



William "Bill" Ridgway

July 25, 1936 - August 17, 2019

Chances are, you remember the first time you heard the salutation, "Greetings." More than a "Hello" that acknowledged your presence, "Greetings" likely struck you as an invitation to a conversation and was often followed by questions about you, your family, and your life. For Bill Ridgway, "Greetings" was the first step to making sure you felt like you were the most important person in room and that your story was the only story worth hearing. And Bill would reaffirm that feeling the next time you saw him, as he would recall every detail you previously shared and pick up the conversation right where you left off.

William "Bill" French Ridgway, 83, passed peacefully at home on August 17, 2019. Bill was married to Marcella "Marcy" Engroff Ridgway (d.2005) for nearly thirty years and with whom he shared eight children. In their years together, they lived in Topeka, New Orleans, Nashville, and Chicago, finally settling in Bedford, TX, in 1988. In 2019, Bill returned to his home state of Kansas.

Bill Ridgway was born on July 25, 1936, in Coffeyville, Kansas to John and Ellen Ridgway, who had emigrated from Cork, Ireland. Bill was watched over by his three sisters, Eileen, Philomena (O'Connell), and Harriett (Halpin) and his brother, Jack. He attended Coffeyville High School, where he excelled in track and field and would earn a track scholarship to Coffeyville Junior College. Throughout his life, Bill was a devoted Catholic and servant of God.

Bill's professional passion was helping local governments perform at the highest levels for their residents and businesses. While his career would take him in and out of roles in local government, in every evolution he prized developing close working relationships with the professionals in public service who serve their communities day in and day out.

Bill's early professional career included leadership roles at the Dodge City Chamber of Commerce, where he served as President. Later, he served in the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and was appointed to the Small Business Advisory Committee by U.S. Senator Bob Dole. In addition, Bill sought ways to give back to the community, serving as

Chairman of the Ford County Red Cross and on the President's Advisory Council for Saint Mary of the Plains College.

His talent for economic opportunity and community development opened opportunities for Bill to work all over the United States, including a career with the Marriott Corporation. Through his keen eye for potential in real estate, his ability to craft economic development packages that would benefit communities and investors, and his insistence on honest and fair dealings, he built a reputation that made Bill sought after by businesses and municipalities alike.

Bill cemented his professional legacy as a civic leader in Bedford, TX, where he served as President of the Hurst-Euless-Bedford (HEB) Chamber of Commerce and spent more than a decade focused on the economic development of the HEB community. Events like the Bedford Blues Festival and countless businesses and jobs in the HEB community owe their existence to Bill's unwavering commitment to creating opportunities for others to succeed and realize their dreams. In his honor and in recognition of his accomplishments, the HEB Chamber of Commerce annually awards the Bill Ridgway Spirit of Enterprise Award to individuals or entities who have been significantly involved in the economic development of the HEB community.

Bill is predeceased by his wife Marcy; sisters, Eileen Ridgway and Harriett Halpin; brother, Jack Ridgway; and step-son, Keith Belden (d.2017). He is survived by his sister, Philomena O'Connell; children, Michelle and Michael Moritz, Jim Belden, Gerri Ann and Hector Vasquez, John William and Debbie Ridgway, Jackie Ridgway and Celeste Methot, John Michael Ridgway and Marcie and Will Kinzel; grandchildren, Devin, Ryan, Andrew, Laura, Joey, Jessie, Whitney, Rene, Robert, Michael, Christopher, Rylee, Keith, Katie, Marcella, Madeleine, William, and JR; great-grandchildren Alexis, Cameron, and Jackson; and countless cousins, nieces and nephews spread across the United States and Ireland.

Bill will lie in state Tuesday, August 20, from 2 until 4 p.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, KS 66614.

Visitation and funeral Mass will take place in Bill's hometown, Coffeyville, Kansas. Due to construction in Holy Name Catholic Church, the rosary will be prayed at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 21, at Holy Name Catholic School Gymnasium, next door to the church, with visitation to follow until 8 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Thursday, August 22, in the gym. Committal service will follow in Calvary Cemetery, Coffeyville, KS.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network or to Holy Name Church, Coffeyville, sent in care of the funeral home.

Cemetery

Events

Calvary Cemetery

Coffeyville, KS,

AUG **Lying in State** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

20

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, KS, US, 66614

AUG **Rosary and Visitation** 06:30PM - 08:00PM

21

Holy Name Grade School Gymnasium
406 N Willow St., Coffeyville, KS, US, 67337

AUG **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM

22

Holy Name Grade School Gymnasium
406 N Willow St., Coffeyville, KS, US, 67337

Comments



“ Bill was one of the kindest gentleman I have every met. He was supportive to my son and I when we were caring for Keith during his illness. I was crushed when Bill called me to tell me about his health. I was honored to call him friend, RIP.

Joni Hagler - November 04, 2019 at 08:04 PM



“ Mr. Ridgeway was always a smiling face and help for the HEB family. He will be missed.

