



## William (Bill) J. Burnett

November 30, 1940 - January 16, 2021

William Joseph Burnett (Bill), born November 30, 1940, died January 16, 2021, at K.C. Hospice House. He was the son of Marceline and William E. Burnett, Jr. and the grandson of Carolyn and T. J. Pendergast and Margaret Cassidy and William E. Burnett, Sr. He was predeceased by sisters Marceline Blickhan and Barbara DeGraeve. He is survived by his nephew and wife, Jim and Jinny Blickhan, two great-nephews Alex and Brad, niece Marceline White, his grand (or great) nephew Roric Coletta, and the love of his life, Susan Matney.

Bill felt that the greatest achievement of his life was his 36 years of continuous sobriety. He was intimately involved in Alcoholics Anonymous, making meetings and mentoring other recovering alcoholics. He adored our pets, Alex and Nikki and his most beloved hobby was charcoal grilling 'meat'. Rain, snow, shine Bill could be found on his patio, checking the fire and the 'meat'. His creative outlet was that patio. He got everything watered every few days and the flowers performed so beautifully for him. He blew the dirt and leaves off and chased squirrels away. He was very happy. He was also happy in the kitchen and was an exceptional cook. He loved to feed those people he loved! If he ever fed you, you know he loved you.

Bill had the most infectious smile. His resting face seemed rather stern but it was completely transformed when he broke out that smile. He was extremely generous with his time and he was on the phone constantly during this pandemic with his friends. And he was a very happy guy. He had a great

sense of humor and could always make me laugh. He always reminded me when things were upsetting – “We are sober today”!!!

The family owes such deep gratitude to Dr. Neil Erickson, Bill’s primary care physician, for care that was above and beyond and personal for Bill and the kindness he showed me as Bill’s next of kin.

Thanks to St. Joseph’s Hospital, especially the ICU unit for the care Bill received. And to K.C. Hospice. He was only there one day but they made him so comfortable and cared for, he was able to let go – and the environment helped all of us to let go a little bit. Thank you all.

I am so grateful to my wonderful family and friends and to all my sober sisters and brothers and my sisters from St. Teresa’s high school. Your love and prayers carried me through this difficult journey. I can’t say thank you enough. “til we meet again, may the wind be at your back”

Donations can be made to either St. Jude Children's Hospital or Alcoholic's Anonymous Kansas City Area Central Office, 200 E. 18th Ave., North Kansas City, Missouri 64116.

Funeral services will be live streamed beginning at 3:00 P.M. Friday, January 22, 2021 at <https://fb.me/e/2kL8sDRB2>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Webcast in memory of William (Bill) J. Burnett*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - January 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of William (Bill) J. Burnett*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - January 21, 2021 at 04:20 PM

NF

*This is a BEAUTIFUL VIDEO capturing Bill's life. We're so happy to have been a part of his and Susan's journey (66 years is a long time). Also, it has been so special to have watched the lives of Mike and Danny and their families. We have loved them with all our heart.*  
❤️ *Nancy and Brian*

Nancy and Brian Fearon - January 22, 2021 at 02:38 PM

SM

*And we feel the same!!!*

Susan Matney - January 24, 2021 at 09:47 AM

KB

*The great love you shared with Bill was evident in the lovely video and tenderly expressed at his moving memorial service. You and Bill were perfect for each other. I am grateful for all the sweet memories of all of us as far back as freshman in high school. All my love to you and your family. 💕. Kathy*

**Kathy Burchill** - January 25, 2021 at 10:48 AM



“ William (Bill) J. Burnett

October 08, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ William (Bill) J. Burnett

September 17, 2022 at 08:24 PM

PW

“ *I have many memories of Bill but one that always comes to me is the day he was driving by our house, saw us on the porch and pulled into the driveway. Instantly I thought something was wrong with Susan ... but no ... he just saw us and wanted to chat. He joined us on the porch and we talked and laughed ... then he just got up and went on his way. This story would be more common if Bill and us were close friends but we really knew him more as "Susan's Bill". He was a great man, a generous person and a man I am glad to have known! Much love to the family ... I wish you peace and comfort.*

*Pattie Whitmer*

**Pattie Whitmer** - January 25, 2021 at 08:17 PM

SM

“ I see Bill in his chair or on the patio. I hear him yelling at the Chiefs. It comforts me sometimes and then I remember....

