



## William L. Brobst

May 3, 1946 - March 17, 2019

Obituary of William L. “Bill” Brobst William L. “Bill” Brobst 72, of Odenton, Maryland passed away on March 17, 2019 after battling Parkinson’s Disease and related ailments for almost seven years. Born in Warren, Ohio in May 1946, Bill was the eldest son of two educators, the late William E. and Ruth (Hafely) Brobst. His two younger brothers were Jim and Doug. Family was important to Bill. He took the responsibility of being the “big brother” seriously and was always very patient and generous to his brothers and knew that setting a good example was of utmost importance. His love, respect and gratitude to his parents were strong and continued to be throughout his life. Growing up in the fifties was different than in the 21st century. Although Bill participated in organized baseball leagues in the area, most games of baseball, basketball or football were “pickups” with friends from school or the neighborhood. Whenever the latest genre of the Wham O “Pluto Platter”, later known as the Frisbee, came out, that was always a must have. He and his brothers, even as young adults, spent many hours tossing those back and forth in the back yard, after dark also when the glow-in-the-dark version became available. Although Bill would never admit to being an animal lover, he always was. Growing up, the family dog was Dolly, a sweet little mutt. Bill’s mom many times related the story of how once, in the middle of the night, Bill, who was probably about 8 years old, woke up and heard Dolly barking in the woods that was quite some distance from the house. He got up out of bed without anyone realizing it and went out in search of Dolly. Not sure of the rest

of the events that night but Dolly lived for many years after that so he must have brought her safely home. Bill was never one to shy away from hard work. In addition to the chores his dad always seemed to need done around the 2 acre property, he had a paper route for a number of years, worked at Warren's A&W stand, being a summer mailman, and last but not least, by living in the "Steel Valley" of course there were the summer jobs in the intensely hot, physically draining, local steel mills. In and outside of school Bill always enjoyed reading and that pastime led to his mastery of the English language and lifelong following of politics. He attended Howland High School, holding various class offices, culminating in being elected Student Senate President in his senior year. To see the campaign he ran to win that office you would have thought he was running for THE presidency. The story goes that he was able to sneak the popular song by The Crystals - Da Doo Ron Ron ("I met him on a Monday and my heart stood still --Da do ron-ron-ron, da do ron-ron --Somebody told me that his name was Bill...") onto the school's morning announcements much to the consternation of the school principal. After graduation from Howland High in 1964 it was off to the nation's capital in Washington D.C. where he could experience the governing of the country first hand and study at George Washington University, graduating with a degree in Political Science. Shortly after acquiring that degree Bill dipped his toe in the political waters by working on the campaign of a woman in Warren Ohio seeking a U.S. House seat. His first full time job was working at the Washington Bureau of the New York Times. Most of his work there involved in-office story research but he was able to get out of the office to witness such events as the Vietnam war protests that were so common in the city in the early 70's as well as the later trial of some of the Watergate defendants. His way with words led to his having several NYT stories published with his byline. That first job in Washington also led to Bill's love of the area, and with the exception of a few years spent in Atlanta and Austin, he spent his entire adult life living not far from the U.S. capital dome. In the mid 70's Bill joined Indiana U.S. Senator Birch Bayh's staff as Assistant Press Secretary. Senator Bayh

was a very high profile and well-respected leader in Washington at the time and ran for President in 1976. Bill was part of that campaign, unfortunately it was rather short lived and unsuccessful. It would be safe to say that Birch Bayh was probably the “employer” Bill looked up to the most and enjoyed working for the most in his career. Ironically, Birch Bayh passed away 3 days prior to Bill. Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately, Bill most likely was unaware of that event. After leaving Senator Bayh’s staff Bill became Director of Communications for Pennsylvania U.S. Representative Allen Ertel. Congressman Ertel’s district included Three Mile Island where the most serious nuclear accident in U.S. history occurred on March 28, 1979. That event was a challenge to congressman and his staff, certainly to the Director of Communications. After leaving “The Hill” in the early 80’s Bill went on to work in communications/public relations positions for various corporations, mostly high tech, including Comsat, GTE and Scientific Atlanta. In the final years of his career he worked as a public relations consultant on a contract basis. Bill married Linda Arnold in July 1981 and became an instant father to two children, Bill and Jen. The role of being a father is one that he both relished and by all appearances took more seriously than any other in his life. Though he was not a professional educator like his parents, he became an “amateur” one in his interactions with Bill and Jen. His love of travel and always looking for the next adventure were something that enriched the lives of both of them and Linda as well. Anyone who ever came in contact with Bill will remember it was his sense of humor and his laugh that set him apart from all others. Bill always enjoyed a good joke, humorous story and especially a good pun. One of Bill’s favorite things to do was travel. He traveled extensively through the United States and Canada and his work also took him abroad. Not only did he travel around the country with Linda, Bill and Jen but also with his mother-in-law, mother, brothers, sister-in-laws and nieces and nephews at one time or another. Many good times were had by all in their travels with Bill! Bill is survived by his wife Linda, son Bill (Leah) Arnold and

