



Robert William Clark

June 25, 1933 - November 15, 2023

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Robert William Clark, who left this world on November 15, 2023, at the age of 90. He departed peacefully, surrounded by the love of his family.

Born on June 25, 1933, Robert William Clark was born in Portland, Oregon. Robert William Clark served in the Korean War. He was the father of 4 children, daughter Kelly, and sons' Billy, Michael, and Patrick. Robert, whom people would call Bill, Billy, and on rare occasions Robert, is the son of Harold and Francis Clark, and brother to Harold, Kathleen, Francis Ann, and Susan.

From an early age, Bill displayed a liking for mischievous fun which, while he never stopped, he did tone it down with age. However, certain things he maintained to the very end, and as such, he will always be remembered for stealing people's noses (he did this just days before he passed in his hospital bed), making bunny ears behind some unsuspecting person in a photo; for always reminding people who asked where he was going that he was going "crazy," and for always reminding people that he wanted them to give him "a million dollars."

Bill LOVED family get togethers and would have them often at the home that he and his father built in Milwaukie, Oregon. There he held all Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners followed by dessert. He maintained this tradition for

most of his children's lives and anyone was welcome to attend, and no one would be turned away. The closest he ever came to asking someone to leave is when they showed up in Oregon Duck's attire.

Bill wanted his family and friends to get together more often than just Thanksgiving and Christmas, so he and his wife Mary would host many get-togethers. Some were barbecues where Bill never missed this opportunity to make "his" potato and macaroni salads for the people he loved. There would be other meals when he would highlight his love and skill for making spaghetti and meatballs. Bill always came up with a reason to get his family and friends together! Not everyone may know that it had been debated whether it would be appropriate to put "Robert William Clark, Maker of the Best, One of a Kind, and Most Incomparable Rice Patties the World has ever known" on his tombstone. However, it was decided it wouldn't fit. Fun fact, word on the street is that his son Billy's wife, Laurie, has come the closest to duplicating them.

Who knew, that the boy who unscrewed the salt and pepper shaker lids in the teachers' lunch room, who enjoyed throwing a stink bomb in a movie theater, and knocked on peoples' doors after lighting a sack of on fire, would turn out to be such a dedicated and loving family man and friend to so many, all the while making faith in God the number one priority in life. Bill attended mass every Sunday, and often went to other churches. He and his sister Kathleen went to the same intensive bible study for over 30 years. Against their will, Bill made each of his children attend mass and weekly Catechism. We had no foresight that faith would become an important part of our lives that would "eventually" govern our choices as adults.

To this day, Bill is the only person who retired from NW Natural Gas Company that had worked there for 51 years. It was his work ethic, his faith, and his commitment to do good, combined with a jokester sense of humor, that made him fun to know, a valuable role model, and allowed him to support all of his

family members as children and adults in so many ways, and often their friends too.

Bill was also known for things like working out his whole life, running, and being a diehard Beaver's fan. He attended many seasons of Beaver Football games. Bill was such a kind man, that he even learned to tolerate Duck fans and tattoos.

Bill touched many people by working to live his personal and biblical values which included seeing EVERY family member as important, and if they would give him an opportunity, he would show it. In addition to friends and others, Bill also touched people who did not even know him, because he did things behind the scenes and wanted no glory such as saving someone from drowning or pulling someone out of a wrecked burning car. It is no surprise that Bill will leave a lasting impact on his family, friends, and community.

Bill is survived by his wife Mary, his 4 children, and MANY family members who will cherish the memories of his love, guidance, and laughter.

A funeral service to celebrate the life of Bill will be held on December 8, 2023, at Christ the King. A Rosary will start at 10:30 am; the funeral service will start at 11:00 am, and the reception will start immediately after the service. Attendees will need to be at Willamette National Cemetery for the Military Ceremony which will include a 21 gun salute by 2:00.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to a Charity or Organization of your choice. A cause close to the Clark Family's heart is the Alzheimer's Foundation.

