



William Charles Mould

May 10, 1943 - November 12, 2025

William Charles Mould (Bill) of Alexandria, VA, passed away Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at his home, in the care and company of his family. Bill is survived by his three daughters, Catherine Dillingham (Don), Helen Jenkins (Brent), and Mary Larkin; his cherished sister, Nancy Hager; his nine grandchildren, William Dillingham (Christina), Brynne Gleeson (Trevor), Adam Dillingham, Ethan Dillingham, Sarah Larkin, Aidan Larkin, Katherine Larkin, Elijah Koliner, Clara Koliner; and his great-granddaughter, Emerson Gleeson. Bill was predeceased by his beloved wife of 57 years, Joan Mould; his father, Ward Mould; and his mother, Dorothy Mould. Also dear to him were his niece and nephews, his late wife's family, those within his cycling community, and his close friends from many years of military service.

Bill was born on May 10, 1943, in Washington, DC, and raised in Garden City, New York. He earned an undergraduate degree in Economics at Penn State University (where he became a lifelong Nittany Lions fan) and earned his Master's Degree in Organic Chemistry at Yale University (where his first two daughters were born). He launched his career in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War, retiring as a Colonel after 36 years of service from his final post at The Pentagon. Unwilling to rest upon retirement, and with great love of the bicycling community in and around DC, he launched a new career as a master wheel builder-engineer, ultimately building a world-wide following.

Bill had many great loves and interests: classical music, teaching, everything-bicycling, everything-science, constitutional law, and all matters related to human rights and dignity. His interests revolved around shared interests and service, and he preferred to be in the company of others. He will be deeply missed by the many he touched as a result.

Bill's life was defined by purpose, honesty, unwavering integrity, a never-ending quest for knowledge, and responsibility to others. He cared little for pretense and was wholly disinterested in the intrinsic value of material things, an outlook sometimes protested as keepsakes were rescued from the garbage. He took fashion advice from no one and insisted upon his familiar uniform of black jeans and bike wheel t-shirts until his final moments. The sole prerequisite to his friendship and respect was human goodness. He had little patience for those who would attempt to impose any other standard. These views are held in high esteem by his grandchildren, who will ensure that his legacy of goodness is carried forward.

A graveside service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA 22211, at a date and time to be later determined. Memorial contributions can be made in his name to the charity closest to his heart: St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Drive
Arlington, VA 22211

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

RB

“ We were saddened to hear of Bill's passing. We met him at the now Trek bike shop as he fitted a new wheel to my beloved old road bike. My wife Rebecca and I chatted with Bill about nuclear power, bicycles, and life in the area. Reading more upon his passing, our take on his goodness is confirmed.

Roel Brusselmans - December 10, 2025 at 06:02 PM

SB

“ Bill, you were a friend from the minute I met you. Your support and technical presentations during our ASTM and ISO meetings meant a lot to many people. The times you came to Trek's HQ and spoke on rim design and how it translated into wheel building had impact on us. You always had a warm smile and such a great disposition with every encounter. I will miss you and miss your calls/texts about how things were going. I am grateful in the lifetime for having met you. Godspeed Bill.

Stefan Berggren - November 24, 2025 at 04:05 PM

SD

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Bill's death. Bill gave a very interesting and informative presentation ("The Science of Wheelbuilding") at a bicycle trade show ("CABDA Mid-West") in 2017. Afterwards I introduced myself to him as another former chemist, and this led to a series of emails and phone calls about wheels. I met him again in 2019 at the same show.

He was a true scholar among bicycle mechanics, and unfailingly generous with his time and knowledge. His influence on the bicycling community, among his numerous other circles, will be long remembered.

I extend my sincere condolences to his daughters and the rest of his family.

Steve Weeks, DDS - November 16, 2025 at 06:01 PM

SW

“ I first met Bill when I took an out-of-true wheel to Spokes Etc. He fixed it for me with little fuss, all the while keeping up a steady stream of conversation that conveyed his infectious enthusiasm for what he was doing. Now, when I ride one of my bikes, I'm either riding on wheels Bill built for me or on wheels I built myself from the knowledge I gained taking his course. I'm glad I bought his DVD (remember those? Fortunately I still have a player) because I'll always be able to listen to him and, I'm sure, to keep learning. Bill was in a class by himself and the cycling community – no, everyone who spent any time with him – will always remember him.

Steve Wartik - November 16, 2025 at 05:59 PM



“ November 15, 2025

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We are sorry to learn of the passing of Bill. He was a world-renowned master wheel builder for top cyclist of the UCI and for old wrestlers who got on a bike like me. Days before a Time Trial I discovered that I had wheels that need his attention. He had a waiting list but I brought him a pie and he let me jump the Queue! People would pay to learn the art from the expert on "Master Wheelbuilding". At one of his events I brought pie for his guest as a thank you for the many times he helped me over the years. Even during Covid he was at work. Sir you were a perfectionist with a big heart and you will be missed.

Shortly a tree will be planted in our family grove in Scotland in his honor and memory!

57,2033, -4.8333

*Click to follow link: Kimberly & Michael Copperthite | Trees for Life
Trees in this grove: 512 and 1 acre of sponsored protected land!*

In memory of family and friends a tree has been planted

In memory of those we care deeply about, a tree will be planted in our family grove located in the Caledonian Forest of Scotland, on the Dundreggan Estate. By visiting <https://treesforlife.org.uk> you will be able to find out more about the work to reforest one of the oldest wilderness sites on Earth!

Use this link <https://treesforlife.org.uk/groves/g5314/> to see exactly where your loved one's tree has been planted.

We are deeply sorry for your loss and our thoughts are with you and yours.

Michael, Kimberly, & Keely Copperthite



Michael Copperthite - November 16, 2025 at 01:45 PM

KZ

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Bill for about 10 years at the Spokes/Trek bike shop on Quaker Lane. I was a wheel builder when I began working with Bill. I thought I knew something about building bike wheels before working with Bill. But working with Bill was a totally new learning experience. It was as if I already had a degree in wheel building; regardless Bill gave me a masters degree in building. Bill was not one to keep the secrets of building bike wheels to himself. I truly believe that his mission in life was to teach everyone how to build bike wheels according to his methods. After my falling accident in 2022, and the downturn in the bike business that followed, I was no longer given the opportunity to work at the shop. Not only did I lose employment, but more importantly, I lost a work friend. I will always remember Bill as a tireless teacher, lifelong learner, dedicated worker, proud military veteran and retiree, and person of high integrity.*

*Kenneth Zabielski
773-772-7578
kpzabielski@gmail.com*

kenneth Zabielski - November 15, 2025 at 07:39 PM

BH

“ I remember my Sundays in Alexandria working alongside Bill. You couldn't walk past him without learning something. You couldn't ask a question he didn't have an answer to. And you couldn't leave that shop without feeling a little smarter, a little happier, and a little more appreciative when Bill was there.

He was a true beacon in the cycling community. His wheels were known worldwide, and they'll continue rolling for generations because of his unwavering commitment to quality.

Rest in peace, Bill. You earned it.

Benjamin Huck - November 15, 2025 at 09:14 AM

SK

“ Bill was a true professional and such a great guy. Just last year he built my replacement wheel after I cracked my rim and he spent over an hour with me talking about wheels, for the love of it. He opened slide presentations and dove into the nuances of every detail - his enthusiasm was contagious. He just loved what he did and wanted to pass that love and enthusiasm on. He cannot be replaced and will be sorely missed.

Steve Kremer - November 14, 2025 at 08:09 PM

 Erik
Dorwart

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Erik Dorwart - November 13, 2025 at 09:26 PM

DR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Don Wogaman, Col, USMC Ret - November 13, 2025 at 08:18 PM

DR

Bill was a great friend and leader. We shared many wonderful stories and great times building wheels together

Don Wogaman, Col, USMC Ret - November 13, 2025 at 08:18 PM

PC

“ *Bill was one of my favorite people in the world! We met over bicycles, shared our military service, talks about the Constitution and a variety of other topics. I took his class twice, mostly for his company. He was so kind to those of us who needed him to dumb down a concept, always encouraging! He and Joan came to my house during the pandemic so I could help them with Zoom and he could still present geeky wheel knowledge across the miles. He loved and spoke of his kids and grands often. I will miss you dear friend.*



Patricia Collins - November 13, 2025 at 08:08 PM



“ *I’m so sorry to hear this. Bill was a kind man and an exceptional teacher of his art. We worked at the same bike shop years apart but I followed him online and went to his talks at the Philly Bike Show. We also shared May 10th as our birthday. May his memory be for a blessing . 🙏*

David Finkelstein - November 13, 2025 at 07:59 PM