



William F. Regas

January 8, 1929 - August 2, 2021

On August 2, 2021 William F. Regas (Poppy) of Knoxville, TN went to be with Jesus. Bill was at home and had been surrounded by family. Born in 1929, Bill was a graduate of Tennessee Military Institute, University of Tennessee, and served in the Korean War. He was a member at Central Baptist Church Bearden. Bill lived his life to glorify God, encourage those around him, and provide excellent hospitality. He valued people, a firm handshake, and the power of gratitude. Bill loved his family, friends & serving as a mentor, pouring inspiration into the whole community. He was committed to the restaurant business his whole life, including Regas Restaurant, Grady's Goodtimes, Riverside Tavern, and others. He served passionately as the President of the National Restaurant Association in 1980-81 and received numerous honors/recognitions regionally and nationally in the restaurant industry and community for his leadership. He was preceded in death by his mother Edith Rankin, father Frank Regas, wife of twenty-seven years and mother of his children Elizabeth Frost Regas, second wife Anne Dennis Regas, sister Frankie R. Gunnels, brother George Regas and great granddaughter Amelia Schmidt. Family members left with loving memories are daughters Carol Acker (John Acker), Sharon Scott (Stuart Scott), son Grady Regas (Jenny Williams), stepson Dennis Ragsdale (Becky Ragsdale), grandchildren Jonathan Acker (Julie McMurray), Will Acker (Angela Acker), Liz Acker Lacey (John Lacey), Christopher Acker (Anna Acker), Keeli Scott Schmidt (Carl Schmidt), Rachel Scott Marotta (Daniel Marotta), Regas Scott (Christy Scott), AnDe Ragsdale Hale (Taylor Hale), and Jack Ragsdale. Greatgrandchildren Cade Acker, Hayes Acker, Ethan Acker, Campbell Lacey, Liam Lacey, Ryn Lacey, Henry Acker, Ozzie Acker, Teddy Schmidt, Miles Schmidt, June Marotta, Selah Marotta, Wills Marotta, John Marotta, Elsie Scott, Shepard Scott, Ella Blair Hale. Also Jason Williams. The family appreciates the wonderful care given by Grady Regas and Jenny Williams. A celebration of the life of Bill Regas will be held at Central Baptist Bearden at 4:00 PM on Friday August 6th. To leave a memorial tribute go to ForeverMissed.com. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Knoxville Young Life P.O. Box 647 Knoxville, TN 37901, X Hunger C/o Scarecrow Foundation P.O. Box 11684 Knoxville, TN 37939 or Knoxville Leadership Foundation 318 N. Gay Street Suite 210 Knoxville, TN 37917. Bill's Life story video may be viewed and memorial tributes may be left at ForeverMissed.com. The

service will be livestreamed at <https://www.facebook.com/RoseMannHeritage>.

Events

AUG **Celebration of Life Service** 04:00PM

6

Central Baptist Bearden

Deane Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN, US, 37919

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Rose Mortuary - August 06, 2021 at 03:24 PM



“ So sad to learn of the death of long- time friend, Bill. He was absolutely the “finest of the fine”, a true gentleman in every way. Please know that I am thinking of all of you Carol, Sharon, & Grady and your families with much love & sympathy. And, what a legacy he has left!!! Leslie Testerman

LeslievYesyerman - August 06, 2021 at 04:53 PM



“ Carol, Sharon, and Grady..... I was saddened upon learning of your father's passing, but then I rejoiced in knowing he was soon to be experiencing his grand reunion in heaven. What a wonderful life he lived! He was a great man but most of all a great gentleman. His smile and grace will be forever remembered by many. May God's blessings be with all of you and your family both now and forever more.