As we mourn the loss of Bill, let us also celebrate the legacy that he leaves behind—a legacy of God and faith, love, laughter, and Family.
May Bill rest in eternal peace.

Previous Events

Rosary

DEC 8. 10:30 AM (PT)

Christ the King Catholic Church
11709 SE Fuller Rd.
Milwaukie, OR
<https://ctk.cc/>

Funeral Mass

DEC 8. 11:00 AM (PT)

Christ the King Catholic Church
11709 SE Fuller Rd.
Milwaukie, OR
<https://ctk.cc/>

with reception to follow

Committal Service w/ Military Honors

DEC 8. 2:30 PM (PT)

Willamette National Cemetery
11800 SE Mt Scott Blvd
Portland, OR 97086

Tribute Wall

“ We have been friends with Bill for many years. My brother Gary Todd was the first to meet Bill as he also worked at Northwest Natural Gas. Within that time period my husband Jim Butler became good friends with Bill working out at the Milwaukee Elks. Together with Fouad, Reggie and others it was a fun group of people, getting together with even coming in costume on Halloween, lots of laughter.

Bill was an avid Beaver's fan, so Jim and Bill headed off to just about every home game to watch the Beaver's play.

As time went on Bill got a taste of traveling and really enjoyed it and ready to go at any moments notice. I would come across some good deals and Bill would always say here is my card sign us up.

One of Bill's favorite spots while traveling was in St. Thomas a place high on a hill

overlooking the ocean, beautiful place to sit outside and enjoy the view as well as having a cigar and beer, they could sit there for hours which they did..

Bill and Mary enjoyed several trips to Ireland, he even got to kiss The Blarney Stone, giving the gift of eloquence. One of his visits we rented cars for a week and with the use of walkie talkies we were able to communicate with the other five cars, give warnings like sheep crossing ahead. He even got to go to see Notre dame and Navy play in Dublin.

Bill also cruised to Europe, Mediterranean, he really enjoyed the Vatican. He also enjoyed Iceland with all the delicious breads they baked in the ground as Iceland is entirely volcanic. The Hawaiian Island's he was on a 18 day cruise as well as Alaskan cruises and Caribbean cruises.

Bill did state he wanted to go to Disney before he died. Several years ago on our trip coming back from the Caribbean we stopped at Disney World for a week. He really enjoyed it and all the rides. I am really thankful that while Bill was still here on earth that he was able to travel and do and see the things he wanted.

Bill was a lot of fun and am glad that we were able to travel as a group.

I know Bill is at peace enjoying being with family and friends once

*again.
Until we meet again someday.
God Bless,
Sue Butler*

Sue Butler - December 03, 2023 at 08:59 PM

MC

Sue, thank you for the beautiful tribute to my father it is spot on. He enjoyed you and Jim's friendships so much and I can only dream of adventures like you all went on. You two will always be dear to my heart as your were to my dad.

MICHAEL Clark - December 07, 2023 at 05:38 PM

SB

Thank You Mike. Also Bill was fortunate to have you Mike as his son, you were always there for him. ❤️

Sue Butler - December 08, 2023 at 11:19 AM

LC

“ My Uncle Bill will be remembered for his smile and meaningful hugs. He also will be remembered for always asking what have you been up to? Why do you need to go and his appetite for chocolate. Whether cake, cookies, candy bar or milkshake. Considering as a kid candy was not in his vocabulary. He did not want any of his kids to have dental problems. So brush your teeth. Bunny ears and stealing your nose is a tradition of the Clark family and it will live on. Humor we all have and will carry on. We all have a hole in our hearts but in time we will realize heaven received an amazing angel. Fly high Uncle Bill. I am so thankful we have spent some memorable times together. I know many times you didn't know my name but I know you knew I belonged to my parents and I felt your love. Heaven needs you. Till we meet again, you will be forever missed. You were the anchor of our family. 💖

Leslie Clark - December 01, 2023 at 12:42 AM