



# William James "Bill" Forristall

NOV 7, 1958 - SEP 27, 2021



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# William James "Bill" Forristall

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**W**illiam James "Bill" Forristall, age 62, of South Park, formerly of Bowie, Maryland and Fayetteville, North Carolina, passed away suddenly on September 27, 2021 following a brief illness, surrounded by his loving family.

Bill is survived by his beloved wife, Christy Forristall; father, William J. Forristall; siblings, Anne Forristall (John) Luke, Michelle Jean (Scott) Pomarico, Mary Susan (David) Palensky and Laretta Louise (Shain) Flow; stepdaughter Nicole Volzer (Matt), stepson Rusell Forrest III, grandson Liam and granddaughters Reese and Rowan Volzer; nieces and nephews Sam Luke, Maggie Luke, Michael Pomarico, David Pomarico, Joseph Pomarico, Jake Springer, Joshua Springer, Marylou Geiger (Jake), Natalie Flow, Gina Flow; and many loved and loyal friends and brothers-in-arms.

Bill was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Louise (Hohan) Forristall, stepmother MaryLou (Suffoletta) Forristall and his niece, Shannon Michelle Pomarico.

Bill was a decorated military veteran, having retired from the U.S. Army, 10th Special Forces Group, as a Sergeant First Class after 20 years of service. He was a highly-skilled, combat-qualified medic and during his years of service cared for many people with compassion and dedication. Bill was also a world-class skydiver, a proud member of the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team from 1983 to 1989. His passion for excellence made him a respected and often demanding colleague and leader – his temper was as legendary as his commitment to his fellow soldiers and teammates, and, it must be acknowledged, his love for a good party. Beneath Bill's often stern visage beat a soft and loving heart. He adored his many nieces and nephews (whom he delighted in teasing and taking for ice cream), his granddaughters, and his many pets. Bill was fortunate to share many good years with his wife, Christy, whom he married in 2014. He loved gardening, reading, and cooking and even trained as a chef after his military service. As a kid, Bill was an avid soccer and hockey player, and throughout his life was a passionate Boston Bruins and Red Sox fan. Bill was fearless, and lived nine lives. His time on earth was not without pain and struggle, and he was a complicated, challenging man to all who loved him. And many did indeed love Bill. The memories and stories we have of our husband, son, brother, uncle, grandfather,



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friend and colleague will be with us forever. The world is a poorer and less interesting place without him.

Friends will be received on Saturday, October 2nd from 10 A.M. until 12 P.M. at the JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME, INC., 301 Curry Hollow Rd., Pleasant Hills, 15236.

A Blessing Service with military honors will take place following visitation at 12 P.M. in the Jefferson Funeral Home Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, Gold Star Family Home Program, <https://t2t.org/gold-star/>.

Condolences may be left at [www.jeffersonmemorial.com](http://www.jeffersonmemorial.com).



## Tribute Wall

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LO

**Leah Olszewski** posted:

I just learned, over the weekend, of Bill's passing. I am devastated, heartbroken over this. I was looking up some Pittsburgh options and some of our old messages popped up on my phone. I realized, then, that I had sent a message to Bill via Messenger in June this year and not heard back. Something in me said things were off. Lo and behold, I found his obituary. I met Bill in 2010 (through a mutual Golden Knights friend) and we stayed friends, reconnecting off and on. less as the years went on, understandably so. We had the military and special operations community in common, so we often dished on it, opportunities and more. We also had a love of cats in common. Which says alot about Bill. He didn't need to act tough, he just was. But, as so many have said, he was also a very good man and had a wonderful soul. Just more reason this breaks my heart and the world is worse off without Bill. I remember him sharing photos and stories of his family - I know he loved you all to the moon and back. And I remember when he met Christy and I was so very happy he found a good person and love. He deserved this many times over. I won't ever forget Bill and I hope, one day soon, to pay him a visit there in Pittsburgh. ~ Lolo.

December 11 at 3:25 PM

JM

**John Macphee** posted:

My name is John MacPhee (Felix), I was in Tolz with Bill. I grew up in Brighton MA so that was the immediate connection - all Boston sports teams, particularly the Bruins. I was born in Canada and grew up on skates so the "Frosty" stories have always been with me. Bill, Pat Conlly (Con Man) from Southie and me from Brighton had our own little clique and honestly, I don't remember a lot of it but I know we had a good time when we were together. Bill would fight at the drop of a hat but also give you the shirt off his back! I ran into him years later at Bragg and again I know we had a good time but I don't remember much of that time either (LOL). We always promised to stay in touch, but life gets in the way of life. I'll always remember him - he made everyone he knew better. Our prayers are with all of you in his family and I'm tipping one back for him right now! God bless!

October 11 at 1:40 PM

WW

**Willis Williams** posted:

Bill and I bought a Cessna 152 together. He was learning to fly. Bill was a great man and soldier.

