



William R Hughes

June 11, 1948 - June 27, 2015

William Ray Hughes, 67, of Minocqua, passed away unexpectedly June 27, 2015 in Woodruff, Wisconsin.

Bill was born on June 11, 1948 in Louisville, Kentucky. He was a 20 year veteran of the United States Navy, retiring with the rank of Commander. He continued his working career at DeVry Institute of Technology in Illinois as Dean of Evening Programs. In 2004, Bill and his wife Marge pursued their dream of living "Up North", and retired to Minocqua, where they enjoyed eleven happy years living their upnorth dream.

Bill kept busy driving for Lakeland Bus Company in Woodruff during the school year. Summers were enjoyed fishing, camping, and enjoying the woods and lakes of the area. His favorite event each year was the annual gathering of the family on the Fourth of July for a brat cookout, back porch partying, snowshoe baseball and the Lake Tomahawk firework display. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America, local chapter WI0256. He was also a member of Island City Masonic Lodge in Minocqua, Wisconsin. Bill is survived by his wife Marge, his sons Mike and Travis, daughter-in-law Jenny, and his beloved grandchildren Riley and Bryson, who were the light of his life.

Upon his request, cremation has taken place and no services are planned. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Vietnam Veterans of America, or the Island City Masonic Lodge in his memory.

Fair Winds and Following Seas.

Tribute Wall

TD

“ I am SO sorry to read this. I was thinking about my past years and Bill Hughes came to mind ... thought I'd see what he was up to. I worked for Bill , as his admin, at the Addison Campus of DeVry. He was kind, funny and loved his very used coffee cup. Every time I attempted to wash it out he insisted the coffee tasted much better when poured into a cup with old coffee in it! My husband is also a Vietnam vet and we spent some time talking about that. After a few years I went on to work for one of the founders of DeVry in Oakbrook but I never forgot the wonderful people I worked for, and with, at the Addison campus. Bill loved his family and I'd like to extend my sincerest condolences to his wife, sons and extended family. Gone way too soon.

Therese Deptula - April 23, 2022 at 12:00 PM

RB

“ Four years. Goodness. Bill, we love you and miss you. Barbara and Rusty

Rusty Briggs - June 25, 2019 at 04:02 PM

RB

“ Memories galore of/with Bill. Too many to recount.

Gone too soon.

We love you and we greatly miss you.

Barbara and Rusty

Rusty Briggs - June 27, 2017 at 10:40 AM

BS

“ *My deepest condolences to Bill's family. What a guy !*

I first met Bill when I had been working part time at the Addison Campus of DeVry in 1996.

That man changed the course of my life when he gave me the best advice when a full time job opened... he told me simply "apply for the job Barbara !".

Even when I had been so discouraged about my future in the teaching profession. He saw something in me that I only later discovered for myself... he taught me how important it is to look beyond your current situation and to go after your goals.

Because of his faith in me I now have been with DeVry for over 20 years making me able to be of help and support to people and their dreams, just as he did for me.

He was a great leader and an amazing person, I will never forget him.

Barbara Strauch - July 14, 2015 at 04:25 PM

MH

Thank you, Barbara, for your kind words. Bill loved DeVry and all the people there. After 20 years in the Navy, the new challenge was as much for him as it was for you. Everyone supported each other. A true testament of friends as well as coworkers. You make our hearts smile, remembering him so fondly. Thank you.

Marge Hughes - July 17, 2015 at 11:21 PM

MG

“ I had the privilege of knowing Bill from the day he walked into Lakeland Bus for training. I took an interest in each of the drivers I trained and got to know Bill on a personal level. We spent a lot of time together during training, so we would share things about ourselves and our personal lives. He shared with me stories of his time in the Navy, his family, and his love and passion for the outdoors. He had such a great sense of humor and positive outlook. When my son joined the Marine Corps and shipped out overseas last year, Bill took the time to ask about him and inquire about how I was holding up with him being where he was. He took the time to listen and offered a shoulder to lean on. He gave me strength and encouragement and was a great support for me during my son's absence. His smile and an occasional hug helped me get through those long difficult months of deployment. He was one of a kind and I am grateful that I got the chance to know him. I will truly miss this wonderful gentleman and special friend. My heartfelt sympathy to his family. I pray for God's healing comfort for you.



