



William "Bill" Northrup

May 11, 1941 - May 7, 2025

William "Bill" Northrup, Age 83, of Nashville, TN, passed away on May 7, 2025.

Preceded in death by his mother, Marjorie Decker Northrup and his father, Ralph P Northrup.

He is survived by his sister, Cheryl Brown Northrup; brother, Jack Northrup; As well as many special nieces and nephews.

Bill enjoyed flower gardening, gourmet cooking, member of two book clubs, painting, world travel, tai chi, yoga, circle dancing, and beekeeping.

He spent a year at Ghana University, was in the Peace Corp in Guatemala, attended Colgate University and Vanderbilt Divinity School.

He worked as a Clinical Pastoral Therapist and a Hospice Chaplain.

Bill was a truly kind and compassionate human. He always found time to listen, to laugh, to be real and to attend to the thoughts and needs of others. It's hard to imagine one individual having so many friends that he had known for 50 years! Not just friends that called once a year, but genuine, loving friends. This says so much about our dear friend, Bill.

Bill loved to travel. He frequently went on voyages by air, land and sea. Whether it was solo or with loved ones, he always came back with colorful tales of new adventures.

Bill moved through life in his own unique and beautiful way. I often communicated with him through text and laughed out loud at his responses. One of the last conversations we had was about coming over to my daughter's house for a "modest party."

He always made me smile. Over the years we had the pleasure of Bill attending holiday gatherings, and he always added such a delightful and insightful presence and perspective to our conversations. One year we talked about prison reform over desert. He was such a complex and heartfelt person. We were always learning and were better for knowing him. He was a light to so many over the years.

Those of us that knew and loved Bill are thankful for the gift of his life. He was a blessing to his loving family and friends. We will miss him mightily.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 31st, at 2:00pm at Edgehill United Methodist Church 1502 Edgehill Ave. Nashville, TN 37212. Pastor Eric Mayle will open the Celebration, and Gretchen Watts, who has known Bill for over 48 years, will be the primary speaker. If you feel like you want to speak at this Celebration then at the appropriate time just stand up. (This not a formal funeral).

Flowers are not always appropriate but in this case, Bill loved flowers, so if you would like to bring or send some please free to do so. If you would rather donate to a charity here are a few that Bill loved:

Edgehill United Methodist Church 1416 Edgehill Ave, Nashville Tn. 37212

Glendale Baptist Church 1021 Glendale Lane Nashville Tn. 37204

First Baptist Church 78 Steuben St, Addison TY 14801

Penuel Ridge Retreat Center 1440 Sams Creek Rd, Ashland City, Tn 37015

Pendle Hill Quaker Study Center 338 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, Pa 19086

Colgate Rochester Divinity School 320 N Goodman St, Suite 207 Rochester
NY 14607

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 31. 2:00 PM (CT)

Edgehill United Methodist Church
1502 Edgehill Ave.
Nashville, TN 37212

Tribute Wall

KF

“ My deepest condolences to Bill's family and dearest friends. He was a gem! Bill and I were both longtime members and friends of the Art & Soul Nashville community and I always enjoyed having him in my classes or volunteering alongside him. We had many wonderful discussions about art, nature, poetry, spirituality, his travels, God, and peacemaking. What a creative, loving, giving, and stand-up man. He will not be forgotten. I am sorry I am only just hearing about his passing because I certainly would have attended his service.

Love you fondly, Bill!
Kelly Cass Falzone

Kelly Cass Falzone - June 16, 2025 at 07:58 AM

CR

“ I am Bill's younger first cousin and I didn't get to know him well until we were adults. However, I always thought of him as kind, sincere, sometimes humorous and also very intelligent We communicated frequently while he was in the rehab for his broken leg this past year and I loved hearing his plans for when he was better. So sorry these plans won't ever materialize.

Carol Northrup Rivers

Carol Northrup Rivers - June 04, 2025 at 09:10 AM

CN

“ Uncle Billy was always the best listener. One of my earliest memories is of reading the book "Swimmy" to him by our pool in Las Vegas. He was so thoughtful and took great pleasure in reading Hayden's cartoon sketchbook. He will be greatly missed. I wish we had more time together.

Candice L Northrup - May 31, 2025 at 04:55 PM



“ I met Bill for the first time around 35 years ago. He soon became a dear friend. After Doug and I bought our home, we often invited him over for various celebrations (birthdays, holidays). We frequently visited Bill's home as well where he often prepared wonderful meals, but the best part of any time we spent with Bill was just talking with him. He was a good soul. We're grateful for his long and happy life, and we will miss him very much.

Mickey & Doug



Mickey Frith - May 30, 2025 at 04:09 PM

BD

“ Billie Pate and Elaine Dickson purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of William "Bill" Northrup.



Billie Pate and Elaine Dickson - May 27, 2025 at 01:33 PM

DN

“ I knew my cousin Bill all his life, since he was born ten days after me. He was kind and loving. I miss him deeply and regret not having been able to spend more time with him. David Northrup

David Northrup - May 27, 2025 at 10:08 AM

BK

“ Bill and I are first cousins. From childhood, we have always shared and a laugh and a story when together. We also corresponded by letter over the years. Bill wrote the best letters, the last of which was written April 25, 2025 and received just days before he died. A number of years ago, Bill mailed me a big basket of Hyacinth bulbs for my garden. When they come up every Spring, they are messages of love from Bill. How lucky I am to have them!
Remembrance from Beth Wilson Klepeis (Reading, Massachusetts)

Beth (Elizabeth) Klepeis - May 26, 2025 at 04:40 PM

RB

“ Here's Bill with Meredith and Roger at Lake #14 in Michigan. A place of utter beauty and stillness that we loved to fill ourselves up with. I always treasured the 10 hour trip up and back, each time sharing our hearts out.
Love, Roxie



Roxie Brunetti - May 24, 2025 at 10:33 PM

DK

“ Bill I will miss your kindness and love. I loved every time we spent together. I will forever see the beauty in all things because of you. Love you my friend. You are so missed.

Darlene Kimbrough - May 24, 2025 at 08:12 PM

TM

“ Bill and I took a couple of gorgeous trips together. We went to England and Scotland in the summer of 2003, and did a driving trip to Newfoundland in the summer of 2007. I remember us hiking on the Isle of Skye, carefully treading along cliff-edge paths while fierce winds tried to make us lose our footing. He was braver than I (I was tempted to get down on hands and knees and crawl a few times). The long drives to Newfoundland and back home were filled with deep intense conversations, and the hikes we took together in Twillingate Newfoundland were exhilarating. I will sure miss Bill!
(Remembered by Tim Miller, Knoxville TN)



Tim Miller - May 22, 2025 at 10:22 AM