



William Tilson

September 23, 1945 - July 21, 2009

Beloved husband and father William Rand “Bill” Tilson, Jr. passed away July 21, 2009 in Huntsville, Texas at the age of 63. Bill was born September 23, 1945 in Glendale, California to William R. “WR” Tilson, Sr. and Naomi Hamm Tilson. Bill was preceded in death by his father in 1977 and his mother in 2001. He is survived by wife Denise, daughter Elizabeth Chapman and her husband Michael Chapman, sister, Linda Tilson of Venice, Florida, mother-in-law Gloria Larkin and brother-in-law Daryl Giebelstein. He will be missed by his canine shop pal Riata and spirited grand-dogs Blue, Roxie and Belle. Bill graduated from Matador High School in 1964 and attended Texas Tech University before joining the Air Force as a navigational equipment technician. After proudly serving his country, he began work in Houston, Texas at Western Electric Company which ultimately became Lucent Technologies. In a career that spanned more than thirty years, Bill began as a Western Electric central office installer and worked his way up through the ranks to Operations Area Manager of Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. He received numerous commendations and was one of only a handful of employees to be awarded the top Employee Suggestion Award of \$10,000 -- which he received twice. Topping the list of what mattered most to Bill was family. His wife Denise and daughter Elizabeth were the lights of his life. Bill married Denise Adrienne Giebelstein on October 2, 1971 in Houston, Texas. Daughter Elizabeth Diane was born May 13, 1977 in Houston. Seconds after her birth, Bill held her in his arms and their life-long mutual adoration began. Elizabeth

married Michael Chapman on May 18, 2002. Through the years whether thick or thin, Bill often used a phrase that his family will forever hold in their hearts: "Give it to me; I've got broad shoulders." Bill had many interests including fishing, science fiction, vegetable gardening, jazz, bagpipe music, and tracking NASA's missions, but his one true calling was woodworking. Bill retired in 2001 and in 2003 he and his wife escaped from the big city to Huntsville's peaceful piney woods. At last he was able to pursue his long-delayed dream that had begun with his introduction to woodworking and turning in high school shop. His work ranged from stick ponies and puzzles to furniture, cabinetry and trim. As his turning abilities matured and his creativity blossomed, Bill's creations included elaborate inlaid bowls, vases and boxes. His proudest creation was his innovative petal series which had become his signature. Bill was well known in the national wood turning community for his original and artistic pieces. He was active in the Gulf Coast Woodturners in Houston, The Brazos Valley Turners in College Station, the World of Woodturners and The American Association of Woodturners, where he had been invited to demonstrate at this year's national symposium. His beautiful art can be found in many collections and galleries around the country. Fellow members of the woodturning communities say that Bill never said an unkind word about anyone and was always ready to lend a hand or share his knowledge. He was considered a wonderful friend, a gifted teacher and a talented turner. In turn, Bill would often comment on how grateful he was for the friendship, inspiration and teachings of his fellow woodturners. Interment will be in the Tilson family plot in East Mound Cemetery, Matador, Texas. Friends and family will be gathering together to celebrate Bill's extraordinary life. All are invited to attend on Sunday, August 23, at 2:00 p.m. at Huntsville State Park's Raven Lodge (Group Rec Center). Food and drink will be provided. Memorial contributions can be made in Bill's honor to the American Association of Woodturners, Educational Opportunity Grant Program. Memorial donations via mail can be sent to AAW EOG Fund, Donation in honor of Bill Tilson, 222 Landmark Center, 75 West 5th Street, St. Paul, MN

55102. Donations by credit card may be made by calling the AAW office at 651-484-9094 and asking to make a donation in honor of Bill Tilson to the AAW EOG fund. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *William Tilson*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Denise -*

I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your husband. From reading the obituary and the other notes posted here, it is obvious that he was a wonderful person, and well loved.

My condolences to you and your family. Please do not hesitate to call on me if there is anything I can do for you.

*Sincerely,
Lee Woodward*

Lee Woodward - August 29, 2009 at 04:52 PM



“ *I had the good fortune to work closely with Bill in the 90s at Lucent Technologies. I remember Bill's good nature, sense of humor, and common sense approach to work and to life. He cared and supported the people around him, which is the hallmark of a good man. As far as woodworking talent goes, my family still uses the wood pens that he gave me several years ago. I am sorry for your loss. God bless you. Ruben Ramirez*

Ruben Ramirez - August 07, 2009 at 02:34 PM

KW

“ I lost a good friend and fellow wood turner.

Bill was a gentle spirit who never had a negative thought about anything or anybody. He was always looking for the positive side of any issue.

We have been car pooling for all most five years to Houston and Bryan/College Station to attend woodturning meetings. Over the years, on those many trips, we have solved most of the world problems and, discussed a lot of wood turning techniques. We enjoyed the meetings, and most of all, we enjoyed the fellowship with each other, in those drives back and forth to meetings.

Truly missed and never forgotten, my friend Bill Tilson.

Kendall Westbrook

Kendall Westbrook - August 02, 2009 at 09:40 AM

VC

“ Denise, we are so sorry to learn of Bill's passing. We enjoyed getting to know him and to know you only recently so feel like we really missed out on someone very special. Our sympathy and prayers are with you. Vic and Marion Czaja

Victor/Marion Czaja - July 30, 2009 at 04:31 PM

DH

“ Denise and Elizabeth, we are so sorry to hear about Bill's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you now and forever. Bill was a very unique person; a great mentor and friend. He will be missed but never forgotten. "See you Chief".

