



Mr William "Bill" Bryan Kenney

September 4, 1937 - November 20, 2020

William (Bill) Bryan Kenney passed away peacefully on November 20, 2020 at his home in Orange Beach, Alabama. His wife, Elaine, was by his side.

Bill was born on September 4, 1937, in St. Louis, Missouri. Bill grew up on Long Island, New York. He attended Mepham HS in Long Island, N.Y. and Union College in Schenectady, New York. His college career was interrupted by a 3 year stint in the U.S. ARMY, stationed in Okinawa, Japan. He returned to Union and graduated in 1963 with a degree in German Literature and business. While at Union he was the captain of Union's LaCrosse team, and had other student leadership roles. Bill loved to recount his face-off at center mid-field with Jim Brown (All American football and LaCrosse player). Bill laughingly admitted he spent most of that day on the ground. Many years later Bill discovered that he had also faced off against one of his colleagues at Chevron who had attended MIT.

Shortly after graduation he joined Standard Oil Company's Management Training Program. Bill was moved all around the company and country, filling various sales positions, including as President of a heating oil subsidiary, marketing jet fuel, among others; he was President of the Chevron Land Development subsidiary, building shopping centers and homes in Southern CA and the SF Bay Area. For a complete change of pace Bill later found himself working in legislative advocacy/government affairs and finally the

corporate headquarter's business planning department where he remained until retirement in 1992. Bill and Elaine retired to Truckee, California to ski, and then on to Orange Beach Alabama to pursue their mutual love of boats and their quest for big fish.

Bill is survived by his wife of 36 years, Elaine; son Mark Ferguson Sher-Kenney of Bozeman, MT and his daughter, Suzanna Kenney of Novato, CA.; brother, Matthew Kenney of Seattle, WA and sister, Sue Anne Colding of Seattle, WA. as well as numerous cousins of the Ryan Clan in IL and MA. Bill was the quintessential “good man” - generous, honest, fun-loving with a contagious and booming laugh, and always ready to give a helping hand. Music was an important part of Bill's life - he enjoyed it all - from classical to country western to blues and every genre in between; entertaining and cooking also played a major role in his life, from collecting and enjoying wine from California's wine country, to preparing fine dining entrees to BBQing for a crowd - Bill always put forward his best efforts and enjoyed sharing the fruits of his labor with his many friends. Bill loved being outdoors, whether skiing at Tuckerman's Ravine in N.H. or Squaw Valley, in CA.; to camping and hiking, whether hunting elk in CO or fishing in Baja, or surf fishing in Martha's Vineyard to trolling in Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico; Bill could go trekking in the Sierra Nevada, or panning for gold in Gold Country with his young children. We all have so many fond memories of adventures with Bill. Life with Bill was never boring.

Bill touched many people and made many friends; he will be much missed in numerous lives.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr William "Bill" Bryan Kenney*

October 04, 2023 at 01:12 PM



“ *Mr William "Bill" Bryan Kenney*

November 08, 2022 at 06:34 PM



“ *Bill was a great friend and Chevron colleague. He loved us all. Our fondest memories are of his and Elaine's pre rodeo parties in Truckee. Everyone, as a right of entry, had to have a slammer!! If that didn't do it to us there was the year they had the margarita machine. I believe that was the time several of us missed the rodeo having gone home to take a long nap.*

*Rest well Bill.
Dale & Sally*

Dale Brooks - April 09, 2021 at 06:58 PM

“*Margie and I have been friends with Bill for more than 32 years. Bill always had a warm welcome for us each time we would get together – a greeting that invited you to share part of his world. Margie would say “Howdy Howdy, Mr. Bill,” and Bill would answer in that warm voice, the kind of voice you hear when old friends meet. He was always the most gracious of hosts, making sure that there were plenty of Bushmills and 7-Up for us to drink.*

We would always have our calendar cleared for the first week of August for Rodeo Weekend at Bill and Elaine’s. (This was the highlight of our summers!) We would come up on Friday evening for dinner. Bill would always have something non-aquatic for Margie to eat. Whether it was taking a cut of prime rib and cooking it (i.e., burning it) to her liking in a pan over the stove, or gumbo which was Margie’s favorite. After the conversation and laughter died down, we would retire to the bunk house for the evening. Sometimes Mike and Anna would bunk with us. Those times I had to sleep under the sheets because, well, you know how I like to sleep. . .

The next morning Bill would be putting the last touches on his famous BBQ pulled pork for the party, while Elaine would be finishing up her traditional coleslaw. Mike would set up the blender and I would pick up the ice. As noon approached, the shot glasses would be put on the island with the giant tequila bottle and butcher block. Bill would put his rodeo tape on at high noon and start the party with the Howdy Buckeroos song and the shot glasses full of tequila and Squirt would slam down on the butcher block and people would toss them down and the party would begin! Whoa!

