



William M. Coombe

October 2, 1942 - January 10, 2022

William Michael Coombe, age 79, of Hamilton, Ohio, passed away on Monday, January 10, 2022. Bill was born in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania on October 2, 1942, the oldest of William Henry and Olga (Gavula) Coombe's four children. After graduating from Immaculate Heart Academy in Fountain Springs, PA at the age of 17, Bill enlisted in the US Navy and was stationed aboard the USS Sierra, a destroyer tender. He was aboard the Sierra when the ship participated in the naval blockade during the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962. Bill enjoyed a lifelong passion and talent for communication, a gift he used unerringly to both serve and delight others. Ever appreciative of a clever turn-of-phrase, Bill loved to create puns and limericks, using his gentle wit and charm to bring joy and connection. His love of the written word was clear from boyhood when he started his first job as a paperboy. This humble entry into the newspaper business--which would comprise the bulk of his life's work--led to later newspaper achievements as the editor of his high school paper and that of his naval ship. After leaving the service, he enrolled at the Pennsylvania State University and attained a degree in Journalism. At Penn State, he dedicated himself to his craft by editing the State College Times while writing for the Evening Herald in Shenandoah, PA. After graduation, Bill began working at the United Press International (UPI) bureau in Philadelphia where he covered the Philadelphia sports scene. He later relocated to Pittsburgh, PA, where he supervised news coverage spanning seven states as the head of UPI. He then held Editor-in-Chief positions at the Times Leader in

Martins Ferry, Ohio, and at the Journal News in Hamilton, Ohio. Later in his career, Bill merged his talent for communication with his dedication to service to others by advocating for the mentally ill (a passion he shared with his wife, Donna, and daughter, Donna-lyn) and for the democratic process. He accomplished this by applying his skills to the public relations field, serving the Hamilton County Mental Health Board, the Butler County Board of Elections, and Transitional Living, Inc. During his years in retirement, Bill became an incredible one-man support system for his family, selflessly providing help in any and all ways needed to his wife, children and especially to his grandchildren. Of course, his family always trusted that his kindness would be infused with his signature wit and wisdom. Bill is survived by his wife of 46 years, Donna (Kieres) Coombe, his children Larry and Kara (Rob) Tegge, each of Hamilton, and Donna-lyn Braun of Cincinnati. 7 grandchildren: Russell Coombe, Jessica, Julia, Jenna and Jada Tegge, and Helpful and Clara Braun, brothers John (Mary Ellen) Coombe of Thorndale, PA and Paul (Peg) Coombe of New Boston, PA, Sisters-in-law Elizabeth (Russell) Antalosky of Frackville, PA and Gwen (Tim) Holden of St. Clair, PA, brother-in-law Albert (Peggy) Kieres of Harrisburg, PA. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, mother in law Elizabeth (Roberts) Kieres and father in law Albert Kieres, one brother, Joseph Coombe, and stillborn grandsons, Joseph and Justin Tegge. A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at Weigel Funeral Home, 980 NW Washington Blvd, Hamilton, with Pastor Mark Finrock of First United Methodist officiating. Visitation will be on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. until the time of the service. The family suggests memorials to the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati, Attn: CTS Walk-Team In Memory of William Coombe, 644 Linn St, #1026, Cincinnati, OH 45203, or via the website act.alz.org/goto/wcoombe, or to an organization of the donor's choice. Online condolences are available at www.weigelfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 15. 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

JAN 15. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Weigel Funeral Home
980 N.W. Washington Blvd.
Hamilton, OH 45013
(513) 892-1524
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Tribute Wall

MH

“ *My family has great memories of the Coombe family when they were our neighbors in the Mount Holly, NJ area.*

Bill was a fun tennis competitor.

All the best to Donna and family.

Michael C. Hill

Michael C. Hill - January 14, 2022 at 01:47 PM

KT

Great memories, indeed! Thank you for reaching out. I hope you are well!

Kara Coombe Tegge - January 18, 2022 at 11:55 PM

JS

“ *John and Paul, I remember Billy as one of the "good guys" in our neighborhood. A good baseball player and an all around nice guy! Sincere sympathy to you guys and your families...*

John M Sullivan - January 14, 2022 at 09:30 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William M. Coombe.*



January 14, 2022 at 06:44 AM

TM

“ *Bill worked with Transitional Living when I was on the Board. He was a wonderful advocate, true gentleman, and professional administrator. I admired him very much. I also had the opportunity to meet his wife and grandchildren at church. His care and tenderness for them were always on display. Our deepest sympathy to his family. Tom and Carolyn Mason*

Tom and Carolyn Mason - January 13, 2022 at 12:21 PM

FC

“ *Bill was a friend and my boss in Pittsburgh during the late 1970s when I was UPI bureau chief. He was a good and decent man. I was very sorry to learn of his death. Our deepest condolence to the family. Frank Csongos*

Frank T. Csongos - January 13, 2022 at 11:47 AM

KT

I remember how friendly and helpful your family was toward mine, especially when we first moved to Pittsburgh. Thank you for reaching out and for your kind words.

Kara Coombe Tegge - January 18, 2022 at 11:52 PM