

William Shepherd

October 30, 1933 - August 29, 2023

CEDAR FALLS – William “Bill” James Shepherd Jr., 89, died on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at the Cedar Valley Hospice Home in Waterloo, IA. Bill was born in Carrollton, OH, on October 30, 1933, to Bill and Helen (Baker) Shepherd.

Bill is survived by his wife, Mary, and her sons, Wade Kainer of Iowa City, IA, and Bowen Kainer of Austin, TX; children, Ann Marie (Paul) Baransy of Ottawa, OH, Jeani Lynn (Max) Good of Fayetteville GA, Nola Rose (Jim) Quealy of Seal Beach, CA, and William James III (Kimberly) of Dublin, OH, and their mother, Diane Cole Duesenberg of Cedar Falls, IA; grandchildren, Kyle Good of Brooklyn, NY, Evan Good of Boulder, CO, Emily (Jacob) Hinsey of Fort Worth, IN, Natalie (Corey) Stewart of Fort Wayne, IN, William Shepherd IV of Philadelphia, PA, Lillian Shepherd of New Orleans, LA, and Evelyn Shepherd of Dublin, OH; sister, Betty Walters of Lexington, KY; and niece, Kathleen Robinson of Lexington, KY. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Dorothy Horigan.

Bill’s love of music as a child led to his life-long career -- teaching, and his avocation -- playing trombone. The two will be forever intertwined. After graduating from Carrollton High School, Bill earned his BA and MFA degrees in music from Ohio University. He served as high school band director at McConnelsville, Sandy Valley, Wellington and Wooster, producing outstanding

concert bands which consistently received superior ratings in Ohio Music Educators competitions. His high school marching bands were featured at many college football games and presented special half-time programs at professional football games of the Cleveland Browns, Buffalo Bills, and Pittsburgh Steelers.

While teaching music in Ohio's public schools, Bill was elected Ohio State Chairman of the American Band Directors Association and served on that group's national executive board. He is a member of Phi Beta Mu, Phi Mu Alpha, Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Kappa Lambda, International Trombone Association and other professional organizations affiliated with his teaching career.

Bill was Director of Bands at Findlay College, Findlay, Ohio, from 1969 to 1976. In 1970, he was selected as one of the top ten music educators in the United States and Canada by *The School Musician*, a professional music education publication.

The next year, he was one of the ten college band directors chosen by the College Band Directors National Association to conduct The United States Air Force Band at a conducting symposium in Ithaca, New York. In 1976, he was a featured soloist at the Music Educators National Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C. Bill was selected to play in an All-American Band Masters presentation at the International Mid-West Band Clinic with Arthur Fiedler, then the Boston Pops Orchestra director.

From Findlay, he moved to Cedar Falls, Iowa, in 1976 to join the University of Northern Iowa, where he taught in the School of Music and directed the marching and symphonic band programs until 1991. He continued teaching at UNI until 2010 and chaired the General Studies area. In addition to evaluating

student teachers, he taught such classes as Our Musical Heritage, Conducting, and Music Administration.

Bill started playing trombone in Carrollton Junior High School and by the time he entered Ohio University, he knew music would be his career. During college, he played with several popular musical groups. In 1958-59, he and his trombone spent a year “on the road” with the Tommy Dorsey/Warren Covington Orchestra, touring the U.S. and recording with the band in New York City. He left the touring group to return to his teaching job in the Ohio public school system. However, his love of Big Band music has remained with him. He played in the Chuck Bisgrove and Jack Runyan band for many years throughout Ohio and adjacent areas.

After he moved to Iowa, where there was a lack of groups playing big band music, he started the Bill Shepherd Big Band in 1979. The band quickly became the premier Big Band throughout Northeast Iowa, noted for the quality of the musicians and the authenticity of the musical charts. The Bill Shepherd Big Band recorded ‘Big Band Sounds,’ in 1981, “Ballroom Memories,” in March 2003, “Christmas In Cedar Falls” in 2010, and “Christmastime” in 2013. Both Christmas albums feature vocalist, Nola Shepherd Quealy, Bill’s youngest daughter.

The Bill Shepherd Combo and Bill Shepherd’s “Red Hots” Dixieland Band, two groups that grew out of the Big Band, have frequently performed at public and private events, in addition to being featured at several Dixieland church services every year. Bill continued to share his musical talents at church, playing solos and in brass groups for special music programs throughout the year.

