



## Willard Hopkins

May 14, 1938 - April 5, 2022

Bill Hopkins suffered an aortic aneurysm and passed away Tuesday morning, April 5, at Kettering Hospital. He was 83. Bill was born on the family farm in Jeromesville, Ohio, in 1938. He was the fourth of five children of Ernest and Mary Hopkins, arriving just a few minutes after his twin sister, Peg. As a boy, Bill was a serial entrepreneur, progressing from selling candy bars on the bus (until he was threatened with expulsion) to selling Christmas cards and Cutco knives. He played six-man football, the tuba, and delighted in embarrassing his sister on a regular basis. When a former teacher of his was informed that Bill grew up to become a high school principal she remarked "Well, I guess the chickens really have come home to roost!".

Bill graduated from Jeromesville High School and Borromeo Seminary and got a Master's degree from Bowling Green State University. His first teaching job was at Savannah (Ohio) High School in 1961. It was there that he met a fellow teacher and the love of his life, Lillian Koegler, and they married in 1962. Bill and Lillian moved to Hamilton, Ohio in 1968 and bought a home in the Highland Park neighborhood where they raised three children - Kathy Cox (Mike Bolte) of Cincinnati, OH, Jeff Hopkins (Becky Smith) of Takoma Park, MD and Connie (Cam) Cullen of Windham, NH. Bill and Lillian have six grandchildren: Chris and David Cox (Lindsey Erickson), Edie and Wesley Hopkins, and Hunter and Lena Cullen. Additionally, Bill and Lillian have five great grandchildren: Jaxon, Kyren, Everett, Maverick, and Lucas. Survivors

include brothers James Hopkins of Jeromesville, Ohio, John (Julie) Hopkins of Guemes Island, WA, sister Margaret (Jim) Billick of Overland Park, KS and sister-in-law Colleen Hopkins of Sparta, NJ. He was preceded in death by his parents and his eldest brother Steven of Indianapolis, IN.

Bill was the assistant principal of Fairfield High School from 1968 and the principal from 1976. He was a fixture at every athletic event, arts performance and function until he retired in 1992. He could usually be spotted in any crowd wearing his Fairfield-red blazer and holding a concession stand bag of popcorn. He was a big believer in the staff, students, and the spirit of the school, and in the power of education at all levels. After retiring from Fairfield he continued to work on a part time basis for another 20 years including for Clopay Credit Union (now AurGroup) and the First Miami University Student Credit Union until retiring for good in 2014. Bill was an extremely devoted member and leader of clubs and civic associations, including the Fairfield Lions Club, HAMBUCO (now AurGroup) Credit Union, the Ohio Credit Union League, the Miami Valley Investment Club, and the English Mountain (Tennessee) Property Owners Association.

Bill returned often to the Jeromesville area for reunions with his tight-knit family and a 17-member first cousin cohort. He partnered with his siblings in expanding the home farm operation that his brother James continues to operate. He freely admitted that the frequent visits home and associated chores also served as a reminder of why he chose to leave the farm in the first place.

Bill and Lillian shared a passion for travel. Highlights include trips to Alaska, Hawaii, Ireland, United Kingdom, Italy, Greece, China, New Zealand, Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, South Africa, Namibia and Guatemala. A memorial service will be held on April 16, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. at Weigel Funeral Home, 980 N. W. Washington

Blvd., Hamilton, Ohio, 45013, with Al Grote, hospital chaplain officiating. A visitation will be held from 12:30 p.m. until time of the service. Interment will be in Savannah Cemetery in Savannah, Ohio. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to the Mary and Ernest Hopkins Family Scholarship at the Ashland County Community Foundation (Mary & Ernest Hopkins Family Scholarship [https://accf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create?funit\\_id=1306](https://accf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create?funit_id=1306) Online condolences are available at [www.weigelfuneralhome.com](http://www.weigelfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 16. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Weigel Funeral Home  
980 N.W. Washington Blvd.  
Hamilton, OH 45013  
(513) 892-1524  
<https://www.weigelfuneralhome.com/>