Kim and David Kamin retired from Trinity High School



Kim Ann Kamin - August 26, 2019 at 05:24 PM



“ May God Bless GREAT Uncle Bill and everyone, as we will miss him and feel the void in his passing because we were so fortunate to be blessed by his great inspirational example of warmth, kindness, genuine care and encouraging supportive love. We love and appreciate you, GREAT Uncle Bill, and we will carry in our hearts fond memories of you and your GREAT examples that you shared with us and showed us. May God and the angels keep you, Great Uncle Bill. And, thank you for your wonderful smile and examples of kind supportive warmth care encouragement and love.

As my dad says, "Uncle Bill, one of my heros."



Uriah Halpin - August 24, 2019 at 10:21 AM



“ Bill was a great gentleman and kind shepherd of the economic development world. He certainly left a kind and wonderful mark on the development of H-E-B as well as Texas.
We remember him fondly. He was a great leader.
Pam Mundo, Mundo and Associates, Inc. Rockwall Texas

Pamela Mundo - August 23, 2019 at 05:30 PM



“ Jackie and Family,

You all are in my thoughts and prayers.

Freda Goodman

Freda Goodman - August 21, 2019 at 02:59 PM



“ To all of the family. We are saddened by the passing of Bill to his heavenly home. We so loved both Bill and your mother. They were such wonderful neighbors, friends and even co-workers for so many years. Miss them both. Jerry and Sheila

Sheila Eckart - August 21, 2019 at 01:57 PM



“ Bill will be missed by everyone who new him. He was such a great personality and made everyone around him feel special. A huge loss to his HEB friends. Prayers for his family.

Bobby Baker - August 21, 2019 at 12:25 PM



“ Jackie, I am sorry to hear about your Father's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Beverly W.

Beverly W - August 21, 2019 at 09:20 AM



“ Jackie & Family,

I am so sorry to hear of your Father's Passing. You and your Family are in my Prayers

Pat Winter

Pat Winter - August 20, 2019 at 01:41 PM



“ Bill was a great and kind man. What an honor to have known him.

Gary Fickes - August 19, 2019 at 05:33 PM



“ Jackie, I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you and your family!

Beth Heathcock - August 19, 2019 at 02:13 PM



“ A beautiful obituary and tribute to a wonderful man. I adored Bill Ridgway and will remember him fondly as a friend, mentor and leader. I have wonderful memories working under him at the HEB Chamber and know that he will be missed greatly by all of us who's lives he touched and made better. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

MARJORIE BAKER VANESKAHIAN BURR - August 19, 2019 at 12:35 PM



“ Jackie.....So sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Lynn Bowen - August 19, 2019 at 12:15 PM



“ Jackie, I am so sorry for your loss. I am praying for you and your family.

Pam Shelton - August 19, 2019 at 12:10 PM



“ Bill was a caring gentleman who supported me when I quit teaching. His encouragement and supportive listening were important to starting my business in 1999. I'll miss our breakfasts! May his family be surrounded with the love from all of Bill's many friends.

Paulette Wagner - August 19, 2019 at 11:58 AM



“ God will have special Greetings for Bill.

David Allen - August 19, 2019 at 11:02 AM



“ Tammy Renteria lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Ridgway



Tammy Renteria - August 19, 2019 at 10:59 AM



“ Bill was one of the finest gentlemen I ever knew. Always smiling; always friendly; always concerned for mine, and others, well being. Praise God there is no more suffering. R.I.P. Mr. Ridgeway.

Doug Burkham - August 19, 2019 at 10:58 AM



“ I was Bill's counterpart in Hurst for 13 years and enjoyed him so very much. He helped me many times with tips, introductions, advice and more. What a wonderful human being. So approachable, so helpful. May he rest in peace.
Mike Morgan, Hurst, Tx

Mike Morgan - August 19, 2019 at 08:31 AM



“ I was not fortunate to know Bill for long. But am very glad I met him and got to know him in 2017. He was loved by his family and was a caring man. Prayers for the family comfort during this time. I love you guys. Christy.

Christy Hord - August 18, 2019 at 11:45 PM



“ Sandi McGarry lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Ridgway



Sandi McGarry - August 18, 2019 at 09:54 AM



“ Bill was THE nicest man I have ever met. He never forgot a birthday, and even after he retired, still called to wish me happy birthday every year. He always made everyone feel so special, and he succeeded.
Bill will be missed by so many, and was greatly loved.
May he Rest In Peace with Marcie now.
See you on the other side, Bill!

Sandi McGarry - August 18, 2019 at 09:53 AM



“ I am sorry to hear about Bill.

I worked with him in Euleless.

He was always neat to see, and glad he came around, after working for Euleless. He did make you feel welcomed!!

Thank you Bill

Charles Anderson

charles anderson - August 17, 2019 at 09:22 PM



“ Bill Ridgway will be greatly missed in the HEB community. I remember well when he told me my business was getting in the way of my duties to the HEB chamber of commerce which has a dear place in my heart since it's where I met my now husband in 1990.

Karen Brookman - August 17, 2019 at 07:50 PM