



COL William "Bill" M. Ford

March 29, 1953 - February 1, 2022

COL (Retired) William "Bill" M. Ford, age 68, of Alexandria, VA, went home to be with the Lord on 1 February 2022. Bill is survived by his loving wife, RosaLee, his children Kim Kopeski, Jessica Friedman (Jeff), Anna Wedel (Jason), Matthew Ford (Carolyn), and dog, Finley. Also known as "Poppy," he thoroughly enjoyed spending time with his seven grandchildren: Gavin Ford, Madelyn and Sophia Wedel, and Ford, William, Michael, and Olivia Friedman.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, on 29 March 1953, Bill grew up in both Pennsylvania and Alabama. In 1975, he graduated from Jacksonville State University with a BS in Accounting and Economics and entered into the U.S. Army that same year. In 1984, Bill graduated with an MBA from Syracuse University, and an MS in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1997.

A patriot through and through, Bill dedicated his life to selflessly serving his country as a Finance Officer in both the U.S. Army active duty (30 years) and U.S. Army civilian service (12 years). His tours included Germany, Hawaii, Iraq, Kosovo, Italy, and his homeland. Bill's honors and awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Superior Civilian Service Medal, among many others. Bill was a leader, mentor, and friend who cared greatly for his soldiers, employees, and coworkers throughout the entirety of his career. Bill finally retired from service in December 2019.

When he wasn't in the office counting pennies for the Army, Bill enjoyed counting the pennies in his own coin collection. He enjoyed taking cruises with RosaLee, spending time laughing with his children and grandchildren, going to the beach with family and good friends, traveling through Europe with his family and dear friend, Art Kron, and sipping his way along the Bourbon Trail with his good friend, Dave Reed. He was a humble man who unconditionally loved and took great care of his family and friends. Bill and his jokes are already dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. His soul now rests with God as he rejoices in life eternal.

Bill's memorial service will be held on be Friday, June 3rd at 11:00AM at the Old Post Chapel at Arlington National Cemetery with a graveside service to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of COL William "Bill" M. Ford can be made to the Schar Cancer Institute at the following link: <https://support.inova.org/page/3749/donate/1>

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Drive
Arlington, VA 22211

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 3. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Fort Myer Old Post Chapel
204 Lee Ave
Fort Myer, VA 22211

Graveside Service

JUN 3. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Arlington National Cemetery
1 Memorial Drive
Arlington, VA 22211

Tribute Wall

MM

“ I did not have the pleasure of knowing Bill until he was a civilian at OACSIM, but his professionalism, dedication, and leadership abilities were as good as any senior officer I have ever known. Bill was the kind of leader that by his mere presence motivated you to do your best. He was always there with an answer, he was never too busy to listen and mentor, and he earned the respect of everyone who knew him. During my time in OACSIM working with Bill, he was at the forefront supporting my family as I suffered through a serious illness, and for that I will be forever grateful. I would not be where I am today personally and professionally without Bill Ford.

Rest in Peace, good friend. You will always remain in our hearts and prayers.

Michael R. Mai

Michael Mai - May 18 at 12:49 PM

KO

“ This loss ripples through our community in a profound way. Bill made an indelible mark on nearly everyone who knew him. A phenomenal leader, mentor and teammate, he set the standard in selfless service. I had the privilege of serving with him in ACSIM (G9) Resource Directorate and witnessed daily his dedication to the mission and his incredibly positive impact on not only our team, but all those who interacted with our organization. We were all grateful to work with Mr. Bill Ford.

Bill will always hold a special place in our heart and my prayers go to his family, friends and our G9 family.

*Godspeed,
Kimberly O'Keefe*

Kimberly O'Keefe - February 22 at 03:47 PM



“ I had the good fortune of knowing Bill, and calling him my friend, for nearly 40 years. The Army assigned us to the same Post, Camp or Station six times in our overlapping careers. Bill always had a way of bringing out the best in people, because he saw the best in people. When faced with adversity in life he overcame it with humility, with kindness and with respect. His empathy for others was real. Whether you were three or eighty-three, or anywhere in between, he always had a kind word and a helping hand. Prompt and courteous to a fault, if he was ever late to an after work happy hour or event I knew it was because he had met someone in the hall on the way out of the Pentagon who wanted to chat or needed help. He took real joy from helping others, made the world a better place and set an example for us all!

Rest In Peace my friend. Art Kron

Arthur Kron - February 19 at 10:27 AM

KI

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Kim - February 16 at 10:17 AM

KI

I so love this photo.