## Memorial Service

APR 16. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Weigel Funeral Home  
980 N.W. Washington Blvd.  
Hamilton, OH 45013  
(513) 892-1524  
<https://www.weigelfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Weigel Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Willard Hopkins



Weigel Funeral Home - April 15, 2022 at 04:03 PM

EJ

*As the youngest cousin I still remember your wedding, was a big deal for me!!! Many great memories of you all at the Farm, Thanksgiving, weiner roast &all!!!! So sorry for your loss, Praying God's blessing for you!*

Earl Jentes - April 16, 2022 at 09:33 AM

AM

*Thank you for all the great reunion memories at the Hopkins Farm. What a great way to create memories and lasting friendships. My favorite part of the reunions was catching up with your daughter, Connie. You truly have a wonderful family. I am grateful for Bill's teaching advice. Your family are in our thoughts and prayers as you grieve your loss of a wonderful man.*

*Robert and Janice Jentes want you to know that you are in their thoughts and prayers.*

Ann McNeil - April 16, 2022 at 11:08 AM



“ 46 files added to the album Life Tributes



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**Weigel Funeral Home** - April 15, 2022 at 03:56 PM

BS

“ *Bill Hopkins seemingly attended every event at Fairfield High School while he was principal. Students would notice & respected him for that.*

*When I became an AP there, I tried to do the same but couldn't. He advised me to pick & choose events, be fair to ALL groups & include my family whenever I could. His advice served me well. He became my mentor & I learned extensively from him. Blessings to you & your family...may you rest In Peace! Buck Spears*

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**Buck Spears** - April 14, 2022 at 11:07 AM

JD

“ My deepest sympathy to the family. I will always call him Mr. Hopkins even though he asked me to call him Bill a few years ago when I ran into him at an event in Hamilton. Mr. Hopkins was always at the plays and musicals I did and would find me in the hallway to give a compliment on the show. He was always approachable and kind, but no pushover. My years at FHS have given me wonderful memories - having Mr. Hopkins as Assistant Principal was one.

Janet Davies

Chicago

FHS Class of 1970

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**Janet Davies** - April 10, 2022 at 11:40 AM

EW

“ So very sorry to hear of Bill Hopkins passing. We send our deepest sympathy to Lillian and family. We pray for peace and comfort for all. The Ernsberger and Woodruff families



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**Elizabeth Woodruff** - April 09, 2022 at 08:08 PM

SR

“ He was one of the best among many great teachers and coaches at Fairfield schools in the 1970s and 80s when i was in school. He was a great man that was a very fair man but very stict. Will be misses but not forgotten.

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**Scott Robbins** - April 08, 2022 at 07:13 AM

PV

“ I have remembered Mr. Hopkins at a Tempo Club meeting at FHS when he said" if you think you're right,act now and ask forgiveness later". I've remembered that my whole career! Thanks Bill.  
*Pat VanOflen*

Pat VanOflen - April 07, 2022 at 10:29 PM

TV

“ Have never forgotten Mr. Hopkins, a special person.



Tom Vanover - April 07, 2022 at 10:02 PM

DL

“ Diana Land Aka Long-Hatfield lit a candle in memory of Willard Hopkins



Diana Land aka Long-Hatfield - April 07, 2022 at 09:47 PM

DL

*Class of 1981*

Diana Land aka Long-Hatfield - April 07, 2022 at 09:47 PM

BL

*So So sorry Lillian, Kathy, Jeff & Connie. Our thoughts & prayers are with you. Hugs, Mary Ann & Bob*

Bob & Mary Ann Loeffler - April 08, 2022 at 05:48 PM

RC

*Our thoughts and prayers are for you for this great loss.  
From a Jeromesville High School classmate,  
Mr and Mrs Russ Cutlip*

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**Russ Cutlip** - April 12, 2022 at 05:52 AM