



## William Francis Kennedy

December 29, 1941 - February 26, 2021

Bill Kennedy died Friday, February 26th at Piedmont Marcus Heart Center surrounded by his wife Susan, his favorite nurse Shelby Spain, the caring staff, and the love and prayers from friends, and family.

Although he would prefer we all thought he was 45, Bill was born On December 29th, 1941 in Boston Massachusetts. His love of cooking and feeding everyone he knew originated growing up with a large family including brother Frankie, parents Helena and Frank, his grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Despite being an altar boy and his mother thinking he would become a priest, Bill joined the Navy in 1959. During his 20 years, he held many different titles but his favorite was as a radioman on submarines. During this time he married and had three children-Dana, Michele, and Bill. He took great pride in telling stories from their childhood and the fact that each had found their own paths and were loving, kind parents.

Bill was fond of saying he woke up one morning in 1978 and realized he would like to see more of the ocean "above the water line". After retiring from the Navy, he tried many different occupations but returned to the sea owning a freighter-the "Lady Dana". Some of his fondest memories were of the years living in Eleuthera on a sailboat and delivering freight to the Bahamas, Hatti,

and the surrounding islands. During this time, he remarried and had two children-Jessica and Ryan. He relished his time with them knowing they were finding their own way in the world and becoming individuals he would be proud of.

In 1995 Bill moved to Fort Lauderdale, FLA where he divided his time between running his business and adventures with his wife and children. He remained in the shipping/ship brokering business until 2008 when he and his family moved one last time to Sharpsburg, GA. It was in Sharpsburg that Bill discovered a love of volunteer work, the joy of working with Cokes Chapel Childcare children, the true meaning of deep, lasting friendship through the men and their families in the "Old Goats"(including honorary member Vic Myers), the satisfaction of a job well done in helping to find the Grand Ole Opry a new home, and the immediate bond with the congregation at Turin UMC. Although he complained Georgia needed an ocean-or at least a decent canal-Bill truly cherished his life and friends and family in Georgia.

Bill is survived by his wife Susan and her extended family,his children Dana Wison and her spouse Chip, Michele Ard and her spouse John, Bill Kennedy Jr. and his spouse Shannon, Jessica Kennedy and her spouse Maria Hope Winters, Ryan Kennedy, and eight grandchildren. Additionally, he leaves behind his dear friends Roberto Vazquez and his spouse Tim Copella and his beloved "Old Goats".

A family and friends service honoring Bill will occur at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made in his name at Meals on Wheels Coweta, County PO Box 73437, Newnan GA 30271, or Mission I-58, 2450 GA-85, Senoia, GA 30276.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory 770-253-4580



# Cemetery Details

## McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-4580  
care@mckoon.com  
<http://www.mckoon.com>

# Previous Events

## Service

MAR 1.

No Services are planned

# Tribute Wall



“ 4 files added to the album *Footmarker Dedication*



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**Bill Kennedy** - October 21, 2021 at 08:17 AM

SK

“ 1 file added to the album *Footmarker Dedication*



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**Susan Kennedy** - October 11, 2021 at 12:06 PM

TM

“ Bill Kennedy was a remarkable man. I swear he could do dang near anything. I loved to hear him tell stories of his career in the Navy and particularly when Captain Boyd was his ExO. Bill had stories of his early years with his lovely wife Susan sailing to the Bahamas and back to Ft. Lauderdale. Bill was a loyal friend to many. He was kind, generous and humorous. Always doing something for others. We all loved him. We all miss him terribly. He is still in my prayers but I know he is in heaven.

Thom McCague

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Thom McCague - March 23, 2021 at 10:27 AM

MJ

“ Our love and prayers for Susan, Jessica, Ryan, and extended family. We cannot even imagine how much they must miss Bill. He was ever present, always busy doing something to help, running errands for someone, repairing something for someone (he knew how to do just about everything), and Susan was proud to say, "Oh, my husband can fix that for you." He was a great volunteer, made wonderful coffee (one of his best talents), a great supporter of his friends and family, a totally devoted husband and father, and really loved being one of the Old Goats. Any time you were around Bill you heard something very complimentary, or a funny story, about Susan or one of the kids. They were always his favorite topic of conversation. Bill was very proud of his family and showed his love and respect for them in every way possible. Mr. Bill was unique, one in a million. He will be so missed by so many. Rest in peace, Bill, and God bless your beautiful family!

