



William H. Coles III

May 17, 2020

William H. Coles III, 74, of Lower Macungie Township passed away on Sunday, May 17, 2020 after a long fought battle against cancer. He was a beloved husband to Gail (Cloyes) Coles to whom he was married 43 years and father to Tanner. Born in Summit, New Jersey on August 28, 1946 to Jeannette (Hubbard) and William H. Coles, Jr. Bill grew up in Westfield, New Jersey; he graduated from Westfield Sr. High in 1964 and Waynesburg University in 1969 with degrees in Business Administration and Psychology. He started his career with Union Carbide, then spent the next 30 years with Dun & Bradstreet in various capacities ending his career as Vice President of Data & Operations. With his early retirement in 2006, he began his greatest work as a passionate volunteer. He supported numerous organizations in various leadership roles including: Gilead Community House, Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, Historic Bethlehem Partnership, Miller Keystone Memorial Blood Center, Waynesburg University, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Promise Neighborhood, First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, American Red Cross, and the Boy Scouts of America. One of his proudest accomplishments was becoming an Outstanding Eagle Scout in 2017 and also having our son become an Eagle Scout in 2009. Bill was a long time member of First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, and a life member of Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity. He also was a long-time member of Lehigh Country Club where he served on several committees and enjoyed paddle tennis and golf. His greatest joy was spending time with family, friends, and his dogs.

In addition to his wife and son, 3 brothers survive him: Laurence C. Coles (wife Ann), Daniel B. Coles (wife Leslie), Mark R. Coles (wife Louise), and many nieces, nephews, and in-laws.

A special thank you to the doctors, nurses, and caregivers at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Penn Rehab, St. Luke's University Hospital and Health Network and Rittenhouse Village of Allentown.

Due to current gathering restrictions, services and burial will be held when able.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Bill's memory can be made to the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley 1110 American Parkway NE Suite F-120, Allentown, PA 18109 or to the Boy Scouts of America Minsi Trails Council-William H. Coles Memorial Fund 991 Postal Rd. Allentown, PA 18019.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Gail,

This is my favorite picture of Bill from our trip. We are so fortunate that you guys chose to come to see us in Austria and that we got to make so many incredible memories with you both. It is rare that the kids have fun when they are the only kids on a trip, but you and Bill made them feel very special and they still remember much of what we did. Two things that stick out the most for me with Bill was first, what a great conversationalist he was. We had so many insightful and interesting conversations ranging from politics to business. Second was how he made the kids feel included and created opportunities of pure joy for them. He will be greatly missed.
Jackie, Wade, Anika and Katie



Jackie Seto - June 10, 2020 at 05:41 PM

RF

“ Always a great friend and a gentle man, Bill and I were fraternity brothers at Waynesburg and roommates our senior year. I consider myself very fortunate to have known him and to have shared some of our memories at our college Homecoming/50th Reunion last October.

When my mother passed more than 20 years ago, a good friend sent me a poem titled "The Plan of the Master Weaver" which helped a great deal in putting my grief into perspective. With my apologies for its length, I would like to share it with you.

*"Our lives are but fine weavings that God and we prepare,
Each life becomes a fabric planned and fashioned in His care.
We may not always see just how the weavings intertwine,
But we must trust the Master's hand and follow His design,
For He can view the pattern upon the upper side,
While we must look from underneath and trust in Him to guide.
Sometimes a strand of sorrow is added to His plan,
And though it's difficult for us, we still must understand
That it's He who fills the shuttle,
It's He who knows what's best,
So we must weave in patience and leave to Him the rest.
Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why
The dark threads are just as needed in the Weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned."*

*With sincere sympathy,
Bob Fayfich*

Robert Fayfich - May 27, 2020 at 06:27 PM

NC

“ I'm so glad we got to see the both of you back in March. Beezy still had his sense of humor and it was great to see it still there. We missed seeing Tanner but knew he was moving home at just the right time. Family reunions will not be the same with out this cousin.
Love, Nancy

Nancy Nye - cousin - May 25, 2020 at 01:44 PM

DP

“ I knew Bill from my time at Lehigh Country Club. He was very involved at Lehigh and did a great job there. Bill was always friendly with a smile for everyone. May Bill Rest In Peace. My condolences to the entire family. Don Patt

Don Patt - May 25, 2020 at 09:28 AM

SK

“ My deepest sympathies for the loss of your father, Tanner. You spoke of him often when you lived in WV and I knew that he was a man of intelligence and caring. Take comfort in the time that you were able to spend with him and all of the great memories that you made. Prayers to you and your entire family during this very difficult time.



Sherry Kuhl, WV

Sherry Kuhl - May 25, 2020 at 09:15 AM

JD

*Gail and family
Please accept my sincere sympathy on Bill's passing.
I considered him a friend when we were students at Waynesburg and while I worked there. Although we were in different fraternities we always had good natured fun kidding one another. My wife and I were happy to see you both at Homecoming last year. Bill will be missed by all who knew him.*

Joe Denti - May 26, 2020 at 04:06 PM

MR

“ *Bill was such a great guy. I will miss him dearly, but I am blessed with many great memories. Rest in peace my friend.*

Mark Roman

Mark Roman - May 24, 2020 at 01:24 PM

NG

I concur with Mark Roman, we had many wonderful times during those D&B international softball tournaments. Nick Gerogosian

Nick Gerogosian - May 24, 2020 at 04:30 PM

RW

I knew Bill while we both worked for D&B, He was a great individual and will be deeply missed. May he rest in peace.

Richard Warner - May 26, 2020 at 08:15 AM

JE

Bill was the epitome of volunteerism in the Lehigh Valley. He dedicated his retirement to helping others. His leadership in many organizations was strong and compassionate and greatly appreciated by those of us fortunate enough to work with him. The Lehigh Valley has lost a hero. But his legacy will live on.

Jane Ervin

Jane Ervin - May 26, 2020 at 11:15 AM

AS

I met Bill in 1988 when he first moved to the Lehigh Valley. His warm smile and engaging personality made him instantly like able. Bill was a business guy that always gave back to our community, volunteering to help countless charitable organizations. He left our world a better place. My thoughts prayers are with Gail and Tanner.....

Andy Scott

andy scott - May 27, 2020 at 02:05 PM

JB

Bill was a true gentleman. He was even keeled, friendly and outgoing. He was a tremendous asset to LCC and every other organization he touched. We will miss him dearly. Take care. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Joe & Debbie Bubba

Joe Bubba - June 01, 2020 at 09:39 AM