Fair Winds and Following Seas. Thank you for your service to our country and your fellow man.

Meg Gauger

Meg Gauger - July 09, 2015 at 11:20 PM

MH

Meg, I remember those days when Bill came home each day telling me about your sons days in basic training and deployment. How hard it was for you,he knew, because he knew how hard it was for his mother as her only son. We are so honored that his compassion and empathy was there for you. You were a special part of his life.

Marge Hughes - July 17, 2015 at 11:25 PM

BH

“ It's been ten years since the last time I talked to Bill. It was the year of our 40th high school reunion. And it was probably 30 or more years before that to our previous conversation. I meant to go fishing with him, but it never happened. Regardless, I did think of him often and as a friend. What I remember most clearly from the semester we roomed together at ECU is his somewhat corny sense of humor, his work ethic and his decency ... a trait that really stands out. The good ones always go too soon.

Bill Holt - July 03, 2015 at 02:29 PM

MH

Thank you, Bill, for your kind memories. He shared with me many happy memories of high school, and his ECU days. He was planning on us to attend the HS reunion, but as the time for consolidating and committing to plans got closer, he decided to pass on going. He said to me it was because our 14 year old Lab, Molly, was too old to handle that long a trip, and it would be too hot in Louisville that time of year for her. He and her were inseparable. I know, though, that there were other health issues at play, and he knew in his heart he would not be able to make the reunion in August. His letters from Ada developing the plans are sitting next to me on his computer desk. He will be there in spirit and will be laughing with you all, as you reminisce about those happy days. He loved you all. Our love to you and your family and to all his classmates.

Marge Hughes - July 05, 2015 at 02:55 PM

RW

“ Billy, was neighbor growing up and the same age as my brother, Bruce. Our families socialized all the time. He ended up being a frat brother as well, as a DU at Louisville. He one was nice enough to invite me to tour his ship when we were both in Taiwan. He was a class guy. My condolences to the family

Rich Williams - July 01, 2015 at 04:26 PM

MH

I remember so many stories of you and Bill! I am sure I do not know half the stories of the DU days, however much Bill and Rusty laughed and talked about them. But I do know that the stories I know involved so much happiness and fun. Thank you for your kind words. He was our heart.

Marge Hughes - July 05, 2015 at 03:02 PM

TS

“ *Sorry to hear about Bill. Lost touch with him after our DU days at UL. Always had a lot of respect for him. Smiley aka Tarry Stanford*

Tarry Stanford - July 01, 2015 at 08:52 AM

MH

Thank you for your kind sharing. Bill and the DU days involved many laughs when he would share a memory. He was a wonderful husband, father, Papa, and friend.

Marge Hughes - July 05, 2015 at 03:03 PM

SS

“ *Bill was one of my children's favorite bus drivers! He was so nice and always looked out for them. I am truly heartbroken to know he passed on. Sending our love and letting you know that he was truly loved by the children he drove!!!! Sharon Saunders and Family*

sharon saunders - June 29, 2015 at 09:30 PM

MH

Bill was at his happiest driving the bus during the school year. He loved the kids! He brought home so many funny stories that made us both laugh, as we pictured our own boys on their school bus rides years back. Thank you for your kind thoughts.

Marge Hughes - July 05, 2015 at 03:06 PM

BM

“ I had the privilege of working with Bill for the last 6 years at Lakeland Bus. His sense of humor and dry wit, was the best. I can't count the number of times I went to Bill for advice about any number of things and he always took the time to listen and share his thoughts. The world lost one of the great ones for sure. I will miss him tons.