daughter Jennifer (Greg) Scott. Grandsons, Ryan Scott, Justin Scott and Jackson Arnold. Nieces and Nephews, Annie Brobst, Levi Brobst, Austin Brobst, Lindsey Metcalf and Michelle Skinner. He was predeceased by niece Amy Brobst. Memorial Contributions in Bill's honor may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation, ([www.parkinson.org](http://www.parkinson.org)) or Hospice of the Chesapeake ([www.hospicechesapeake.org](http://www.hospicechesapeake.org) )

# Tribute Wall

SE

“ *My journey with Parkinson’s disease has been challenging, and I have tried many approaches to support my body and mind. Adding Aknni PD 5 herbal support to my routine marked a positive turning point in how I felt day-to-day. Although it is not a cure, the herbs helped me feel more grounded and supported. I noticed reduced stiffness, improved comfort, and better emotional balance over time. The natural ingredients gave me confidence that I was nourishing my body gently and holistically. Healing, for me, has been a process —combining medical guidance, self-care, and natural support. These PD 5 herbs became a meaningful part of that process and helped improve my quality of life in ways I didn’t expect. (Visit [www.aknniherbscentre .com](http://www.aknniherbscentre.com))*

---

**Shamiuna Elias** - March 06 at 09:41 AM

FO

“ *William L. Brobst*

---

**Funeral Home Owner** - December 12, 2019 at 11:21 AM

BT

“ My best memory of Bill and our friendship occurred when we were seniors in high school. Bill invited Paul Meeker and me to accompany him on a trip to Naples, FL to spend several days with his uncle. Bill had a Chevy Corvair, which he dearly loved despite its rather poor reputation and sales that he drove to FL. It was an uneventful and enjoyable trip down and back, and Bill's uncle was a great host. One day his uncle took us fishing in the coastal mangrove sloughs near Naples where we caught several species of saltwater fish, and he fixed us a delicious fish dinner that evening. One of my best memories from the trip was our drive along FL's west coast, which at that time was still mostly natural habitat separated by small villages supported by commercial fishing and harvesting of native sponges. I am so glad I got to see coastal FL before nearly all of the natural habitat got destroyed by human development, and its associated congestion and pollution. In the early 60's Bill was a good friend. However, as happened to many, following high school our college educations and subsequent careers took us opposite directions, and we seldom got to see each other after that.

---

**Bill Taylor** - April 08, 2019 at 09:38 PM

“ WILLIAM L. BROBST 1946 – 2019 \r\r When I see a name and years as written, it’s easy to focus on the year of Bill’s birth, and the year of his death, but it is the dash between the years that represents the entire life of William Leander Brobst. \r\r Bill and I were in grade school together, but were in different classrooms until about the 7th grade. That’s about when we started hanging out together, along with a number of other guys. That was an awkward time for many of us. Trying to be “cool”, trying to fit in was tough for some, but Bill seemed to have an inherent sense of confidence that actually inspired and rubbed off on the rest of our small group. He always fit in and would become a class leader even in middle school. We were good friends after we became acquainted, playing baseball together in summer, and doing things together during the school year. We attended school dances together and other school-sponsored activities. Bill would actually dance with girls at the dances, while most of the rest of us cowered on the sidelines, too scared to actually ask a girl to dance. But, that was Bill. He was always a few years ahead of the rest of us in maturity and self-awareness. \r\r Bill was always a leader of our class. The rest of us guys could always go to Bill for advice on matters of a personal nature. In high school, Bill continued his leadership of our class. He was the Student Council President as a Senior, National Honor Society, Advanced Achievement Awards, and he was an officer of a number of other student organizations. \r\r When it was time for college, many of us fumbled around trying to decide where to go, and what to study. Not Bill. He had a firm plan. George Washington University in DC, and political science. I remember going to visit him while we were in college. He was always the gracious host, showing me around historical Washington DC. It was a fun weekend, and we saw many things that have stuck with me to this day. I remember being impressed about how adapted he had become to the fast pace of Washington. He obviously loved it there and it was the kind of stuff he enjoyed doing. During those times, one of Bill’s favorite pastimes was sports car road races. We travelled to many different road course tracks to watch the old Triumphs, BMW’s MG’s, and Austin Healeys roar around the track. We had wonderful times, and