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**Susan Matney** - January 24, 2021 at 09:25 AM

JB

“ Dear Susan and all,

*What a special service for Bill. I'm so blessed to know you and Bill since we were 12 years old. Memories!!!!!!*

*I will miss that smiling face and twinkling eyes. He was also so friendly on the phone when I would call. Like he had all the time in the world especially after Joe was gone.*

*Love, Joanie*

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**Joanie Bauman** - January 22, 2021 at 05:12 PM

JW

“ What a wonderful photo of Bill — you want to smile right back. I'm watching the stream as I write this, and tearing up of course. I wish we could be there. Being able to semi-attend is an appreciated gift. I know he would have liked the stories, the warmth, the laughter. He gave so many the best gift of all—his time and attention.

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**Jan Wheeler** - January 22, 2021 at 04:28 PM

LM

“ My dearest, Susan,

*Our sincere regrets for the loss of your sweet, Bill. From the pictures, you two lived a fun, exciting life. Our condolences for your loss, and may you know that Bill will always be with you in the memories. Stay strong and know that you are genuinely loved by many. I hope you will allow your community of friends to carry you along the way. We are sending light, love, and hugs in your direction. We love you.*

*Lynda and Patrick McClelland*

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**Lynda and Patrick McClelland** - January 22, 2021 at 03:22 PM

LA

“ *Bill was a true gem and gentle soul; so grateful for the steps we've shared, the meetings, commitments and stories through the years. He has fed us all in more ways than one. All my love Susan. Your shared presence is a gift beyond words.*

*Laurel Hughes*

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**laurel** - January 22, 2021 at 02:38 PM

JM

“ *What a wonderful, loving man who brought hope and smiles to us all. He is truly missed, but his memory and words will stay with me always. I am blessed my path crossed with this wonderful man and Susan. May we all walk like them.....*

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**Jan Meyers** - January 22, 2021 at 12:44 PM

DR

“ *Susan and Family*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you, your family and all of Bill's family during this difficult time. As I watched the Tribute Video you can tell how much love he had for all his family and friends. Mom and Dad always enjoyed your visits and talks that you all shared.*

*All our love  
Debs and Steph (Shepard Family)*

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**Debs Ruple** - January 22, 2021 at 12:03 PM

LH

“ *Bill will be greatly missed. He was a great and true friend, loving, smart, funny, and kind. His bright spirit will remain close to his lovely Susan, his family, and his many friends.*

*-Leslie Hubble*

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**Leslie Norman Hubble** - January 22, 2021 at 04:19 AM

HE

“ *Bill was a friendly, safe, smiling, warm, knowledgeable man for me and many others. I knew him through Bill W. and looked forward to seeing him on Monday nights. He helped countless people with his generosity and kindness. He will be dearly missed.*



*My heart goes out to his family. May you be comforted and know Bill made a difference in this world for good.*

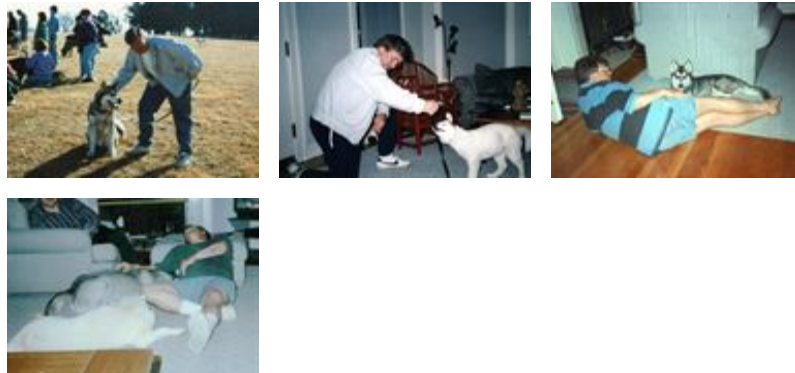
*Love,  
Heather*

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**Heather** - January 21, 2021 at 09:18 PM



“ 4 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery** - January 21, 2021 at 04:18 PM



“ *Bill was a special friend, and Bill and Susan a special, loving couple around whose hearth gathered special people sharing a special season. For a time, the best place in Kansas City to spend Sunday mornings was Bill and Susan's front porch. May your Spirit fly high, Bill.*

*Gary Ayers*

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**Gary Ayers** - January 21, 2021 at 02:42 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William (Bill) J. Burnett.*



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January 21, 2021 at 02:30 PM