Kim - February 16 at 10:19 AM

JD

“ We were so saddened by the news that our Army buddy Bill has passed on to be with our Lord, but we are relieved to know that he no longer suffers from his illness. Mary jo and I have nothing but fond memories of Bill and Rosa sharing meals, numerous parco gatherings in Naples, and playing the "mother of all" canasta games to determine who would pay the bill for a night out on the town in Naples. From the first meeting with Bill and throughout our time with he and Rosa in Italy, Bill was always a fun person to spend time with. I remember how Bill was always thankful for his family, friends and work. All you had to do was ask him about that big smile on his face and he would tell you about something related to the family, friends or work that made him happy. I think it was a permanent part of his wonderful disposition. A true patriot, Bill served 30 years in the US Army making many sacrifices for his country to ensure the freedom for his family and to protect the American way of life. Bill had such a quiet yet profound impact on so many people in his life that he will surely be missed. Rest In Peace my comrade in arms, your country is eternally grateful for your service and sacrifice.
John and Mary Jo Davee

John and Mary jo Davee - February 15 at 10:16 PM

AW

“ Like so many of us here in the Army's DCS, G-9 (formerly the OACSIM), I have so many fond memories and interchanges with this man - Bill. Always took the time to say hello, to assist in answering a question, or to offer a reassuring and gentle smile of support. He was typically the first person in every morning, and I was typically the last, and we always joked about how the Army civilian corps was making its money on our unorthodox and typically long hours of work. But Bill was not a work-a-holic, but rather someone who was passionate about his career field and our Army. He so loved his family, and he always had a gracious smile on his face when speaking of them. We were neighbors as well as colleagues, and not having here amongst us leaves a hole in my heart - but I know that he is in a better place, and is pain-free. Love you, Bill - thanks for your friendship. Andrew White



Andrew White - February 11 at 04:27 PM

JK

“ Rest In Peace, Bill. John and I have such fond memories of you while all of us were living in Parco Troncone! We will never forget "Attensione Billy!" You will be missed.

Jeanette and John King - February 10 at 07:23 PM

DR

“ There are so many memories in our 25 year friendship that I will cherish forever. Two of the most memorable will be the many coin shows we attended in Baltimore and the two trips to Kentucky visiting and tasting different bourbons. A true friend and fellow patriot who would give you the shirt off his back! I am humbled and proud to have called you my friend. RIP

David Reed - February 09 at 09:23 PM

SW

“ Oh, how much Bill will be missed! Such a great gentleman and leader. He always went the extra mile to make sure we were on track to solve what often were difficult and ill-structured problems. What ever it took, Bill helped you get there. He always had a kind word, never openly displayed anger (though he had a few choice words in private!!!), and always worked to keep the team moving forward in a common direction. So many memories of my own years working with Bill.

Till we meet again, my friend, and together have a toast on Fiddler's Green!

V/R,
Shawn Welch

Shawn Welch - February 09 at 07:15 PM

GC

“ Bill Ford was a great friend, mentor and teammate...the ultimate professional who was committed to our Army and our Nation. He was usually the first and last person I saw and spoke to during my many years in OACSIM/DCS G-9...and I have never known a nicer, kinder and more selfless person. Always had a smile and a kind word for everyone. Keeping Bill's family and friends in my thoughts and prayers.

Gray Cockerham - February 09 at 03:19 PM

FY

“ Rest in Loving Peace
Bill's touch of goodness on me and many others will last beyond this life time.
Fred Douglas Young (Doug)

Fred "Doug" Young - February 09 at 02:49 PM

BS

“ *Brenda Shepherd lit a candle in memory of COL William "Bill" M. Ford*



Brenda Shepherd - February 09 at 12:35 PM

BS

“ *Not seeing you in the hallways early in the morning will not be the same. Met you in the front off in 2003 when I came to work for MG Lust. You always lite up the room when you came in. Rest in Peace and brighten up heaven! Our paths will cross again. Miss you.*

Brenda Shepherd

Brenda Shepherd - February 09 at 12:35 PM

JG

“ *"Kind, good, generous and humble" come to mind when I think of Bill. Simple words with so much impact. Rest with God Bill!*

JP Gardner - February 09 at 11:46 AM

AN

“ *I will never forget Bill's 'can-do' positive attitude and willingness to provide help whenever asked. I remember going to him many times for data, analysis, suggestions, and advice at work, and he always came through with flying colors. He embodied the Army Values with every fiber of his being. Many of us at the Pentagon miss him.*

Andy Napoli - February 09 at 10:22 AM



“ *Fun, kind, generous, humble, and loyal . . . everything you appreciate in a friend. Love you brother!*

Dwayne Hood - February 09 at 09:15 AM



“ *RIP my Friend.....gatherings with the OACSIM Sourdoughs! We will miss you, always a brother!*

David Hall - February 09 at 08:36 AM

GO

“ Bill was very proud of his Army career as he should have been. Among many significant positions, He commanded in the historic 82nd Airborne including parachute jumps in Normandy memorial celebrations, had a tour in Iraq, and spent many leadership years in the arduous budget business in the Pentagon in direct support of service men and women in CONUS and abroad supporting the many U.S. national defense missions. He will be missed by so many!

Love Grace and Rich O'Donnell

Grace and Rich O'Donnell - February 08 at 11:36 AM