*Buffy Miller-Jackson
Saint Germain Wisconsin*

Buffy Miller-Jackson - June 29, 2015 at 09:13 PM

MH

Thank you, Buffy, for your kind words. You summarized him well. He was always a listener, and a source of strength for each of us. His sense of humor and his dry wit...we know of what you speak. We are so comforted in our hearts that he was known by you for these strengths we all admired and loved in him. Thank you and please thank everyone at the bus company who shared his mornings and afternoons. So many funny stories he brought home, told around the coffee table, made me laugh and him laugh again retelling them. A truly wonderful circle of co-workers and friends.

Marge Hughes - July 05, 2015 at 08:24 PM

BW

“ Your smile and laugh will be greatly missed Bill, Godspeed to you and our condolences to Marge and the family. Another Patriot goes home. Bob and Carol Webb

Bob Webb - June 29, 2015 at 08:13 PM

MH

Thank you, Bob and Carol. We are strengthened by your caring thoughts.

Marge Hughes - July 05, 2015 at 08:32 PM

CM

“ I am so, so very sorry to Bill's family for the loss. There are about four men at LABS that I put under the category of "really, REALLY good guys" and Bill was one of them! Sweet, a total gentleman, funny, ALWAYS smiling, kind and loved his family so much and expressed that in various ways often! Our buses are kept next to each other in the LABS' lot so I saw him every day during the regular school years. When we'd get into lineup at MHLT, he was the bus directly behind me and we'd periodically get off the things and talk with one another before the kids would begin to come out. He will be dearly missed by me and I know by many others at LABS, too! My sincere condolences to his family. He was an outstanding man and Vet!!! ~Cathy Marderosian

Cathy Marderosian - June 29, 2015 at 05:36 PM

MH

Thank you, Cathy. Bill will be there looking out for everyone when the school year begins. Your caring words brought us such comfort.

Marge Hughes - July 05, 2015 at 08:32 PM

BB

“ Our hearts and prayers are with Marge, Mike, Trav and Jenny.

Words cannot adequately express our grief and sadness.

Bill was a true friend; my best friend. I am privileged to have known Bill for 46 years, since we were in DU Fraternity at the University of Louisville.

We love Bill and miss him greatly!

*Rusty and Barbara Briggs
Chesterfield, MO*

Barbara Rusty Briggs - June 28, 2015 at 02:33 PM

MH

We love you two, heart and soul.

Marge Hughes - July 05, 2015 at 08:26 PM

LD

As Dean of the Evening Programs Bill always took the stressors of the job and turned them into positive problem solving formats. His smile, genuine concern for others, and listening skills supported him as he worked with faculty in constant and consistent ways to support students. Bill's sharp wit, genuine care, and sense of humor balanced out any concern that a faculty member or student would bring his way. He earned great respect from faculty because of his willingness to listen and then proactively act in ways that supported students and faculty equally and fairly.

Linda Stevens Hjorth, Psychology Professor at DeVry University, Addison for thirty years-

Linda Hjorth, Prof. at DeVry - July 15, 2015 at 04:37 PM

DC

So sorry for the loss Bill's family and friends are feeling.

I worked with Bill at the DuPage Campus of DeVry University. He definitely cared about his co-workers and brought a smile to our faces most days!

Diane Cumpston

Diane Cumpston - July 16, 2015 at 10:14 AM

MH

Thank you, Diane, for your kind words. Bill loved his time at DeVry. After 20 years in the Navy, the challenge was great, transitioning to the "real" world. He made it through the support and friendship of you and all the DeVry team. He brought a smile to our faces "most days" too. The days he didn't, I would tell him BH doesn't stand for Bill Hughes, it stands for Bull Headed! Your message made our hearts smile. Thank you.

Marge Hughes - July 17, 2015 at 11:33 PM