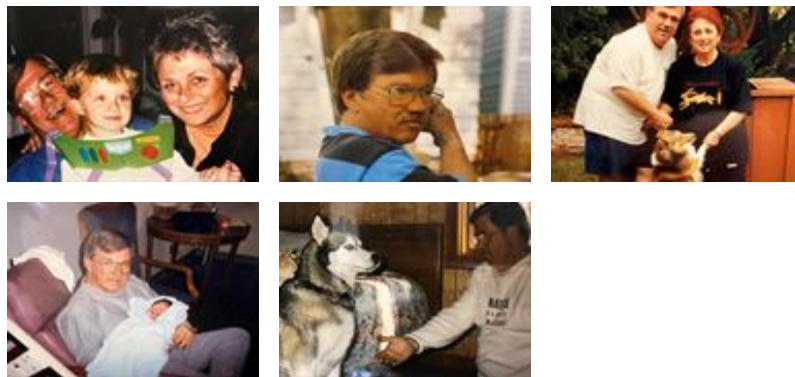
CC

“ I always enjoyed seeing Susan and Bill, they were a beautiful couple. Susan my heart aches for you as I know you miss him terribly. My thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Love, Carrie Carlin

Carrie Carlin - January 21, 2021 at 11:13 AM



“ 62 files added to the album Life Tributes



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - January 21, 2021 at 11:07 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William (Bill) J. Burnett.



January 21, 2021 at 11:07 AM

TB

“ I have known "Billy" as I always called him since kindergarten, but only really got to know him after his sobriety. Billy has helped my wife immensely as she lives through her son's alcohol addiction. He has helped her deal with this as he has helped so many others through his work with AA. God has welcomed Billy home. We miss you.

*Terry Brown*

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**Terry Brown** - January 21, 2021 at 10:07 AM

MS

“ I so loved Bill's kind safe nature and smile. He was one of the good ones. I can still hear his laughter. Love to you Susan, your family, and to you Bill. Maggie Sheehan

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**Maggie Sheehan** - January 21, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of William (Bill) J. Burnett.



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January 21, 2021 at 08:19 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of William (Bill) J. Burnett.



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January 20, 2021 at 09:33 PM



“ *Wings of Comfort Necklace was purchased for the family of William (Bill) J. Burnett.*



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January 20, 2021 at 07:05 PM



“ *16 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery** - January 20, 2021 at 04:06 PM

PD

“ I first met Bill in August of 2015 at Research Hospital where my brother, Pat, was very near death, the result of alcohol poisoning. My brother would remain intubated for the next three days and hospitalized for another ten. But Bill was there every day without fail, probably as much (if not more) for Pat's daughter and me as for Pat. I told my wife and other brother every night that summer that I had never seen someone so willing--and so able--to comfort, educate and inspire people in pain. Fortunately for me, I had a chance to see Bill on a fairly regular basis over the course of the following years. When my wife became ill, Bill was always calling to ask how she was doing. And when Pat became ill last year, Bill was there for us again. I am fortunate to have known him and to have enjoyed the pure pleasure of his company. I am sorry for your loss.  
Paul Donnelly

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**Paul Donnelly** - January 20, 2021 at 03:34 PM

CL

“ Dear Susan,  
Our hearts and prayers are with you.

Clarice and Lyle Oeltjen



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**Clarice** - January 20, 2021 at 10:53 AM

LW

“ Bill will remain in our hearts and thoughts. We are so sorry for your loss, Susan.

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**landa williams** - January 20, 2021 at 08:40 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William (Bill) J. Burnett.*



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January 19, 2021 at 10:34 PM



“ *I never met Bill but I love that smile! And I prayed for him because of our love and admiration for the love of his life, Susan Matney.*

*MaryAnn and Don Yeats  
Perth, Western Australia*

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**Mary Ann Yeats** - January 19, 2021 at 09:00 PM



“ *Such a beautiful smile and warm heart.*



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**Terry DeGraeve** - January 19, 2021 at 07:23 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to Susan, Mike and Danny and to all those who knew and loved Bill. He will be missed. Love you all!*

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**Pam and Mike Pickell** - January 19, 2021 at 06:51 PM

KO

“ My sympathies to Susan & the family. I met Bill sometime in the fall of 2001. I had moved onto Cherry Street just a few houses down. I was walking my dogs “ Willie” & we came upon Bill & Niki... we stuck up a dog conversation & we shared our passion for dogs. Well Bill would always say...” If your a “ dog person” then you had to be a decent guy!!! We continued to be friendly over our dogs & Bill eventually became a endearing friend. He will live long in my memory! I will always be grateful for his concern, his talks & his wisdom towards just” doing” the right thing! All dogs & “dog people “ go to heaven. Enjoy the reunion Bill....I’m sure Niki & Alex will be tickled! Kevin Overstreet

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**Kevin Overstreet** - January 19, 2021 at 05:28 PM

SM

*I love that Kevin!!*

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**Susan Matney** - January 24, 2021 at 09:28 AM