



William "Bill" Boyce Sykes Sr.

June 13, 1934 - May 8, 2021

William B. "Bill" Sykes Sr. passed away peacefully on May 8, 2021 at Beacon Place Hospice in Greensboro.

Born June 13, 1934 in Leaksville NC to Dewey Martin Sykes & Jennie Elizabeth Eggleston, he grew up on Moir Street in the home of his grandparents, Lennie and Smyth Eggleston, a blacksmith.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 1:00pm at First Baptist Church, 1000 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro.

Bill graduated from Leaksville High School in 1952. From 1954 to 1957 he served in the US Navy as an electrician on the USS Steuben County. During his tour of the Pacific, he visited the set of South Pacific and was excited to meet the actress Mitzi Gaynor. After his service, he went on to work at Western Electric in Greensboro.

Bill owned & operated White House Janitorial Co. for more than 40 years, and in his free time he enjoyed volunteering with Guilford County Schools.

Those left to cherish his memory include his two children Beth (Ben) Shaffer and Will Sykes; five grandchildren KatyBeth, Jeremy (Ashton), Jared (Sarah), Holland, and Smyth; two great-grandchildren Easton and Taliesin; sister-in-law Jane Sykes, nephews Martin and David Sykes; and cousins John Ran Smith and Johnny Eggleston.

Bill loved to drink, smoke, and entertain, fish with his buddies, and dove hunt with his nephews. He loved poetry and opera. He was a boy scout leader for a time. While visiting his brother Lantz at Lees McRae College, he learned to fly fish at the duckpond with Mr. Kubota. While in the Navy, he visited with the Kubota Family at their ancestral home in Japan.

He had his run-ins with wild animals. In high school he stopped on the way to a dance to catch a possum thinking it would be fun to let it loose at the dance. The possum ate one of his shoes. Once he brought a goat (in his old Cadillac) to the First Baptist Youth Car Wash and it managed to get loose in the parking lot on Friendly Ave (luckily it was caught).

Another time, he came over to Beth and Ben's house at 4am to rescue three small raccoons from the screened-in back porch.

Bill enjoyed tinkering in the workshop. He liked to build cannons that shot golf balls & potatoes. He was a brilliant man who could build anything he set his mind to do. He

became interested in helping a friend who suffered from Peripheral Neuropathy and created a device to help people with the condition sense their steps. He was a teller of jokes - good & bad. He enjoyed woodworking and shared his love of nature with his children. He always told you he loved you at the end of a phone call or visit.

Thank you to AuthoraCare (Hospice) Julie, LaShanda, Monica & Pastor Willa; Doctors Making House Calls: Dr. Henry Tripp; and Carriage House Assisted Living: Alma, Tressa, Angela, Gwenn & Magnolia for their compassion and excellent care.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials can be made in Bill's name to, ASPCA P.O. Box 96929 Washington DC 20090-6929

Audubon 227 Verrick St 7th Floor Attn: Tribute Gift New York NY 10014, Authoracare (Hospice) 2500 Summit Ave Greensboro NC 27405, St Jude's 501 P.O. Box 1000 Dept 142 Memphis TN 38148-0142.

Events

AUG **Memorial Service** 01:00PM

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First Baptist Church
1000 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC, US, 27401

Comments



“ Donne Stowe lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Boyce Sykes Sr.



Donne Stowe - May 16 at 11:20 AM



“ Bill was like a second Dad to the Miller boys across the street in Windmere Park. From learning to play pool or watching the poker games in his basement, to staying as far away as possible from his big yellow tabby cat, I always enjoyed when my Dad would let me go with him to the Sykes'. He was a good friend to all, and will be missed. - Thumper

Frank Miller Jr - May 13 at 05:27 AM



“ Although we only had the opportunity of knowing Bill for two short years, he had a way of making you feel as if you had been friends for a lifetime. The stories this man could tell! Bill will truly be missed.

Tressa Hogan - May 11 at 01:16 PM