



## William "Bill" Farmer

December 29, 2022

William "Bill" Farmer, 72, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, died peacefully at Allen Hospital on December 29th, 2022.

Few people lived their lives with as much compassion and joy as Bill. Bill was born September 14th, 1950, in Great Bend, Kansas, and was raised in Mason City, Iowa, where he loved singing and spending time outdoors. While studying biology and education at Loras College, Bill took part in two particularly transformative experiences: a choir trip to Europe, which opened up the world to him, and a mentoring club called "Do It Yourself," where he met lifelong friends as well as his wife of 48 years, Mary Lee. The two were married at St. Patrick's Church in Dubuque on June 15th, 1974.

During the Vietnam War, Bill served his country as a Conscientious Objector, first as a teacher at St. John's school in Waterloo and then as an orderly at Allen Hospital. This experience inspired him to pursue a nursing career, and he graduated from Allen College of Nursing in 1977 – one of two men in his graduating class. Bill enjoyed his career at Allen and greatly appreciated his treasured colleagues and mentors. Every day at the hospital provided an opportunity to help someone, and he encouraged that same sense of purpose and fulfillment in those around him.

As a father and husband, Bill was loving and ever-present: he packed the

family lunches every morning and always included a thoughtful note; he tucked the girls in every night, with songs for Laura and Sherlock Holmes stories for Ann; in the summer, he and Mary and the girls took epic family road trips, including one all the way to Maine.

After retiring from Allen Hospital, Bill enjoyed traveling with Mary and spent many great mornings with friends at Cup of Joe in downtown Cedar Falls, where he was a beloved regular.

Survivors include his wife, Mary, of Cedar Falls; daughters Ann (Matt) Congdon of Augusta, Maine, and Laura Farmer of Marion; brother Steve (Kathy) Farmer of Mason City; sister-in-law Betty Lee of Dubuque and sister-in-law Shawn Farmer of Des Moines; nieces Lisa (Ray) Wilfong of Urbandale and Karen (Steve) Sprague of San Antonio, Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Nancy Farmer, as well as his sister Linda, brother Paul, and sister-in-law Ruth Farmer.

A visitation will be held at Richardson Funeral Service on Monday, January 2nd from 4-7 p.m., with a rosary at 3:45 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, January 3rd, at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Cedar Falls. A lunch for all will follow, with burial at Greenwood Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Allen Foundation or St. Patrick Catholic Church.

# Previous Events

## Rosary

JAN 2. 3:45 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service  
615 Main Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-3525  
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com  
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

## Visitation

JAN 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service  
615 Main Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-3525  
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com  
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

## Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

Saint Patrick Catholic Church  
705 Main St  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ Our condolences to Bill's family. I worked with Bill at Allen, particularly in Quality Improvement, but when he was in different areas of the hospital as well. He was always cheerful and kind. My husband Brian remembers Bill when he would go to the ED for treatment for headaches. Brian is also a circus fan and thought it was interesting when I told him that Bill's daughter was with the circus for a short time. May God bless you during this time of sorrow but joy in knowing that Bill has gone home. Candis and Brian Smith

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**Candis Smith** - January 03, 2023 at 12:40 PM

NB

“ I work with Ann at Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Augusta, Maine. My family is sending our deepest condolences to the Farmer family and friends. Ann lives many of the same beautiful attributes of her father at work and in life. I'm sure her father would delight in knowing that. Take good care, Nancy Beardsley

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**Nancy Beardsley** - January 02, 2023 at 08:17 PM

PA

“ Mary, Laura, and Ann. Peace and comfort to each of you. Cherish all your family memories. Paul and Laura Ahern

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**paul** - January 02, 2023 at 06:27 PM

MF

“ Mike and Marilyn Kelleher family purchased the [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of William "Bill" Farmer.

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**Mike and Marilyn Kelleher family** - January 02, 2023 at 05:21 PM

JF

“ TO: MARY AND FAMILIES  
FROM: JUDY AND JOHN FOCHT

*We were shocked and saddened when we learned of Bill's Passing. We extend our deepest sympathies to all of the Families.*

*We loved our impromptu visits with youm Mary and Bill, when we lived on West 5th Street . Both Bill and you Mary were friendly and engaging. We know how much work (and love) Bill put in on keeping house and yard always looking immaculate and beautiful. The Tulips in the Spring were so beautifully blooming in front around the tree in the front and along the fence on the side and in the back. I have many pictures of them and always like to look back on them every now and then.*

*We will not be able to see you at the Visitation and Funeral because of some health issues here but will be with you in spirit as you celebrate his wonderful life. Mary, we will make it a point to drop by to visit with you in the future.*

*Deepest Sympathy to you Mary and all of the families.*

*Much love from John and Judy Focht*

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**John and Judy Focht** - January 02, 2023 at 02:47 PM

AO

“ *I only met Bill a couple of times - when I was in college many years ago, friends with his daughter Laura. But I remember him very well - he is one of those people whose kindness and open-heartedness runs so deep, it leaves a lasting impression. I wish more people could live their lives like Bill, without an ounce of cynicism. My sincere condolences to Mary, Laura and Ann for the loss of a wonderful father and husband. With love, Alice*