October 3 at 6:03 PM



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JG

**John Griffin** posted:

I am a former fellow SF medic who served with Bill in 10th SFGA in the late 70s and early 80s before my attendance at OCS. Bill and I played a LOT of "Hawkey" together on the Ft. Devens team before he left for the Knights. I eventually made it to Bragg where I played on the Bragg team for the better part of eight years. I'm surmising the Knights schedule curtailed any thoughts by Bill of playing at Bragg. He was a very good hockey player at Devens. It should be mentioned that his uncle John was a team trainer for the Boston Bruins during the Bobby Orr era / two Stanley Cups that Boston won in 70 and 72. Very very saddened to hear of Bill's passing. Condolences to his wife and family from a fellow hockey teammate / SF medic. Sincerest Regards, John M. Griffin, MAJ SF, RET.

October 2 at 7:11 AM

DB

**David Bieler** posted:

I known you since we were kids, nothing but great memories growing up playing hockey on the pond or in the rink. Prayers for you and your family

October 1 at 11:05 AM

RS

**Robert J & Susan Richardson & Sons** posted:

With our sorrow and sympathies from the Richardson family -Bob and Susan, Jim, John, Fred, and Andrew.

October 1 at 10:27 AM

DE

**Dennis & Sandy Eckart** posted:

Bill's indomitable spirit was very much a part of the Forristall spirit which is so evident to all of us who have worked with You over the years. We are grateful for his service, example and accomplishments of which You and Your Family are so justifiably proud. As Your colleagues from The Hill we share your grief in Your loss but are confident that the spirit of the memories You have will help sustain You going forward. Our Thoughts and Prayers are with You and Your Family.  
Dennis & Sandy Eckart

October 1 at 7:13 AM



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JJ

**Jen, Chuck, Ben, Delaney Zach And Jack** posted:

Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss... Our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.

October 1 at 6:35 AM

TS

**Tribute Store** posted:

We are all with you in spirit, with love and deepest sympathy, Jackie, Mary, Billy, Anne Marie, Paul, Robert, Tommy And Jimmy OBrien

October 1 at 5:23 AM

KO

**Kent Bolster \"Hauptmann\" A-034** posted:

This bouquet, aptly reflects the many mornings spent in the bush with you brother. You will be missed. God Bless your entire family. Our condolences.

September 30 at 2:58 PM

TS

**Tribute Store** posted:

Rest in peace brother. We will meet again in the not to distant future. Cheers. John & Vicky Crone.

September 30 at 9:36 AM

KB

**Kent Bolster** posted:

Bill will be sorely missed. He and I served together on an A-Team in Special Forces. He was a highly intelligent, thoughtful and soft-spoken man with a passion and fearlessness of all things dangerous. He taught me to fly and, in spite of my never getting completely comfortable with it, Bill made it look easy. God Bless Bill and his family.

September 29 at 1:54 PM

JR

**Jon Ridolfo** posted:

We are thinking of you. To my friend and Team Mate, I salute you!

September 29 at 10:53 AM



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JR

**Jon Ridolfo** posted:

I was Bill's Team Sergeant in A/2/10 SFG(A), I had the Military Free fall Team. I knew Bill since he was a young soldier, he was one of my Team Medics. Bill was someone who you could depend on in any situation, he was a talented individual, steadfast, and his Free fall parachute skills contributed greatly to all our team members. We were all better for his professionalism. I have so many good memories of Bill, he had a zest for life, a irrepressible personality. I am very shocked and sorry to hear of his passing. Jon Ridolfo SGM, SF, USA (Ret)

September 29 at 10:17 AM

TS

**Tribute Store** posted:

With love and sympathy, John and Debbi Parsons

September 28 at 3:16 PM

LS

**Laurie Sams** posted:

I first met Bill when he toured Australia with the US Army Parachute Team's Golden Knights in 1986. As the Australian army liaison officer traveling with the team during the tour I found Bill to be not only a highly professional skydiver but indeed a gentleman. We became good mates or as you all say in the USA great buddies. I am saddened by his sudden passing so along with his other Australian Special Forces buddies from down under we pass on our condolences to his beloved wife Christy, his family , loyal friends and brothers-in-arms. Sadly missed may he Rest In Peace. Warrant Officer ( rtd) Laurie Sams SC, OAM Australian SAS Regiment

September 28 at 3:02 PM

FM

**From Your Many Friends At The Council Of Manufacturers** posted:

Anne, we extend our condolences on the loss of your brother Bill and keep you in our thoughts.

September 28 at 1:10 PM

DB

**David Bieler** posted:

Oh the great memories my family and I have of me growing up with Bill (Fuzzball) starting in Jr. High. Playing pond hockey and playing in the CBHL. Too many stories to tell, he will truly be missed.

September 28 at 11:42 AM



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JT

**John Tyrpin** posted:

Knew Bill in early 80's when he was on Halo Team, ODA 211, Ft Devens, Mass. Prayers are with you. Will miss him greatly.

September 28 at 11:17 AM

BB

**Bill Bragdon** posted:

I served with Bill in the 10th SFG and in Beirut, Lebanon in 1983. A great soldier and friend. RIP Bill!

September 28 at 10:55 AM

BC

**Ben Currin** posted:

Bill is on the back row standing- (left). Photo was taken after one of our many jumps in Australia in December, 1986. Bill was a unique person & will be missed by ALL who knew him.

September 28 at 9:13 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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