



William Charles Graham

August 27, 1937 - September 28, 2023

William “Bill” Graham passed peacefully at home on September 28, 2023. He was a long time Roswell resident and had just turned 86 years old. Officially, he went by William but most people knew him as Bill. While his mom was the only one who ever called him Willy, those who had the honor of knowing him the longest knew him as Billy.

Bill was born in Oklahoma City, OK on August 27, 1937 to James William and Ann Laurie Graham. The Graham family moved to Roswell in 1947 where James worked for Tesco Neon Sign Company and Ann worked as a nurse for Dr. Steve Marshall. Bill attended Roswell schools and was a Class of 1955 graduate from Roswell High School.

After graduating high school, Bill briefly attended NM State University in Las Cruces and also enlisted in the National Guard. In the early 1960s, Bill began a 42 year career working for Southwestern Public Service (later Excel Energy Company). While he was well prepared for his work career, he probably wasn't as prepared for the U-turn his life took when he met Alice Porter. On December 27, 1964 they began a marriage that would last over half a century. Bill took great pride working with several community members including Jim Sears and Jimmy Collins to establish the Sierra Volunteer Fire Department in the mid-1970s. Bill was an active member of SVFD for over 2 decades, serving in several capacities including Chief and Assistant Chief. He loved his volunteer military service and was a member of the New Mexico Army Reserve National Guard. As an active member of St. Peter Church, he drove

the Sunday morning shuttle, helping others make it to Mass.

Bill loved model railroading and was an avid reader. He enjoyed hunting and was an impressive marksman. He is preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Alice Graham and his daughter Christi Wentland. He is survived by his children Charles Raulerson & wife Tessa, Eric Graham, Damon Graham & wife Betty, Aaron Graham & wife Christy, Devin Graham & wife Priscilla and Karolyn Frazier. He is also survived by 23 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.

Bill will be remembered as a devoted husband, a hard working & dedicated father, a well-respected firefighter, an American patriot and a true friend.

Pallbearers will be his sons Charles Raulerson, Eric Graham, Damon Graham, Aaron Graham, Devin Graham and Karolyn Frazier. Honorary pallbearers will be Jim Sears, Bill Collins, Bill Smith, Jimbo Coll, Stan Taylor, Steve Spencer and Bill Corn. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wounded Warrior Project www.woundedwarriorproject.org

Funeral Mass will be held at St. Peter's on Friday October 6, 2023 at 2:00pm, interment to follow at South Park Cemetery.

Please take a moment and share a kind thought or memory with William's (Bill) family at www.andersonbethany.com

Cemetery Details

South Park Cemetery

3101 South Main St
Roswell, NM 88203

Previous Events

Funeral Service

OCT 6. 2:00 PM (MT)

St. Peter's Catholic Church
111 East Demming St.
Roswell, NM 88203
(575) 622-5092

Tribute Wall

PL

“ Paul Lollis lit a candle in memory of William Graham



Paul Lollis - October 09, 2023 at 02:09 PM

RL

“ A great guy! I enjoyed working with him for many years at Xcel Energy. Prayers to all the family. He will be missed.

Ron Lynch - October 05, 2023 at 12:45 PM



“ I never remember not knowing the Grahams! Watching Alice and Bill (Mom and Dad) raising their children was a solid family unit was inspiring to me. Great memory of Bill... I went to the house for chicken harvest day... I was mortified!! Dad said, "it's the circle of life Jonie." Then Mom made us the most amazing fried chicken dinner!!

Christy Jones Moorhead Hurst - October 03, 2023 at 08:16 PM

CH

“ I never remember not knowing Bill and Alice!! They were a huge part of my young life. No words can say how much they influenced my life by watching them raise their children and their devotion to living a divine life. One great memory is when I went for chicken harvesting day... I was mortified and dad said, "it's the cycle of life Jonie." Next, Mom made us THE BEST fried chicken dinner EVER!!

Christy Hurst - October 03, 2023 at 07:57 PM

MS

“ *Graham family - condolences and best wishes to you all at this sad time. We were honored to have met Mr. Graham and have shared fellowship together. He had a welcoming, warm smile and a kind and cheerful word for everyone. Please know our family is thinking of you all and wishing you many fond memories to help you through your grieving. With love and blessings, the Cronin and Schmittle families.*

Maureen Schmittle - October 03, 2023 at 07:53 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Charles Graham.*



October 03, 2023 at 07:19 PM

MR

“ *I am blessed to have recently been with Bill and his family to celebrate Bill's birthday— a wonderful celebration for Bill , surrounded by his loving family, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bill and Alice exemplified parenthood at its best. Our family treasures our friendship with the Graham family. 🙏🙏*

Margaret Rodriguez - October 03, 2023 at 05:04 PM

GH

“ I had the privilege of meeting and working with Chief Graham when I was the Chaves County Fire Services Administrator. He was an absolute joy to work with and accomplished many great things with the Sierra Vol. Fire Department while he was Chief and Assistant Chief. He was always so proud of his family and would beam when he talked about their accomplishments! Please accept my sympathies and condolences on your loss.



Georgianna Hunt - October 03, 2023 at 11:30 AM