



William Frederick Berry

April 12, 1941 - January 2, 2025

William F. Berry, affectionately known as "Bill," passed away on January 2, 2025, in Stanford, California, at the age of 83. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, uncle and cherished friend, Bill will be remembered for his unwavering love, adventurous spirit, and generous heart.

Born on April 12, 1941, in San Francisco, California, Bill grew up in Palo Alto and later in Portola Valley. A proud graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School, he went on to earn his degree from San Jose State University. Bill began a distinguished career in investment banking with Crocker Bank, later continuing his work with Wells Fargo, where he earned the respect and admiration of colleagues and clients alike.

Bill embraced his retirement with the same passion and drive that defined his professional life. He pursued his love of exploration, spending time mining for gold in California, Alaska, and the Yukon. A dedicated philanthropist, Bill served on various boards and actively supported projects close to his heart, including the preservation of California's wetlands. His efforts earned him a well-deserved place in the California Waterfowl Hall of Fame.

A man of many talents and interests, Bill loved traveling with his beloved wife, Nella, and found joy in their time spent together in Mount Shasta, Indian Wells, Western Canada, and their longtime home in Portola Valley. He was an

avid golfer and a wicked pickleball player. Bill enjoyed playing Bridge with Nella and friends from around the country online. He especially enjoyed spending hours in his gardens and much to Nella's chagrin, he wore good clothes that didn't stay nice for long!

Bill is survived by his devoted wife, Nella; his children, Koryne Smith (Taylor) and Derek Berry (Joanne); and his cherished grandchildren, Emily, Lindsey, Liam, Nathan, Jordyn, and Jessie. He is also survived by his sisters, Wanlyn Bejach, Winifred Lowell and Carol Berg. He was preceded in death by his parents, Othmar and Velda Berry.

In the final months of his life, Bill faced a fast-moving leukemia diagnosis with extraordinary courage and grace, inspiring those around him.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bill's memory may be made to myBlueDots, a cause that reflects his enduring commitment to helping others. Donations can be made at mybludots.org <<http://mybludots.org/>>

Bill's life was a testament to the power of love, perseverance, and generosity. He will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Previous Events

Memorial

JAN **24**. 2:00 PM (PT)

Trinity Episcopal Church
330 Ravenswood Ave
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Tribute Wall

FF

“ My deepest sympathies to Nella. And, to Koryne and Derek and their families. May the measure of your loss be swiftly balanced by the strength and grace and treasured memories that Bill brought to you for so many years and so many ways. What a wonderful life! In the hearts of all who loved Bill, he will be remembered forever. For now, shed the tears. You have to. Then, let those tears water a garden of your life in Bill's. Keep his spirit alive and well.

Love from the Fred Lowell Family

Fred Lowell Family - January 22, 2025 at 10:55 PM

RB

“ Ron and I met Bill and Nella on a trip to England that showcased the life of Winston Churchill. One evening with the author Andrew Roberts, I remember Bill putting yellow papers on his lap. He had prepared many questions and comments. His in depth perspective on so many topics will be missed by all who knew him. Our condolences to Nella and his family/

Ron and Nancy Bendelius

Ronald and Nancy Bendelius - January 19, 2025 at 05:12 PM

SR

“ Suzie and I came to know, and love, Bill and Nella in 2019 when they joined us for a ten day walk through the life of Winston Churchill. Since then we have together explored Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, Sandringham, stately homes in Scotland and attended Guards Polo and Royal Ascot.
To Suzie and I, Bill and Nella are such dear friends... In 2023 they brought Koryne and Taylor to the UK, which added even more Berry family friends to our lives.
Bill was a kind, gentle, and undemanding man.
We will miss Bill and keep Nella close to us .. or as close as we can being in Scotland!

Simon Rhodes - January 19, 2025 at 09:27 AM

DB

“ Elaine and I moved to Menlo Park in 1978 and met Bill and Nella at Trinity Episcopal Church. For the next two years we got together with friends and families each Sunday afternoon at each of our houses.
We had to move to Houston in 1980, but we remained good friends and stayed in touch as we visited the Craggs, their home in Portola Valley and Palm Springs on a number of occasions. I played many rounds of golf with Bill and also enjoyed playing basketball with his friend Bill Walton !!!!! The past five years we travelled with Bill and Nella to England and Scotland. Our greatest memory of Bill was this past May at Euston Hall in England where we sang after dinner with Bill wearing a full length bearskin coat while he was hugging Nella !!!! Bill was one of the best “storytellers” and if you ever asked him about the Berry Klondike history, you were in for a real treat to hear about it.
We are 5,000 miles away but we are close in our hearts to remember and celebrate Bills life and meaning to so many. We give Nella and the Berry family a big “bear hug” from Williamsburg Virginia. Don & Elaine Bogus & Family

Donald Bogus - January 18, 2025 at 10:25 AM

DB

“ *Don & Elaine Bogus purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of William Frederick Berry.*



Don & Elaine Bogus - January 18, 2025 at 09:34 AM

MF

“ *I remember meeting Bill when I was quite young and thinking he had an interesting and exciting life and many interesting stories. I especially enjoyed the stories about the gold mines and the north. We also had fun over the years at family reunions, in San Francisco, at the Castle Crags, and on the houseboat trip on Shuswap Lake.*

He told us many times a few months ago that the Castle Crags was his all time favourite place to be and that was obvious when he was sitting at the pool, hiking around the property, and enjoying the Queen's scotch! In spite of being 40 years older than us, he and Nella were still a well matched challenge in pickle ball!

Matthew Fisher - January 10, 2025 at 01:15 PM

BS

“ Bill was just simply a wonderful guy! Fiercely competitive but always a good sport, whether being chased by “Man the hunter” through the bush or setting up the perfect putt, he was a joy to be around. Memories of sharing your 50th anniversary, dinners in Palm desert, family reunions, will be what we treasure most. Bill was a successful man but always humble and we valued his opinions in conversations over the years. He was loved and respected by so many and was taken from us far too quickly. Our hearts and love go out to you Nella and your family. He will be dearly missed.
Brenda and Ken Schneider

Brenda Schneider - January 09, 2025 at 09:31 PM

MF

“ Our condolences to you Nella, Koryne, Derek, and your families. Bill always showed great love and caring for each of you.

Whether playing a game of golf, "Oh Piddle!", or pickleball, Bill was very competitive, yet liked to have fun!

We enjoyed the many times we shared; the family gatherings, reunions, visits to Medicine Hat or our place in Elkwater here in Alberta, Canada, as well as the times we visited in Indian Wells, California. There was always lots of laughter during these visits. Bill's chuckle could always be heard!

We cherish many great memories of Bill.

Rob & Marilyn

Marilyn Fisher - January 09, 2025 at 05:45 PM

AL

“ *Arlene & Gary; Brenda & Ken; Ron & Liz purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of William Frederick Berry.*



Arlene & Gary; Brenda & Ken; Ron & Liz - January 09, 2025 at 04:18 PM

AD

“ *We have fond memories of Bill on his visits to Nella's family in Medicine Hat, Canada and his wonderful hospitality at their home in Indian Wells. Bill was always a good sport whether throwing himself into playing wide games (animal game) or spirited conversations while solving world problems. We enjoyed his gentle humour and easy laugh and his interest in others.*

Sending Nella and all Bill's family our love and support through this difficult time. May your many memories of him bring your comfort in the days ahead.

*With love,
Arlene & Gary*

Arlene Dickson - January 09, 2025 at 03:56 PM