The rodeo parties became part of Truckee lore – the inflatable cowboy suit; Luigi with his authentic cowboy attire, saddle and real six shooter sneaking up on everyone from behind the trees; Cowboy Tim who lost his marbles; the year Margarita Mike’s drinks were so strong it became the year without the rodeo, dinner, or dance for the more alcohol-challenged guests. Margie didn’t feel like herself until Tuesday.

The rodeo parties were so much more than eating, drinking, good music, and fun stories. It was a chance to meet interesting and wonderful people year after year. Friendships were created over the years and we always looked forward to seeing them again. Bill expressed to me his hope that friendships would be developed that would continue long after the rodeo parties. I think Bill accomplished that, don't you?

The morning after the rodeo Bill would cook his famous sausages on the grill. Elaine would let me make my specialty breakfast dish – scrambled eggs. Everyone knows I can't cook, but what the heck.

Bill and Elaine would invite our children and us up for skiing in the winter. Margie and I would plan to take them to dinner as a thank you. Bill would say OK, but try this cheese and crackers. We would sit at the kitchen table and while we were eating the delicious cheese, Elaine would sneak a pan down and start a sauce or something. Bill would put something into a pan to cook and, bibbidi bobbidi boo, Bill would announce dinner was ready. I'm beginning to think they put the cheese out to keep us occupied while they cooked.

We have such fond memories, and while the years have come between them, the memories have never faded. Margie and I will always carry Bill in our hearts and, while we grieve his passing, we also rejoice that Bill was born in the first place and allowed us to share part of his world.

Tonight Margie and I had Bushmills and 7-Up and toasted Bill for making our lives richer. We send our condolences to Elaine, Suzanne, Mark and all his friends with love and fondness.

*Tom and Margie Glaviano
12/11/20*

MA

“ Test

margie - December 12, 2020 at 06:57 AM

R&

“ We were fortunate enough to be invited several times to the pre rodeo events in Truckee. My the event was filled with delicious food, booze and a great group of people. When Happy Trails started to play we knew it was time to go into town for the event. Another time Bill met us in SF to take the boat across for dinner at their home. Truckee was a favorite spot and Bill was a perfect host. We are saddened at his loss but know he is pain free and enjoying his heavenly home.



Rick &Doreen - December 07, 2020 at 09:23 PM



“ So, sorry everyone, I believe some function has been turned on and I think all can post their stories now

Beverly Whittier - December 04, 2020 at 05:21 PM



“ Dear Elaine, Bill’s sister and brother and Suzanne and Mark.
We are so sorry to hear about Bill. He was such a great guy. When Bill and Elaine moved to our Meadows neighborhood in Truckee they just seemed to explode into our lives. They forced us to become a community, party hard, learn how to cook, entertain, and just be good neighbors. Several of us have thought over the years that their house on Mare Ct. became the main room of the house that was our neighborhood. The other rooms were our own homes. But we all came together at the Kenney’s. He would have Linda and I go to their parking pad to wash off our cars when we came home in the wintertime. Their friends became our friends-Mike and Anna, Big Kahuna Tom and the lovely Margie. Their kids and our kids all became close too. Something was always going on. Big Sierra winters or beautiful mountain summers, life was very good. The first Truckee Rodeo Party I went to Mike was pouring margaritas and making sure no one went empty. I had so many shooters I went to bed later with my clothes on, including boots. Another year Elaine made these jalapeno poppers that burned the hell out of everyone but were so amazing. Another year Bucky and Bayard rode home in the back of Linda’s Tahoe telling each other how much they loved each other. Bobby Wise was probably there too. Too much fun. Other Rodeo parties run together but the party always started the Wed before with Bill’s killer Gumbo and it moved from there to BBQ, pulled pork, shrimp, Elaine’s great coleslaw and major amounts of booze. It didn’t end until Sunday when the Kahuna would scramble eggs and then everyone would try to go back to their normal lives.
Bill always commanded the attention in the room. He was so smart and funny and caring. You’d think he was a tough guy but he was very kind. My animas all loved him. My goat Tim would always meet Bill at the gate as Bill would bring him crackers. Then they’d come to the back door. Tim would butt the door at his level and Bill would butt the door at his 6’3” height, with his head! Tim and Bill. It was hilarious and they did it all the time. Bill was one of our GOOD GUYS and he will be missed greatly.
We love you, Bucky and Bev

Beverly Whittier - December 04, 2020 at 05:20 PM



“ So I am not sure this is correct either. i just sent a test message with this website and it posted. I hope this works for everyone.

Beverly Whittier - December 04, 2020 at 04:08 PM



“ xxx

Beverly Whittier - December 04, 2020 at 03:58 PM



“ For all of you trying to send tributes or videos to Bill's family please send your statement to potter.pinerest@yahoo.com as an email and they will post it for you.

Beverly Whittier - December 04, 2020 at 03:56 PM

KW

“ I met Bill and Elaine through real estate. They came in and wanted to purchase a condo from me at a place called Seachase. At that time we were all sold out. Before long my company started building a new resort. Bill made sure they were first in line with it. They purchased a Condo at Martinique on the Gulf and Bill would tell me that he loved seeing the oil and gas rigs from a distance off his balcony. That was helping to fund their retirement. Bill had a strong voice so when he laughed you could hear it 2 doors down. There was no quiet dinner party with Bill around and we loved that about him. I'll miss that Bill, he was the life of the party and a pure gentleman. Seeing him slip away this last few years, has been hard on everyone that knew him, especially Elaine. They were such a loving couple and true friends. Elaine, I pray for you to feel at peace with Bill's passing , he wouldn't have wanted to burden you any longer.

Karla Woodring - December 04, 2020 at 02:57 PM

PP

“ Bill and Elaine were definitely the host and hostess with the mostest. We shared so many laughs and good times in the kitchen on Mare Dr, Truckee. And who could forget the “Rodeo Party”, complete with the margarita machine! The FitzKenneys were sorely missed when they made their permanent home in Orange Beach.....gone, but not forgotten!
Much love to Elaine, Mark and Suz, and Sue Ann....you are in my heart 🥺

Pattie Powers - December 04, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr William "Bill" Bryan Kenney.*



December 04, 2020 at 11:29 AM

“ For Elaine, Bill's sister and brother and Suz and Mark, We are so sorry for your loss.

I'd like to add some of our thoughts.

When Bill and Elaine moved to the house across the street from us in Truckee they just exploded into our lives. They basically forced us all to be a community, party together, learn how to cook, and to take care of each other during winter snowstorms. Several of us came to think of our neighborhood in the Meadows as a large home with each property being a room of that house. The main living spaces for that huge neighborhood home including kitchen, deck, tv room were at the Kenney's house. Many of us had been long time locals(30-40 years) and Bill and Elaine just joined right in. They drove us to entertain, to have long discussions into the nights, to just get together. They made us better for it.

They brought their friends and family into our lives and vice versa.. Mike and Anna, Big Kahuna Tom and the lovely Margie and all of their kids and our kids. We all became friends because of Bill and Elaine. The first time we went to their Truckee Rodeo Party was unbelievable. Mike always poured the margaritas and I had so many shooters I went home and went to bed with my clothes on, including boots. I get the years of the party mixed up now, but I remember Bucky and Bayard riding in the back of Linda's car telling each other how much they loved each other. These parties started the Thursday or Friday before the Rodeo with gumbo, amazing BBQ and just endless gourmet food and fun. This continued until breakfast Sunday morning when Tom made scrambled eggs from my eggs. Those were great times, great years and everything was good in our lives.

Bill had huge presence, he was so smart, he dominated a room and made people pay attention. One would think that he was a tough guy but he was a kind person and my animals all loved him. My little goat Tim would wait for him by the gate as Bill always brought him crackers. Then they would both come to the back door and Tim would butt the door at his level while Bill would butt the door with his head at his 6'3" level. Hilarious and they did this all the time. We will miss you Bill. You were a towering presence in our lives. One of the

*"Good Guys" in our lives for sure. We love you.
Bucky and Bev Whittier*

Bucky and Bev Whittier - December 04, 2020 at 09:30 AM

MV

“*Bill was my brother-in-law and a great partner to Elaine. They enjoyed many adventures together, traveled, went hiking and skiing. They had a relationship that most people never get to experience. They were very happy together, and I always admired their relationship. They stuck together through thick and thin and stayed together til the end. Rest In Peace, Bill. We were lucky to have you.*

Mimi

Mimi Vossler - December 03, 2020 at 09:08 PM

KV

“ A beautiful tribute. Thank you for sharing.

Uncle Bill was a great story teller, and he always had a great story to tell. I will always cherish the time I went fishing with Bill and Elaine, after I finished law school. We went to sleep, knowing that the weather would be no good for fishing. Around 3:30 in the morning, I was awakened by noise in the kitchen. The weather had turned. Bill and Elaine were getting ready for an outing. We set out early, when all the other fishermen were still sleeping in. There were two boats in the gulf that day - ours and one other. We trolled for mahi mahi and filled a 120 quart ice chest. Two of the beauties were as tall as I was. Bill and Elaine were featured in a national fishing magazine for that trip. It was the most remarkable fishing trip I have ever been on, and Bill and I reminisced about it many times afterward.

He was also a good listener. He had a great sense of humor. He never met a stranger, and was a good friend to everyone he knew. He and Elaine were a neat couple, wonderful hosts, great cooks a ton of fun and lots of laughs. I have great memories of my times with Bill and Elaine. I know that Elaine will miss him dearly.

Uncle Bill, we love you and we'll miss you!

Kathleen Vossler - December 03, 2020 at 09:02 PM