From 1984 to 2018 he conducted the Waterloo Community Concert Band, a

40-plus member group that presents weekly concerts during June and July. He co-founded and conducted the Iowa Trombones, a group of trombone players from throughout Iowa and beyond that has gathered annually to play ensembles and give a public performance.

Classical music was also a part of Bill's life. He played in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra from 1976-2014. For many years, he was the symphony players' representative on the board of directors and has served on two of the last three committees to select a new symphony conductor. Prior to this, he played with the Canton and Lima Symphonies (Ohio), with which he recorded a full-length solo LP of classical trombone solos.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls. Visitation will be 4:00-6:00 p.m. Monday at Richardson Funeral Service in Cedar Falls.

Memorials may be directed to First United Methodist Church or Cedar Valley Hospice.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 4. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

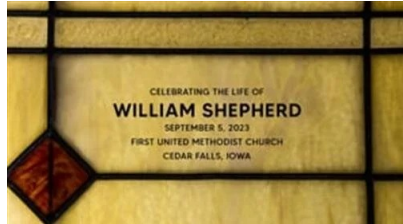
SEP 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
718 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
<http://aboutfirst.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Richardson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William Shepherd*



Richardson Funeral Service - September 07, 2023 at 10:48 AM

KN

“ *Mary, Sending my heartfelt sympathies to you and your family. I was sorry to see Bill had passed. Kathleen Niedert*

Kathleen Niedert - September 07, 2023 at 10:45 AM

DH

“ *I was in the Wellington High School band when Bill (Mr. Shepherd) came to the school. I played trumpet and Bill helped me through the practice sessions and enabled me to earn superior ratings at state competitions. I certainly appreciated his discipline and yet he had a very good sense of humor. Our memories will continually be with us and I will pray for you and your family during this time.*

Don Hilliker - September 07, 2023 at 08:18 AM

KD

*Well said Don. I was also a fellow band student with you at Wellington High School under Mr. Shepherd. We were quite a band under his leadership. Great memories. Sorry to hear of his passing
Kathy Dickason (WHS class of 1966)*

Kathleen Dickason - September 07, 2023 at 01:21 PM

TC

“ I was a music student at Findlay College when Bill arrived. His efforts really turned our band around! It was such a pleasure to work with someone with such high standards, who knew the sound that he wanted from us. The progress that we made, in just one year, was incredible! He was a "musician's musician" and I am a better one for having known him.

Tom Cupp

Tom Cupp - September 06, 2023 at 02:31 PM

CT

“ My sincere condolences to Bill's family. I enjoyed singing with Bills' bands for many years. I last sang with the Red Hots at Sturgis' Falls many years ago. We had such fun even if it was 95 degrees! I never tired of hearing him play the last song of the night at gigs. "I'll See You In My Dreams". *Connie Toenjes*

Connie Toenjes - September 05, 2023 at 10:02 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of William Shepherd.



September 04, 2023 at 02:38 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William Shepherd.

September 04, 2023 at 02:38 PM

“ Dear Shepherd Family,

I read of Bill's passing yesterday. Always "Mr. Shepherd" to me, he had an enormous effect on my life and also became a fast friend of my Dad, Dr. Joe Barkey. What a wonderful life he lived! My heart is with you all at this time.

Looking back, I was only directly a student of Bill's from about 1971 to 1976, at ages 11 to 16. He was my first private trombone teacher, and he introduced me to all the essentials – Rochut, Clef Studies, Tommy Pederson, Blazeovich sequences, Orchestral excerpts, and all the important OMEA solos. I can still picture the hallway outside his office, where I sat before my lessons listening to the prior student and to Alsbrooks Smith's amazing piano students across the hall.

I also remember at least one picnic at the Shepherd house near (then) Findlay College, meeting Nola, Will, Ann & Paul, and Jeani & Max. And hearing Paul's trumpet-playing and Nola's singing. I guess it was their mutual love of aviation that sparked the friendship between our Dads that continued with annual Christmas letters after the Shepherds moved to Iowa. I always went straight for that letter in my parents' Christmas card basket on visits home to Findlay.

There were also the trips to the Lucas County Arena where Bill would be freelancing at the circus, ice show, or whatever entertainment was in town. Those shows always had top quality music!

