



## John William "Billy" Cox

May 9, 1929 - May 14, 2017

John William "Billy" Cox died peacefully on Sunday, May 14th in Sarasota, FL at the age of 88. Bill was born in Mt. Airy, NC.

He graduated as a star athlete from Mt. Airy High School and went on to become an All-American football player at Duke University.

While at Duke, Bill met his future wife, Mona Boothe, and they began their lives together on April 19, 1951.

After graduation, Bill went on to play professional football for the Washington Redskins.

In 1953 and 1954, he was called into the Navy and served his country well.

Upon his return to civilian life, he played the 1955 season with the Redskins before beginning a career as an insurance salesman. Several years later, he went to work for the National Security Agency and spent two years in Germany and five years in England while working for the government.

For several years, he coached a semi-professional team in the Atlantic Coast Football League. Bill got involved with the Redskins Alumni Association and chaired the Redskins Alumni Charity Golf Tournaments and Welcome–Home

Luncheons for many years. He was inducted into Duke's Football Hall of Fame (1978), the North Carolina Football Hall of Fame (1989) and the Mt. Airy Sports Hall of Fame (2003). He also spent many happy hours on the golf course.

Through the years, Bill's family was his top priority. He was the light of their lives, their hero, their staunchest supporter, and their greatest provider.

Bill is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mona Booth Cox; and 4 children, Terry Cox (David Carter), Linda Jellison (Craig Wedge), Amy (Pete) Conner, John (Felicia) Cox, all from Sarasota, FL. He was loved well by 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, May 27th at 11:00 am at Harvest United Methodist Church, 14305 Covenant Way, Lakewood Ranch, FL.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to the American Lung Association, National Direct Response Headquarters, 1200-Hosford St., Suite 101, Hudson, WI 54016-9316.

# Tribute Wall

AK

“ To: The Cox Family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this sad time. Hugs to you all, Amy, Victor, Christopher and Nicholas Kuhn



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Amy Kuhn - May 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Bill was a wonderful man. I was honored to know him and call him my friend. He will not be forgotten. My love to all of you.

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Kristy Flower - May 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. Jesus wept after the death of his friend Lazarus. John 11:35 We weep along with you. His example was written in the Bible to give us hope. Rom. 15:4

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May 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mona,  
I am so very sorry for your loss. It's such a blessing that you and Bill had so many great years together. I remember that both you and Bill were gracious hosts. Joe and I especially enjoyed coming to your home to visit because you made us feel welcomed and that you were really happy to see us. You were our favorite parents. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. It would be great to see you and Johnny sometime. Sincerely,  
Karen Russo

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May 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear John,  
I am sorry to hear about the loss of your Dad. Coach Russo

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May 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during time of mourning but also for a time to celebrate his life and the great example as a husband, father, grandfather and friend. May peace be with you.

God bless you all,  
Robbie and Leah Martin

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May 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Cox was a gentle and kind soul. Grace and Peace be with your family during this time.

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**Bruno Tarabocchia** - May 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Connie and I would like to extend our condolences to Mona and the family. It was a pleasure meeting Bill and Mona at DeSoto Beach Club, and I had the privilege of having breakfast with Bill on most Tuesday mornings for months at the table with my dad (Hank). I enjoyed talking with him, and I will miss those mornings that were full of fun and laughter. He was a real American treasure.

God Bless your family,

Keith Vierbicky  
Sarasota

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May 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Kevin & Dee Blakely lit a candle in memory of  
John William "Billy" Cox



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**Kevin & Dee Blakely** - May 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM