



## William "Bill" Pickett Hamlin

July 13, 1946 - January 30, 2015

William "Bill" Pickett Hamlin, Jr. passed away January 30 at the age of 68. Bill was born and raised in High Point, North Carolina, to Pick and Grace "Honey" Hamlin before leaving to serve his country in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War.

After four years in the Navy, Bill joined the United States Coast Guard, serving on the US Coast Guard Cutter Northwind. Bill traveled the globe on the icebreaker, exploring the world's oceans, touching both the north and south poles, and leaving his mark upon all who met him.

Following his service in the USCG, Bill settled in Northern Virginia and followed his other great passion for trains, joining Amtrak in 1984, seeing much of the United States by rail and working in Historic Union Station before retiring this year.

Hide message history

Bill loved the artistry and challenge of his model trains, the beauty of vintage cars, playing his ukulele into the wee hours of the night with friends, and spinning yarns that had no end. He cut paths through the polar ice caps and slid down glaciers. He traveled Australia by helicopter and chased penguins in Antarctica. He was a sailor, Coastie, railroad man, pilot, photographer, adventurer and explorer. He was the gentlest soul you could ever hope to

encounter.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Tim and Mike Hamlin. He is survived by a circle of family and friends too numerous to mention individually but whom will treasure his time in their lives forever.

Memorial Service will be held at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22315 on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 1 p.m.

# Tribute Wall



“ *William "Bill" Pickett Hamlin*

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October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *0 file added to the tribute wall*

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**Jefferson Funeral Chapel** - January 28, 2019 at 09:24 AM



“ *I will always remember the little kindnesses that were so commonplace from him. If you knew him, you have a story of how he did something to make your day or your life just a little bit better. You were one a kind, Bill.*

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February 06, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *What a gem of a man!!!! The first time meeting Bill was not even in person but over the phone. I was going for his old position and looked him up in Outlook and decided to call. I needed to get a feel of the position and the people I hoped to be working with. Well .....Bill picks up and I ask a few basic questions and I - tell - you.... after speaking to him for 45 minutes (he was never in a rush - lol) - he gave me the confidence I needed to go into my interview with strength and courage. Needless to say, I got the position but I knew before I got the position, it was where I wanted to be - around people like him - warm, caring, a team player and that's what he was for the entire six years I had the pleasure of knowing him. We were more than co-workers, we were family. Bill and I had a special bond. He taught me the true meaning and honor of being 'supportive' to a cause. Being a leader is hard, but the support works harder and Bill and I - we did the dam thang! I will miss him intensely.*

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February 05, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *I had the honor and pleasure of working with Bill for many years. He was all the things you wanted in a friend and co-worker: smart, considerate, kind and most of all he had a wonderful sense of humor. I will always remember how loyal and dedicated he was to Amtrak and to the Public Health group, but most specifically to his friend/boss Vic. Bill was always first in the office every morning, and made certain to have the coffee ready and waiting for when others would arrive -- he was just thoughtful that way. I will miss my friend, but I am most thankful that I was lucky enough to know him.*

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February 05, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Bill Hamlin. My best friend. Life won't be the same without him, but life is better through knowing him.* ”

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February 05, 2015 at 12:00 AM