June 14, 2025 at 01:15 AM

KW

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Dr Briney's passing. Remember him fondly when he was working ER. I always enjoyed seeing him at Kymera. My deepest condolences Mrs Briney, to you and your family.

Kathy Wells - June 09, 2025 at 05:19 PM