Mr. Shepherd's move to Iowa left me at a trombone crossroads, but the foundation Bill instilled kept me going with a variety of teachers through high school and college. In 1982, I was part of the All-American College Marching Band at the Grand Opening of EPCOT center. I quickly spotted a UNI trombonist, who turned out to be Mr. Shepherd's Graduate Assistant. That was a wonderful chance to exchange Bill Shepherd stories!

My career ended up in engineering rather than music, but I've played plenty of pits, big band concerts, small combo concerts, community band concerts, and the occasional orchestral concert over the years. I still have the lesson books with Bill's neatly noted assignment dates, and I still think of him when I play.

The gift of music is a lifelong gift, and he was one of the chief influences who passed it on to me. The new trombonist in the heavenly orchestra will be joyfully received!

Thank you for sharing Bill with the music world, and may you find peace and joy after your loss.

Sincerely,

Kathy Barkey

Kathy Barkey - September 04, 2023 at 02:25 PM

JG

Thank you for your kind remembrances and for the lovely planter you sent to the funeral home. My brother has it at his home in Ohio. Jeani

Jeani Good - October 03, 2023 at 12:29 AM

DH

“ *I remember Bill from my early years of teaching both in the Findlay City Schools and Findlay College. He was a highly respected and admired trombonist, band director, and person. I will always remember his warm personality and distinctive laugh. My thoughts are with his family.*

Dave Hanson - September 04, 2023 at 01:45 PM

JG

Thank you Mr. Hanson. Jeani

Jeani Good - October 03, 2023 at 12:30 AM

HG

*Dear Shepherd family,
I am so sorry that I was not there for the service. Mr. Shepherd was more than a teacher, he was an inspiration to hundreds, even thousands of us, his students. He gave me the greatest vocational counseling that I received, and i passed that message along to hundreds of students over the years. "Find a job that excites you to go to work, and do that job. If it pays well, fine; but even if it doesn't, do that job anyway!" I was lucky enough to have him as my teacher first at Wooster, then at Findlay.*

HOMER GRAHAM - January 06, 2024 at 12:08 PM

RG

“ As a music colleague of Bill's when I first came to UNI as a faculty member, I found we were often put together to determine the winner of the annual Northern Festival of Bands HS Solo Competition annually in February. I knew I could delve into the task of playing all that music at sight because he understood the magnitude of what we were both doing. He would be the great listener and evaluator for all the instruments while I was busy greeting each student and then playing the notes and music. He knew about them all and made it easy to communicate and select each honoree. Since then, I would often join him to sit with during a concert, a fine knowledgeable and comfortable companion. His recordings as a solo trombonist with orchestras leave a fine legacy, not to mention his Big Band recordings! Both from Ohio, I miss him already.

Robin Guy - September 03, 2023 at 08:16 PM

JN

“ *My 12 year old son, Victor, and I met Bill and Mary in August of 2022. My son mowed their grass a few times and through this we learned of Bill's love for music and teaching. My son also loves music and the trumpet.*

We were fortunate enough for Bill to invite him to come over and play a few times. Though we didn't know Bill very long he had a positive impact on my son and helped him develop and grow as a musician. For that we are grateful.

Josh Nunez - September 03, 2023 at 07:40 PM

MB

“ *Please accept my sympathy. Bill was charming and funny and, of course talented. I knew him from UNI but also from Spice, a singles group where he and Mary shared adventures and took dancing lessons. Yes, dancing. His death is a great loss to our community.*

Mary Bozik - September 03, 2023 at 05:22 PM

TA

“ .I most definitely remember our beloved Mr. Shepherd. Never knew his first name. I played cello in the orchestra. The band and the orchestra were integral parts of a whole. Yikes! A tremendously loved person at WHS. I remember the picnics in the spring of each year? As an orchestra, we awaited the end of football marching band season so that we would have a full concert orchestra for the rest of the year. Mr. Shepherd is someone whom I have talked about at great length in my memories of WHS.

