



Willie L. "Bill" Pursley, Jr.

May 22, 2017

Willie L. "Bill" Pursley, Jr., 72, of Sarasota, FL, and formerly of NJ and PA, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 22, 2017, surrounded by his loving family.

A lifelong Dallas Cowboys fan, and a lover of butterflies, cars, singing, and people, Bill was born in Mobile, AL and grew up in Dallas, TX. He dedicated his career to helping people overcome addiction. He held a BA and an MA, both in religion, from Abilene Christian University, a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate of Education in addiction treatment from Fairleigh Dickinson University. At St. Clare's Hospital in Boonton, NJ, where Bill worked for 19 years, he developed and led addiction treatment programs. He also led the addiction treatment program at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Elizabeth, NJ for two years; taught graduate courses at Fairleigh Dickinson University; had an extensive private practice as a Licensed Professional Counselor in NJ and PA, treating patients with addictions; and consulted for the Caron Foundation in Wernersville, PA. Additionally, for 10 years Bill served as the president of the American Compulsive Gambling Counselor Certification Board.

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Linda; his stepchildren, Heather Espinosa (Keith), Holly Grace (Kris Kahn), and Rob Grace (Shana Gozansky); his sister, Charlotte Dart; his niece, Stephanie Dart; two nephews, David Dart and

Stephen Dart; and his step-grandchildren, Pedro, Gracie, Hannah, Sadie, and Dennis.

A memorial service will be held July 15, 2017 (Time to be announced), at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Sarasota, FL, where Bill was a member.

Memorial gifts may be given in the form of donations to the Neuro Challenge Foundation for Parkinson's, 5602 Marquesas Circle, #201, Sarasota, FL 34233.

Tribute Wall



“ *Sorry for the loss of your love one. May the family find comfort through the words of Hosea the thirteenth chapter and verse fifteen*

May 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *His impact was incredible.....he will be missed*



Phil Horowitz - May 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Saddened to hear of Bills passing...Bill was a friend, a colleaguepatients came to St Clare's just to be treated by Bill. He participated as a board member for me at Sunrise House....condolences to Linda, family and all the folks he helped.*

Phil Horowitz - May 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM