



## William Wallace Bryden

May 23, 1920 - March 14, 2010

Bryden, William age 89 of Canton. Beloved husband of the late Virginia. Loving father of Judith (Al) Orlandi, Nancy, Richard (Donna), Mark (Kimberly) and the late William (Debbie) Mills. Proud grandfather of Karen, David, Kristen, Lauren, KaTina, Christopher, Michael, Courtney, Cameron, Nikki, Corey, Christopher and Nicole. Also survived by seven great-grandchildren; and his faithful companion Missy. Funeral Service Saturday 10 AM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. Visitation Friday 2-9 PM. Entombment United Memorial Gardens. William W. Bryden was born in Detroit May 23, 1920 to William and Katheryn Bryden. At different points in his career, Bill was a professional musician, teacher, principal and special education director. At the age of 16, Bill won a scholarship to study music under John Philip Sousa at Interlochen Arts Academy. Also at 16, he started his professional career as a dance drummer and symphony percussionist. He was also a song writer and choir director. A man of diverse talents, before graduating from high school, Bill was professional at ceiling work, construction and house building. In fact, he was on his father's word crew at 9 years old, building houses. He also had the honor of addressing national conventions for the National Council for Exceptional Children in Philadelphia, Detroit and Washington DC. He attended Transylvania University in Lexington KY on a music scholarship (39-43) and did his graduate studies at Wayne State University. He served in the US Army-Air Force from 1943-1946, attending Mississippi State for Officer

Training. While at Transylvania, he was a founding member and the first President of Delta Sigma Phi. Bill began his career as a special education teacher in Highland Park in 1950. He was a principal in the Cherry Hill School District from 1955-1957. He returned to Highland Park in 1957 as the Supervisor of Special Education. While serving in this position, he and his staff produced a movie and two books which are housed in the Library of Congress. From 1969-1975, he was the Director of Services for Crestwood Schools before finishing his career in 1983 where he had served as the Director of the Oakland Training Institute, and Special Services Lamphere Schools, from 1975. Bill was married to his high school sweetheart Virginia (Fountain) Bryden for 63 years before her passing in July, 2005 from a rare form of leukemia. Both were music majors at Cass Tech High School in Detroit. Bryden is survived by four children, Judy (Al)Orlandi, Nancy, Richard (Donna) and Mark (Kimberly), eleven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his oldest son Bill in May, 2008. To leave a message of condolence, please use the condolences link on this page.

# Tribute Wall



“ *William Wallace Bryden*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *My condolences to the Bryden family. My grandmother, Arvilla Beauchamp, was Uncle Bill's sister. My siblings and I will never forget sharing a table with he and Aunt Virginia at our cousin's, (John Carney's), wedding. Uncle Bill was a wonderful story teller and fun to be around. I am just sorry that we live out in California and were never able to spend more time getting to know Uncle Bill. He was a terrific guy. He will be missed.*

**Aimee Beauchamp** - December 12, 2014 at 10:16 AM



“ *I am so sorry to her about Bills passing. I just found out today when I stopped at the gas station (his favorite hangout). Your family will be remembered in my prayers. Linda*

**Linda Lynch** - December 12, 2014 at 10:16 AM



“ *Truly a fine gentleman, our role model for support of Delta Sigma Phi over the decades. He will be missed by the entire Transylvania community.*

**William "Skip" Redmond, Beta Mu Alumni Assn.** - December 12, 2014 at 10:16 AM

DV

“ Bryden Family Our thoughts and prayers will be with you on Saturday morning. Will miss not seeing your Dad around the condo as we've been his neighbor for 12 years. Knowing that your Mom and Dad are together again will be comforting to all of you. God Bless

David & Linda VanderRoest - December 12, 2014 at 10:16 AM

DL

“ Always enjoyed seeing Mr. Bryden at TU during Alumni Weekend. So proud to have known such an incredible man.

Dewayne Lawson - December 12, 2014 at 10:16 AM

RP

“ I am completely shocked and saddened by the passing of Brother Bryden. I have known him since my freshman year at Transy back in 1995. I was so happy to see him at the last T-Day in the old chapter room during my 10 yr weekend. He was such a fixture at these events and would always bestow upon us, the brothers of the Beta Mu Chapter of Delta Sigma Phi, such great stories from the old days. He will truly be missed by all of us that he has touched and my condolences to the family. He was a GREAT MAN! To Brother Bryden, I hope to see you again some day, so that I can hear your stories once again. Yitbos, Rajan G. Patel Class of 1999

Rajan Patel - December 12, 2014 at 10:16 AM

DM

“ Bill always brought a smile to all when he came into the Credit Union. He always made it a point to say hello to everyone. He will be missed., what a wonderful man. May you all find peace and love in the memories of him that you cherish.

Diane Kapelanski MECU - December 12, 2014 at 10:16 AM

LM

“ *Bill Bryden, what a fine human being. I've only known Mr. Bryden for ten years, but in that time he was always quick with a smile, and so friendly; we were always glad to see him. He loved you all very much. I just wanted you to know that I will miss him.*

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**Lou Sommerman, MECU** - December 12, 2014 at 10:16 AM

JG

“ *I just wanted to let Bill's family know what a lasting impression and legacy he left at Transylvania University and the Beta Mu Chapter. I am thankful for his generous spirit and amazing contributions. Johan Graham (Beta Mu Class of 2000)*

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**Johan Graham** - December 12, 2014 at 10:16 AM

D1

“ *Over the years, Bill continued to make many friends among the brothers of Beta Mu of Delta Sigma Phi. He always seemed to "be there" and was a constant inspiration for us all. The Chapter's many successes are, in no small part, attributable to the leadership he provided us in getting the chapter started. He will be greatly missed by everyone he touched or influenced. God's speed, Bill.*

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**Doug Hutcherson Beta Mu President 1968-69** - December 12, 2014 at 10:16 AM

CC

“ *I am sorry to hear about Mr. Bryden's passing. He left a lasting legacy at Transylvania University, for which I am grateful. My thoughts and prayers are with the Bryden family. - Cam Culbertson (Transylvania University, Beta Mu, Class of 2003)*

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**Cam Culbertson** - December 12, 2014 at 10:16 AM

RA

“ *it was a pleasure to work for, and with Bill in the Special Ed. Dept. at Lamphere Schools. My prayers for his family.* ”

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**Rosemary Althoff** - December 12, 2014 at 10:16 AM