Just remembered...when I was class president and we were planning the senior prom I got to sit in with all the various committees. As the music committee members, we visited 5 or 6 bands as potential for the prom music. We ended up hiring Mr. Shepherds jazz band for the event. Perfect choice. We were so fortunate to have, and to be 'touched' by, Mr. Shepherd and his talent during the early years of his career. Timothy Arn, WHS Class of 1968

Timothy Arn - September 03, 2023 at 01:10 PM

PM

“ I am a former Music Student of Bill Shepherd. He left me with such wisdom and memories as my mentor at Findlay College in the early 1970's. He was a very special man with his music and his insights into life. He will surely be missed but fondly remembered. My condolences to his family.

*Penny Lynne Kidd
Findlay, Ohio*

Penny L Musgrave - September 03, 2023 at 08:50 AM

AA

“ I played in Lima Symphony (Ohio) trombone section with Bill, and rode to rehearsals with him every Monday. As a young 2nd year Band Director those rides and dinners with him and Jim Mc Donald were master classes in what to do as a high school director. I feel a large part of what I became as a music educator and trombonist was due to my friendship and association with Bill.

Anthony Alessandrini - September 02, 2023 at 10:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William Shepherd.

September 02, 2023 at 02:52 PM

TP

“Shep” was such a great teacher. He cared about his students, always challenging them to be their best as a musician and a member of a team. He also modeled how to be a performer at the highest level. His passion for music was paralleled only by his passion for sharing it others. He also went above and beyond normal classroom teaching by providing opportunities for his bands to travel and perform and by bringing in outstanding professionals from whom they could learn. A commitment to excellence with a caring heart. A common formula for great teaching. We were so proud to bring you back “home” for your induction into the Wooster H.S. Fine Arts Hall of Fame. Rest well, Shep.

-Todd Patterson
Retired WHS Teacher
Chairman, Fine Arts HOF.

Todd Patterson - September 02, 2023 at 12:10 PM

TP

“ Todd P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Shepherd.

Todd P. - September 02, 2023 at 11:49 AM

JS

“ I was a member of the Wooster High School Band (percussion section) 1965-67. Mr. Shepherd was a phenomenal leader, teacher, and mentor. His leadership traits and devotion to his students served as an enduring example I carried throughout my career. Semper Fidelis. Jim Strock, Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)

Jim Strock - September 02, 2023 at 09:29 AM

LA

“ I'm thankful to have met Bill and for his encouragement. He allowed me to sub/join the Waterloo band in 2018 after a hiatus in my musical playing, which opened up opportunities musically for me since. Due to that, the past five years have been enriched since he gave me that initial chance to get back into music. I also know my husband's grandparents enjoyed his dance band gigs of years past.

Laura - September 01, 2023 at 09:29 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William Shepherd.



September 01, 2023 at 06:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William Shepherd.

September 01, 2023 at 06:18 PM



“ Sincerely, Matt Doyle and Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of William Shepherd.



Sincerely, Matt Doyle and Family - September 01, 2023 at 12:34 PM



“ He is responsible for me turning into a decent trombonist. He hosted Urbie Green at Findlay College when I was in 7th grade. He played with Urbie and they did the 21 trombones with local college students. It made me want to practice for the first time in my life. He was also my judge for 10th grade contest and affirmed I was on the right track. I've wondered how my life would be different if I hadn't attended that concert.

Joseph Awad MD - August 31, 2023 at 07:10 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Shepherd.



August 31, 2023 at 06:54 PM

CE

“ Bill was a wonderful guy and we always enjoyed seeing and chatting with him and Mary at Rudy's. Our love and sympathy to his family - - Bill will be missed!

Cheryl Einsweiler - August 31, 2023 at 11:13 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of William Shepherd.



August 31, 2023 at 09:04 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William Shepherd.

August 31, 2023 at 09:04 AM

BW

“ I will always fondly remember Bill for his enthusiasm in conducting and his love of music while I was a music student at UNI. He was also a sponsor for Tau Beta Sigma, our music sorority, and had an amazing sense of humor when he joined us at events. Rest in peace, Bill.

Beth Waller - August 30, 2023 at 10:14 PM

LL

“ Our PMB saxophone line got to have a spaghetti supper at Mr. Bill's house twice in one season.. such awesome memories! mu condolences to his family. Liz Lightcap UNI class of 86

Liz Lightcap - August 30, 2023 at 09:16 PM

BS

“ *Bill’s teaching extended so far beyond trombone techniques. His lessons guided my professional career and personal life.* ”

Bob Sterner - August 30, 2023 at 07:32 PM