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**Alice Obrecht** - January 02, 2023 at 08:49 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Farmer.*



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January 02, 2023 at 08:45 AM



“ *The Zhorne Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William "Bill" Farmer.*



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**The Zhorne Family** - January 01, 2023 at 11:28 PM



“ *Our condolences to Mary, Ann, and Laura. Bill will be missed greatly. He was always very generous and friendly. Bill and I were roommates in college and he was my Best Man at our wedding in 1973.*

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**David & Sue Fischer** - January 01, 2023 at 08:20 PM



“ *My condolences to you Mary, Ann, and Laura. Your husband and dad was a gem: a great smile, a kind heart, and always welcoming. I have great fondness of him from growing up. I'm so sorry for your loss.*

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**Andrea Stirm Fogt** - January 01, 2023 at 04:31 PM

KC

“ I only met Bill a few times, but I was friends with one of his daughters in high school. This is a wonderful family, clearly representing Bill's legacy. My heart goes out to you all for your tremendous loss.

Kim Cafaro - January 01, 2023 at 02:25 PM

FF

“ From John & Connie Farmer purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of William "Bill" Farmer.



From John & Connie Farmer - January 01, 2023 at 01:37 PM

KC

“ Hey Farmer Ladies... I'm not sure if you remember me... I was your acrobat instructor many years ago at Fisher School of Acrobatics and remember your family fondly. I'm so very sorry to hear of the kids of your husband / dad...May He Fly High.... Kim (Casey)

Kim Casey - January 01, 2023 at 11:21 AM

TJ

“ Sending all my thoughts and prayers to the family! I knew Bill from Allen! He was always so pleasant with me as we would have talks. Bill also knew my grandma as she worked for the surgery dept! Bill will truly be missed! He was always singing and with a smile on his face!! Blessings Tami Johnson

Tami Lee Johnson - January 01, 2023 at 10:50 AM

MC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Mary and family. I worked in ER many nights at Allen With Bill. He was then working as Orderly. What a wonderful person. He was a great orderly and I am sure he was a great nurse.He touched many lives.  
Blessings Mary Christoph

Mary Christoph - January 01, 2023 at 07:58 AM

JH

“ Thoughts and prayers are with you, Mary, and the family. Bill was a special star in the Allen College family. He always was seeking to learn so he could provide excellent care for his patients. Remember when he chose to intern at Mayo Was always so proud of him. Glad we got to see both of you this fall Jane & Wayne Hasek

Jane Hasek - December 31, 2022 at 02:37 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Farmer.



December 31, 2022 at 10:15 AM

SF

“ Stephen Farmer purchased the Lavender Reflecti ons Spray for the family of William "Bill" Farmer.



Stephen Farmer - December 30, 2022 at 07:40 PM

RP

“ So sorry to hear of Bill's passing 😞 We had many good conversations over the years. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family 🙏 Rick and Linda Phillips

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**Rick and Linda Phillips** - December 30, 2022 at 06:32 PM

AP

“ Steve and Arlene O'Kane express our heartfelt sadness about Bill and offer our condolences to you Mary and the entire family. Bill was such a gentle man and so compassionate to ALL! May our Lord watch over all of you. R.I.P. Bill.

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**Arlene Prather-OKANE** - December 30, 2022 at 04:49 PM

JM

“ I met Bill in grade school at Holy Family and graduated with him from Newman H.S. Bill always had a sense of serenity about him. Sending you peace, love and healing.  
Jon McGinn

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**Jon McGinn** - December 30, 2022 at 04:33 PM

MM

“ Mary, Ann, and Laura, Denny and I are sending love and hugs to you from Texas. You both were wonderful neighbors who had such lovely gardens. Our sympathy to you all. Our Cedar Valley has lost an incredible man. XO

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**Michele McFarlane** - December 30, 2022 at 03:48 PM

JS

“ Mary, Ann and Laura, I am saddened to learn of Bill's death. His gentle spirit and the witness of his and living with faith and courage his illness were an inspiration to me. I will offer Mass for his eternal repose today. I'm also praying God's comfort for all of you.  
Fr. Jim Secora

James L Secora - December 30, 2022 at 09:53 AM

FM

“ Bill was a peace-loving friend who always looked for the good in any situation or difficulty. He will be missed. Msgr. Jim Miller

Fr. Jim Miller - December 30, 2022 at 09:29 AM

BF

“ We were so sorry to hear of Bill's passing away. Mary, Ann and Laura ( and family), you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Bruce and Terry Forystek - December 29, 2022 at 11:13 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Farmer.



December 29, 2022 at 10:46 PM

JS

“ Mary, we are thinking of you at this very sad time...our sympathy and prayers are with you❤️❤️❤️ Greg and Joyce Sadler

joyce Sadler - December 29, 2022 at 10:02 PM

BF

*We were so sorry to hear of Bill's passing away. Mary, Ann and Laura ( and all family ), you are in our prayers and thoughts.*

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**Bruce and Terry Forystek** - December 29, 2022 at 11:03 PM