*I now treasure those memories when we were mere kids in the big scheme of things. After starting our respective careers, we kept in touch as best we could, attending high school reunions, calling one another periodically, and Christmas cards. Bill and his new family (Linda, Jenny, and Billy) visited us in Pierre, SD soon after their marriage around 1981. Bill and Linda visited us again in 2009 when they were visiting brother Doug in Colorado, and Cindy and John stayed a week with Bill and Linda in the DC area many years before. That was one of the best weeks Cindy and I have ever spent together. Linda would drive us to a subway stop each morning on her way to work, then we would navigate around DC via the subway. Museums, Monuments, the White House, Congress, the Mall...what a fantastic week!! We have always been grateful for the hospitality extended to us during that visit. I will always remember the day Bill called to say he been diagnosed with Parkinson's. He seemed nervous and a little scared, understandably. I looked up Parkinson's Disease on the Mayo Clinic website and learned it was progressive, not curable, and debilitating in the late stages. Over the seven years of his struggle, we talked periodically, but I could sense that he was slipping away. He would put me on speaker phone and let Linda do most of the talking. When they moved to Odenton, he struggled to tell me where they were and their new address. Even though I was nervous about Bill's health, I was comforted by the fact that he had a wonderful caregiver in Linda and their daughter, Jen. Linda was always a blessing for Bill, but none more tha*

---

**John Koerner** - April 03, 2019 at 02:55 PM

LM

“ I will never forget my Uncle Bill’s laugh. It always brought a smile to my face and instantly cheered me up. As soon as I arrived for a visit, he would be standing there with the biggest smile, and say “Hi Linds” with the most enthusiasm. His smile was contagious. When I think of my Uncle Bill, I think of an extremely intelligent man... one who used to quiz me on history and geography during dinner, although I rarely knew the answers to his questions :-). I spent a lot of my childhood around Uncle Bill and I will never forget the trip we took to his mom’s house in North Carolina. I was young, but the trip was unforgettable, especially when he took us to sliding rock. I also remember visiting one of his office buildings and thought it was so amazing. I couldn’t wait until I was old enough to work in such a sophisticated building like he did. I was so impressed by his accomplishments and really looked up to him as a business man. The thing I loved the most about my Uncle Bill is the way he treated his wife, and my favorite Aunt, with so much respect. Although I am sad that he is no longer here to spend time with us, I am thankful for all of the good times we shared. Rest In Peace Uncle Bill. Love Always, “Linds”

---

**Lindsey Miranda Metcalf** - April 01, 2019 at 11:18 PM

SJ

“ As a close friend of Bill and his family, I have always found him to be warm and welcoming and a true gentleman in all areas of his life. He was a special man with a vast range of interests. He loved driving and visiting every historical and cultural site he could. He was so enthusiastic, you wished you could go on a road trip with him. He loved politics, the news media, attending an annual oyster feast in Maryland, his pet dogs, cats and parakeets, gardening, masterfully making homemade ice cream, reading and watching most sports on TV-especially baseball. He was a dedicated Democrat and, during Barack Obama's first inauguration, proudly volunteered to direct attendees along the parade route. Bill always held a deep reverence for all members of his family. He relished being with his two brothers, Doug and Jim, and he said his grand children lit up the room when they visited. My deepest condolences are with the entire family for their loss and especially Linda.

---

**Shirley Johnson** - April 01, 2019 at 11:37 AM

BM

“ Words can't express how much we will miss Bill. I think most of all, I'll miss his laughter. Bill's laugh was lyrical and filled the room, making everyone within hearing distance feel lighter. Bill was kind and thoughtful; always considerate of my sister, their children, and our mother. He enhanced all of our lives with his enthusiasm, making every outing together an adventure. He was always eager for a hike and climbed his way up Stone Mountain many times. No matter where we were, Bill and Linda would seek out playgrounds for our children when they were small. Bill would sit and watch his nieces playing, always looking delighted. He loved playing games and all of our children have many memories of laughter and playing by the rules. Being the big kid himself, he was the happiest when we would go for ice cream. Bill brought fun and laughter to our lives. I couldn't have asked for a better brother-in-law and will miss him dearly. We will cherish all of those memories we shared with Bill. Our deepest sympathy to Linda and children as you remember Bill. Know that you are surrounded by much love.

---

**Betty Kay Miranda** - April 01, 2019 at 08:31 AM

DL

“ Doug - may your Brother's memory be both a source of strength and a blessing to you and your entire family. I didn't know you had an older brother who was so involved in Capitol Hill for so many years. One of my dearest and closest friends was a law partner of Senator Bayh and as you might know I worked for Howard Metzenbaum for many years while attending Georgetown and for a few years after college. I am almost positive our paths must have crossed at some point. Again, my deepest sympathies. David

---

**David Lippy** - March 30, 2019 at 01:59 PM