



## C. William "Bill" Britt

August 7, 1933 - December 5, 2020

GREENSBORO: C. William "Bill" Britt passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 5, 2020 after a brave battle with pulmonary fibrosis. Bill was known for being an incredibly loving husband, father, and grandfather, for his loyal lifetime friendships, for his devotion to his extended family, his passion for sports, and for being an avid golfer. He was also known as being tough but fair, generous to those in need, and gentle yet uncompromising in his advocacies for what was just and ethical. He loved not only his family, but his career and life and exemplified success through hard work and finding contentment in all that life offered.

Bill was well-known throughout the Greensboro Community due to his years of service at the City Parks & Recreation Department, as an active member of both Greensboro Kiwanis and Christ United Methodist Church, as Board member of the Greensboro Municipal Credit Union, and as a coach and mentor for multiple generations of local baseball teams.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Lee Brinkley Britt; daughters Courtney Britt Wolfrom and Jennifer "Jenny" Britt Caviness; son-in-law Norman Wolfrom; and grandchildren Elizabeth Wolfrom, Jack Caviness and Caroline Caviness. He was preceded in death by his son-in-law Captain William "Will" Caviness; his parents Harvey and Lois Britt; his brothers Jack and Gene Britt; and his parents-in-law Thurman and Ellen Brinkley.

Also surviving are his sister-in-law LeMerle Brinkley; brothers-in-law Glenn (Donna) and Leslie (Patricia) Brinkley; nephews Jeffrey Britt, Nick (Laura), Bryan (Beth), and Nathan Brinkley; nieces Lisa (Justin) Webb and Lynn Brinkley; and many grand-nephews and grand-nieces.

Bill was dedicated to a life of service, and applied that philosophy across all the endeavors he embraced throughout his lifetime. After graduating from Roxboro High School, he enlisted in the US Army, completing basic training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, SC and at Fort Gordon, GA, became a Signal Corp radio operator. In 1953 he was assigned to the 23rd Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Division in Korea for 18 months. As a Private First Class, he was awarded with the National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, and Good Conduct Medal.

On return to the states, Bill enrolled at NC State University using the GI Bill, where he

turned his passion for sports into a successful career path. In 1959, he moved to Greensboro to work for the Parks & Recreation Department, where he spent 33 years - much of it as the City Athletic Director, where he pioneered the development and growth of a multitude of youth and adult sports programs as well as regional parks. He then served as Assistant Director for the Department until his retirement in 1992, at which time two baseball fields at Latham Park were named in his honor.

Bill also served with PONY (Protect Our Nation's Youth) Baseball and Softball for over four decades, eventually serving as Vice President and Chairman of the International Board of Directors. Through PONY, Bill made friends across the globe and he and Lee traveled extensively, encouraging young people to get involved in baseball and softball. Born of humble beginnings, one of his biggest passions was helping children find their potential through sports, as he had. His perseverance in making sure all youth, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or status, had an opportunity to participate in a variety of athletics still touches the Greensboro community today.

He received over two dozen accolades and awards throughout his career including: NC Jaycees Physical Fitness Leadership Award for establishing and overseeing sports programs in Greensboro (1968); Greensboro Youth Coaches Assoc. Award for devoted service (1972); Greensboro Tennis Assoc. Recognition of Excellence Award for leadership in expanding tennis programs/tournaments (1977); NC Recreation & Park Society Meritorious Service Award in recognition of community contributions in distinguished leadership (1988); City of Greensboro Service Award for dedication to Parks & Recreation (1993); NC State Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Management Partner Award for support to the University Dept. Program (1998); NC State University Parks Recreation & Tourism Management Outstanding Alumnus Award in recognition of leadership, contributions, accomplishments and service to the profession (2002); PONY Special Appreciation for Years of Service and Dedication to Youth of America (2004).

Due to the current state of COVID restrictions, a service celebrating his life may be planned for the future. Thank you to Forbis & Dick Funeral Service and Christ United Methodist Church for assisting the family with arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to Greensboro Beautiful, Inc., 2800 E. Gate City Boulevard, Greensboro NC 27401 or to Christ United Methodist Church, 410 Holden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410.

Forbis and Dick, N. Elm Chapel is serving the Britt family. Online condolences may be offered at [www.forbisanddick.com](http://www.forbisanddick.com).

