



William James Schoonmaker, IV

March 5, 1954 - December 20, 2020

William J. Schoonmaker IV was born March 5, 1954 in Albany, NY and was raised nearby in Delmar, NY. He graduated from Bethlehem High School in 1972 and went on to attend Boston University for two years and transferring to and graduating from Syracuse University in 1976. Bill was in the electronics business for many years.

Bill took pride in raising his children with as much fun and love as possible and always included their friends who were like additional children to him.

In his younger day, he enjoyed playing the drums in various bands and driving his Mustang and spending his summers at Loon Lake in Warren County, NY. He was an avid skier - both snow and water. As life went on, his love of the water continued. Many summers were spent on and around the Chesapeake Bay and still visiting his favorite spot, Loon Lake. Bill was genuinely a nice person and the life of the party and wanted everyone around him to have as much fun as he was having. He had a big heart and truly cared about others.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife Shari, cat Sage, daughter Kali of Pasadena and son Kris (spouse Gift) and granddaughter Fiona who reside in Thailand.

A Celebration of Life is being planned around Bill's birthday in March in

Pasadena with details forthcoming.

We are grateful for the care and peaceful transition that the Hospice of the Chesapeake was able to bring about at this time in Bill's life.

Tribute Wall

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“ I am very saddened to hear of Billy's passing, he was a good guy and will be missed by all who knew him. Back in our high school days Billy and I played in a six piece rock band together called; \“Stained Glass\”. Billy was a great drummer and I knew that I wanted him in our group the moment I heard him play. Billy was always prepared and ready for rehearsal, always on time and unlike many other good musicians ; he didn't have an ego. I can remember him sitting behind his Ludwig drums with that long blond hair, ready to crack a joke at any moment; it was like having Rodney Dangerfield and Jackie Mason in the band. Billy took his music seriously, but not himself. I can still hear him playing with perfection; \“Keep me Hangin' on\”, \“White Room\”, \“Light my Fire\” and our signature song, \“In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida\” (long version of course). My heart goes out to all his family and friends . . . there will never be another like him. I would be willing to bet he is jammin' with a band up in Rock-N-Roll heaven right now. P.S. Maybe someday I will write a book about all the Billy Schoonmaker antics, that to this day make me bust out laughing wherever I think about him; HE WAS A HOOT!!! I am proud to have known him and worked with him. Steven Van Hattum. The Villages, Florida Friend and former band mate.

Steven Van Hattum - December 27, 2020 at 12:51 PM