Doug Leshet

Doug Leshet - August 10, 2021 at 09:03 AM



“ I was so pleased that Bill's obit mentioned Tennessee Military Academy. He was proud of his high school alma mater as I am. It was always a common thread of our friendship. So sorry I had a conflict with his service. I would have loved to be present to honor a friend, fellow TMI "boy", and see the other Regas brothers. John Montgomery, TMI class of '54

John Montgomery - August 06, 2021 at 06:32 PM



“ 224 files added to the album LifeTributes



Rose Mortuary - August 06, 2021 at 01:45 PM



“ Marian and Bill Broome want the family to know they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Bill & Marian Broome - August 06, 2021 at 01:05 PM



“ I was waiting on a prospective client at Regas for lunch many years ago. Mr. Regas has greeted me as usual when I entered the restaurant. I know the Regas family through first Baptist Church where my family also attended. As I walk through the dining room he saw me sitting by myself. My appointment had not shown. Mr. Regas sat opposite me, motion to the server, and we had lunch together. He asked about my new career and encouraged me. That encounter comes to mind from time to time and I remember with fondness how he made me feel valued. That meant a lot coming from a successful older man.

He will be greatly missed.

Mike Cunningham

Mike Cunningham - August 05, 2021 at 08:50 PM



“ Frances, Jeannie, Harry Spirides & girls purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William F. Regas.



Frances, Jeannie, Harry Spirides & girls - August 05, 2021 at 05:19 PM



“ Our condolences and prayers to the Regas family on the loss of Bill. Me and my (Flynn) siblings grew up knowing this wonderful gentleman. Our mother, Chris Flynn, dedicated 30+ years working for the family at the Regas Restaurant. We have so many wonderful memories of Bill.

Barbara (Flynn) Riggs and family

Barbara (Flynn) Riggs - August 05, 2021 at 02:04 PM



“ Our condolences and prayers to the Regis family. We will miss seeing Bill.

Ray and Louise Shelton

Ray and Louise Shelton - August 05, 2021 at 11:13 AM



“ Bill and Elizabeth Regas were one of the godly couples I looked up to as I was growing up in First Baptist Church, Knoxville. Their sweet marriage was a testimony of their love of Jesus.

While I cannot speak to his later years, I can share a sweet memory of the way he "bent over backwards" to help me host a dinner at Regas Restaurant when I was on the UT Homecoming Advisory Board. There were a lot of laughs exchanged in working out all the "kinks" in the preparation, and he was gracious, patient and honoring. I am grateful for the impact his family had on me!

Mary Ann (Maples) Pickard

Mary Ann Pickard - August 04, 2021 at 01:21 PM



“ Connie Blair lit a candle in memory of William F. Regas



Connie Blair - August 04, 2021 at 09:26 AM



“ My condolences and prayers for his family, and multitude of friends. He always had such a cordial way of making sure each he knew felt appreciated. I miss him already. Much love to all May his memory live on forever.



Beth Lineham - August 03, 2021 at 11:17 PM



“ Sending my Sincere condolences to the Regas family!
Mrs. Ben Williamson(Martha) .

martha williamson - August 03, 2021 at 09:16 PM



“ Bill will live on in the hearts of all those who had a chance encounter with him, whether he was a longtime friend or brief encounter, I do believe he extended the same courtesy. I first became acquainted with him at the restaurant, and was impressed by how much he checked on the customers to make sure all was ok— then when I ran into him after the closing of the restaurant, he was pleased we recognized him and took the time to greet him. What a special man! I hope his family knows how much everyone loved him—not just in Knoxville but in surrounding counties. My sympathy to all of you.



Wanda Abbott - August 03, 2021 at 07:59 PM



“ Bill Regas was such a wonderful and kind gentleman. He always had a smile and a warm greeting for everyone who came to Regas Restaurant. He was an icon in the community and was responsible for the success of many people who he mentored. We will miss him so much. Sending prayers to his family.

Dorothy Smith - August 03, 2021 at 06:25 PM



“ Many years ago I was the recipient of the Regas scholarship when I graduated from Fulton High School. To say that the money was greatly needed is a profound understatement. Bill Regas was overly generous and the only thing he asked of me was to use my talents and to help others along the way. He would contact me occasionally just to check in and regularly invited me to dine at Regas. I've just retired after 38 years teaching math in Knox County Schools; I believe he felt the scholarship money was well spent. I will always remember the Regas generosity and want all of you to know that I took Bill's advice and have paid it forward. Sincere condolences to the family on the passing of a truly wonderful man.

Jannice Grissom Clark - August 03, 2021 at 02:01 PM