



## William Carlton Collier Jr.

July 30, 1935 - January 28, 2020

William Carlton Collier, Jr., our beloved Bill, passed away peacefully and without pain in the early morning hours of January 28, 2020, in a rehab center after being hospitalized with pneumonia. He was 84 years young. He is survived by his longtime partner, Jerry Lipscomb, who was with Bill when he passed, and by many, many friends and former co-workers.

Bill served in the United States Navy in the early nineteen-fifties aboard the aircraft carrier CV-43 USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. Bill was a communications and radio technician. His love of electronics served him well after his service. He worked for several electronic and computer firms which often allowed him to travel to job sites, setting up, testing, and training others to use various machines and equipment. And assembling radio and phonograph components from kits was a favorite hobby of his for years.

Bill Collier lived life large. His passion for opera, his vast knowledge of classical music, the art of Vincent Van Gogh, the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, and his love of movies and books made him a sparkling conversationalist and raconteur. His rapier wit, dry sense of humor, and disarming smile was known by all. His laughter was always genuine, and inviting all to join in even if the joke was on himself. Bill loved fine food and good friends. He loved entertaining and being entertained. Although cordially reserved with strangers, Bill Collier was the most devoted friend anyone could have. He was generous with his time, his money, and himself to anyone. He treasured his little house and was never happier than when putting about his yard tending flowers, or mowing the grass, or planting a new shrub or tree.

As Bill declined in his later years, he never lost his love of life or his sense of humor. After breaking his femur in 2018, his mobility became limited and his cognitive powers began to decline. But even so, when in public, Bill had a hearty "Hello," or good wishes of the season, to anyone and everyone accompanied by that engaging smile. Although his body aged and his mind began to fail him, he always had a smile. Bill was always cheerful, always trying to "do better" as he put it, always wanting to be useful. He never gave up.

Bill Collier was the type of man that many aspire to be but so few really are. His passing leaves a gap that will never really be refilled. But his legacy of love and laughter and generosity will never fade. You simply felt better in Bill's presence, and you felt you were a better person for having known him. Shakespeare could have been thinking of Bill when he wrote, "His life was gentle; and the elements. So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, THIS WAS A MAN."

In lieu of flowers, please make donation in Bill's name to  
Boys Town of Omaha Nebraska,( [https://support.boystown.org/site/Donation2?  
df\\_id=2421&mfc\\_pref=T&2421.donation=form1](https://support.boystown.org/site/Donation2?df_id=2421&mfc_pref=T&2421.donation=form1) )

St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, ( [https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-  
jude.html](https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html) )

or the Alzheimer's Foundation. ( <https://alzfdn.org/support-us/donate/> )

# Comments

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“ Bill was my oldest and dearest friend. In 1957 we met in the Navy, when I was still a very unsophisticated 19 year-old. He had a workroom way in the back of the ship where we often got together, and he introduced me to classical music and opera--about which I knew absolutely nothing. While we were on a Mediterranean Cruise he took me to Paris, and we went to the Louvre where I saw the Mona Lisa, up the Eiffel Tower, to Notre-Dame Cathedral, the Moulin Rouge, and the Palace of Versailles. I still have the old 8mm movies that I took on that journey. He was so knowledgeable about art, classical music, and history that he opened up countless doors for me as an enthusiastic friend, companion, and natural teacher. He took me to my first opera at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City and to the Opera House in San Francisco, where we went backstage after a performance to meet his all-time favorite opera singer--Dorothy Kirsten. For over 60 years Bill continued to nurture my appreciation, enthusiasm, and understanding of classical art, music, literature, architecture, and history, during his many visits to see me and my growing family and my visits to see him in Marietta, Georgia. I truly believe I would not be the "me" I am today without having had Bill in my life. Words cannot really express the depth of gratitude I feel for your presence, Bill, and I'll never forget you--not ever. Larry Hill, Ph.D.

Larry Hill - Yesterday at 03:29 PM

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“ I worked with Bill for a number of years. Bill was such a joy. Always happy, witty and intelligent. His voice, enunciation and resonance were mesmerizing and eloquent. Co-workers agreed that Bill had a "radio voice".

After Bill's fall a little over a year ago, I had the privilege of visiting him once a week. It was a life-enriching experience to learn more about Bill's interests and life experiences. We spent hours looking through his naval album as he told about sailing the Mediterranean and the Panama Canal while in the US Navy. We would listen to Bill's favorite opera stars and often while listening, he would conduct the orchestra with great flair. We would look through his many books about Frank Lloyd Wright; discuss Lalique; Bill's love of lions; opera; art; and books. Taxing each other's memory on various subjects became somewhat of a game and could last more than a day as we each tried to recall particular events, names and places and it was always exciting for one of us to remember that which we had temporarily forgotten. Of course, sharing each other's sense of humor gave us many hearty laughs.

We often sat on his front porch, marveling at the huge magnolia tree which he planted many years ago when it was no bigger than a small branch. He proudly told me about each and every tree and shrub which he planted and pointed out the bird feeders which he kept well supplied.

One of the simple pleasures I appreciated was Bill's delight while having lunch. He loved crackers or chips along with various dips. He had a habit of dipping his cracker (or chip) twice into the dip and eating it as if it were the most delectable food in the world.

Bill was known for hosting the most exciting and fun-loving parties. I'm sure that all who attended Bill's parties are still smiling.

I'll cherish my visits with Bill and the stories of his life's experiences. Bill was a man of integrity and high ideals. Also, a man with a clever, witty sense of humor. Bill will always be loved by all who knew him.

I'm grateful for Bill's presence in my life.

Lovingly,

Margaret Lee



**Margaret Lee** - February 01 at 04:13 PM