David & Linda Horton - July 29, 2009 at 06:37 PM

LS

“ Denise--I am so sorry for your loss. I did not know Bill, but knowing you has enriched my life more than you know. I am praying for you and your family. Please take comfort in knowing that you are loved and in my thoughts every day.

LaDean Sapp - July 29, 2009 at 03:29 PM

GS

“ Bill was my first boss at Lucent. He was an incredible human being. He looked at your abilities, instead of your handicaps. A laugh, a smile, his 50 cent tips, are some of the memories I have of him. My wife, BeeAnn, was happy that I had a good job and a good boss. Bill -We will meet again one day in heaven. Gordon Snedden -OTS - SSC021M, Houston

Gordon Snedden - July 29, 2009 at 08:27 AM

RH

“ Bill will be missed by anyone that had the pleasure fo meeting him. I knew him as a friend and mentor in the woodturner's club.

I talked to Bill in his last days via email and not once did he complain about his situation.

He is an inspiration to me and I will think of him everytime I am standing at my lathe.

So long, Bill.

Randall Hassig - July 28, 2009 at 08:38 PM

JK

“ *The delicate nature of the Pedal Series was the perfect display of Bill's gentle nature. I will remember the warmth of Bill's personality every time I look at the Pedal Vase on my wife's desk.*

Jim Keller - July 28, 2009 at 07:50 PM

KH

“ *I had the honor of working with Bill in the 1970's and 80's with AT&T/Lucent. He was highly respected and always professional in his approach to an assignment or challenge. He had a great sense of humor and always concentrated on the positives instead of the negatives. It was an honor to have known him. I extend my condolences to his family and friends.*

Ken Ham - July 28, 2009 at 07:42 PM

RT

“ *Bill was the truest of friends for me. His kind and gentle nature and ready smile always seemed to make life less complicated. Bill was an inspiration to me and my woodturning, and I am proud to have one of his artistic pieces on display in my home. Over the past year, Bill and I shared a common bond in the challenges of life, and despite Bill's discomfort, he readily made time for our visits and phone calls and offered comforting words for me that seemed to lighten the load. Bill touched my life in ways that few can understand. For Bill's family... know that he is smiling, and my thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Ric Taylor - July 28, 2009 at 06:46 PM

KT

“ I am fortunate to have gotten to know Bill over the last couple years through the GCWA. Bill was an extremely talented individual with his woodturning and inlay work. What stands out most about Bill, however, was his friendly and unassuming manner with people. He could always find and point out the best in other's work and could manage to gently point out where a piece could be improved. I am proud to have one of Bill's turned boxes on display in my home. Bill will be missed dearly by the folks at GCWA. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Kevin Turco - July 28, 2009 at 05:23 PM

DT

“ I have many memories of Bill going back to the 70's when he was one of the few people in the country that was developing software to solve problems at work using "C" language. We had many good time through the years and what I will remember most is that he was a good listener. He was a good friend, a great boss, and a thoughtful mentor who always saw the best in everyone.

My deepest sympathies to Denise and Elizabeth - we will all miss him.

I'll always remember "Hold the Mayo!!". Till we meet again.

All our love, Dave and Cindy

David Tatum - July 28, 2009 at 12:18 PM

BP

“ Bill was a true friend to all with whom he associated. He was an avid wood turner; always willing to convey all he knew to help others achieve their endeavors. Upon learning of Bill’s passing, it was extremely hard to keep my feelings under control. Bill was my mentor in the World of Woodturners and a close friend to Diane and I. We had attended American Association of Woodturners Symposiums together and missed his not being able to go to the 2009 symposium as one of the demonstrators. His presence in Gulf Coast Woodturners Association made our Houston club one of the top in the country. He was a fine and outstanding individual and I will sorely miss his presence in my life. I am so sorry for his family and our condolences go out to them. Bill will always be with me in my turning world.

Bill Pottorf - July 28, 2009 at 08:46 AM

KA

“ I had the pleasure of working with and for Bill during his entire tenure at Western Electric/ AT&T/ Lucent Technologies. Everyone that knew or worked with him will miss him. My condolences go to Denise and Elizebeth abd the rest of the family. I am truly sorry for his passing.

K J Allen - July 27, 2009 at 11:12 PM

RH

“ I had the pleasure of working with Bill on various projects from 1970 thru 1987 with Western Electric. His laugh and smiles were contagious. I never knew him to hold a grudge or demean anyone. My condolences go out to the family may the Lord bless them with comfort and understanding.

Rev. Ralph W. Ham

Ralph Ham - July 27, 2009 at 10:16 PM

RM

“ Bill was instrumental in my computing abilities as well as my sub-par wood working abilities.:-) Amazing work Bill. I worked on the phone many a time w/ bill telling me what to do. We need more men like Bill. I offer up my prayers for the family, I am so very sorry for your loss.

Robbie Mattix

Robbie Mattix - July 27, 2009 at 09:38 PM

JR

“ Had the pleasure of working with Bill at AT&T/Lucent, he was a great Manager and Friend, and will be missed by all. I pray that you will find the strength to help guide you and your family through these difficult times.

*Thanks
Jim Rolan*

Jim Rolan - July 23, 2009 at 01:25 PM