Howard and Margie Jones

Ann Navin

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Margie Jones - March 10, 2021 at 06:29 PM

RG

“ We first knew him as the bus driver who brought some senior adults to enjoy the shows at the Opry House there in Hollonville, GA. Then when the Opry House lost the building there in Hollonville, we got to know him, not as the bus driver, but the man who was helping with the benefits by dropping off some food supplies needed for the benefits.

Next, he and his friend organized a money raising benefit for us up there in Peachtree City, GA.

He continued wanting to help the music continue so next he began helping us look for a location.

This special man was the person instrumental in bringing the Hollonville Opry House in touch with the Turin United Methodist Church and we know the rest of the story. The Turin United Methodist Church allowed us to start having music shows in their Fellowship Hall.

He also helped in setting up the stage there in the Fellowship Hall and did several other things to get the Fellowship Hall ready for some shows. I believe 12 or 13 shows were held there before the Covid Virus shut us down.

And now SADLY, we inform our musical family that this man who was a wonderful friend to the Hollonville Opry House and helped support it in so many ways over the past several years, passed away last night.

Mr. BILL KENNEDY, we owe you more than we can ever repay, but we will be FOREVER GRATEFUL for your love and support to our music venue.

Rest in peace now, Sir. Rest in peace.

Till we meet again in God's tomorrow.

Bill Kennedy

12/29/1941 - 2/27/2021

Prayers appreciated for Bill's loved ones.

Posted by permission of Charlotte and Harold Kirkland, Hollonville-Turin Opry House

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Rita and Tommy Godwin - March 06, 2021 at 01:11 PM

RG

“ *John 15:13 - Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*

*This is what Bill did every day that we knew him. He sensed what everyone needed, saw it before anyone else, fixed it in the blink of an eye. He was everywhere and with everyone, sharing his wonderful cuisine, telling wild stories and priceless jokes, cheering those he knew were hurting or lonely or suffering. He had his own coffee cup and place at the table not only at our house, but wherever he "did his rounds" shedding his light and driving away the darkness. Truly he was God's gift: the best of us to the rest of us. We were blessed by knowing him, sharing life with him, and we shall miss him, for he was truly a brother and the dearest of friends.*



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**Rita and Tommy Godwin** - March 06, 2021 at 01:07 PM

HG

“ *I don't think there was ever a more dependable, consistent and loyal employee during my time at Cokes Chapel. Mr. Bill was a hero in our center and became a very good friend to me. Not only was he always there for me at the center, but also personally. I remember something happening to my van and I was freaking out because I needed to get to work. So of course I called Mr. Bill. And, of course, he was there for me, again. He did things that I didn't even know needed to be done and just generally took care of everyone. The children loved him so much! He was a good man and I've missed him in my life.*

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**Heather Goelz** - March 06, 2021 at 09:17 AM

LM

“ God Bless Bill and his family. Until we meet again our dear friend. Bill always had a quick wit and a sly grin. He was always an immense help at Cokes and with our scouts. He was a great mentor even as he and Charlie would bicker over the best way to get something accomplished, like an old married couple. Love the McCarthys



Lara McCarthy - March 04, 2021 at 03:07 PM

CA

“ *"Mr. Fix-it Extraordinaire"!* Was there anything the man couldn't fix? Anything he wouldn't try in his Instapot and share with family and friends? Anyone quicker with a sarcastic joke? Sadly, no ~ But we are so glad he was part of our lives and we miss him greatly already.  
Vic, Cathy & family



cathy - March 04, 2021 at 08:46 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Ard/Wilson



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**Michele Ard** - March 03, 2021 at 03:31 PM



“ *Fair Winds and Following Seas, Dad*  
*Love you, Michele*

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**Michele Ard** - March 03, 2021 at 03:12 PM



“ *He will truly be missed from the youngest member of the Old Goats.*  
*Praying for the family*



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**George** - March 03, 2021 at 01:29 PM