# Comments

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“ Bill was one of my tablemates at our weekly Greensboro Kiwanis Club meeting. He would always ask how I was doing - and he was sincerely interested. We had many good conversations and I was always interested in his work over the years in the City. I've heard from so many people how Bill was instrumental in bringing our Parks and Recreation Department to national recognition. What a legacy he has left with our City!

I actually sat with him at lunch for several years before I realized that Jenny Caviness was his daughter! I've known her for several years through the Community Engagement Office with the Greensboro Police Department. What a lovely connection to make!

Bill was a delight and I will remember him fondly. My condolences and prayers of comfort go to the family.

**Marikay Abuzuaiter** - December 16, 2020 at 07:33 PM



“ Thank you for your beautiful words.

**Lee Britt** - December 30, 2020 at 10:05 AM

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“ What a wonderful man, person, neighbor & friend! He did so many wonderful things throughout his life that made such an indelible mark on so many people and our community. He will be sorely missed, but lovingly treasured and remembered. Our love & condolences to Lee and the family and all his friends. Tony & AI

**Tony G LeTrent-Jones** - December 11, 2020 at 02:37 PM



“ Tony, thank you for your kind words.

**Lee Britt** - December 30, 2020 at 10:06 AM

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“ One of the hardest things in life as you get older is to lose those who have meant the most to you. Bill was a mentor and even more so he was a life long friend to both me and my husband. I worked for Bill beginning in 1974. My husband coached under his direction even earlier. We watched him build some of the finest athletic facilities in the south. For many years we met for lunch until COVID reared it's ugly head. He and Lee raised two beautiful girls and were wonderful grandparents to their three grandchildren. He will truly be missed by many.

Our love to Lee, Courtney and Jenny.

Jan and Bernie Meyers

**Jan Meyers** - December 10, 2020 at 12:03 PM



“ From Court: Love to you and Bernie both!!! xoxo

**Courtney Britt Wolfrom** - December 10, 2020 at 09:58 PM

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“ To the family, I pray for God to ease your sorrow and allow you the ability to remember Bill as the great man that always had a moment to share a smile, a laugh and a story that meant something to both him and you. Bill was the type of boss everyone wanted. He would fight with you, for you and along side you for all the important issues. Bill spoke his mind and fought for all to have the ability to enjoy sports, parks and all other Parks and Recreation venues. Bill was instrumental in guiding the Regional Parks and the entire department into becoming a nationally recognized organization. Bill and his love for the profession and the citizens of Greensboro will be missed.

Steve Branson  
Greensboro Parks and Recreation, Retired

**Steve Branson** - December 09, 2020 at 10:01 PM



“ Steve, thank you for your heartfelt thoughts. Very meaningful.  
Lee Britt

**Lee Britt** - December 10, 2020 at 06:41 AM



“ To Lee and the Britt family:  
We always looked forward to attending GB events and seeing Bill with his smile. He was a real gem for this community. I'm glad he came to a community that really appreciates him for his work.

Elaine and Nelson Stover

**Elaine Stover** - December 10, 2020 at 11:25 AM



“ Thank you very much  
Lee

**Lee Britt** - December 13, 2020 at 07:07 PM

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“ Bill, was a true hero to me in growing up in Greensboro. My brothers and I played baseball for him and Dallas and Me even refereed games for him! My thoughts and prayers are with is family RIP BILL!!  
Wade Peoples

**wade peoples** - December 09, 2020 at 03:55 PM



“ Thank you so much, Wade. I remember.  
Lee Britt

**Lee Britt** - December 09, 2020 at 09:05 PM



“ Great memories of Bill. In the mid 70's while in my late teens I worked for Robert Black for three summers in the P&R office of the Melvin Bldg. Bill's cubicle was next to Robert's and I had a front row seat for daily discussions between these two strong willed but good natured individuals. The highlight of my day was taking the walk to Randy's Sandwich Shop on Elm Street where the legends of Greensboro's youth baseball programs gathered for lunch to relive their glory days as coaches and administrators and discuss the news of the day. Present were Bill White, Walter Barton, Sam Alvis, Matt Lojko, Dickie Whitt, Richard Thompson, Charlie Welborne, George Warner, Morty Morgenstern and others. It was from these discussions that my passion for coaching baseball was born and Bill had a significant role in that. Very grateful for his impact on my life.

**Gary Flynn** - December 11, 2020 at 06:54 AM



“ thank you so much.  
Lee Britt

**Lee Britt** - December 13, 2020 at 07:08 PM