



## William "Bill" Garth Diles

February 18, 1936 - March 7, 2023

William "Bill" Garth Diles, was born on February 18, 1936 at home in Ravenden Springs, Arkansas to Orvel Henry Diles and Iva Mae English Diles. He passed from this life on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Known as Billy in his youth, Bill dropped the "y" from his name when he married Billie LaFerney on August 8, 1964. He led his home and family with firm yet kind hand, strongly focused on spiritual things. He was known for his benevolence, championing those who were down, and servant heart. Bill began his career teaching at Williford High School, then on to Harding Academy as a General Business teacher, becoming Principal of the high school for the next 36 years, and finished out as the Assistant Superintendent to his friend, Mark Benton. He was known as the Voice of the Wildcats, announcing home football games and track meets for over 40 years; and keeping stats for away games and basketball. He coached his girls in city and school softball. He was competitive but kind in every activity, athletic or academic, and demanded good sportsmanship without exception. He served on the Arkansas Activities Association and the Secondary School Principals Association for many years. He sponsored the FBLA team, Key Club, and was a member of the Kiwanis Club. He was a deacon then an elder at the College Church of Christ for decades. His convictions and standards for himself were the highest of all. If he believed it, he lived it to the very best of his ability, every day. He never asked more of any person than he asked of himself--no double standards. His integrity, compassion, fairness, engaging humor, quick

wit, quotable quotes, jokes, and delight in being a prankster are already deeply missed. Bill was a gentleman in every sense of the word. He sought the Kingdom of God first, hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Bill loved his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Orvel and Iva (English) Diles, his brother-in-law Ivan "Cotton" LaFerney, sister-in-law Johnnie LaFerney, and nephew Dale LaFerney.

He is survived and treasured by his wife of 58 years, Billie, daughters Melita Porter, Vanesa (Randy) Wood; grandchildren Logan (Chelsey Wolcott) Porter; Blakely (Tye Brown) Wood; and Grant Wood; great-grands Asher Wolcott-Porter, Karis Wolcott, and Lennox Wolcott; brothers Bob (Mary) Diles, and Jim "Bud" (Mona) Diles; brother-in-law Preston (Ellen) LaFerney; 14 nieces and nephews; Richard Mercer; and a host of great-nieces, great-nephews, dear cousins, and friends around the world.

The family would like to thank the House of Three for their loving care, and in particular those who ministered to him and the family in his last days: Kristy, Sherry, Melissa, Makala, and Koy Butler, as well as Mendy, Jo Ann, Janessa, and Vickie with Gentiva Hospice for their care, prayers, and spiritual support. We treasure the friendships he made while at House of Three with other residents and their families. We cherish those as well.

Services will be live streamed through the College Church of Christ Facebook page.

# Cemetery Details

## Oaklawn Memorial Gardens

100 E. Moore Ave.  
Searcy, AR 72143

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 10. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

College Church Of Christ  
712 E Race Ave  
Searcy, AR 72143-4421  
(501) 268-7156

## Funeral Service

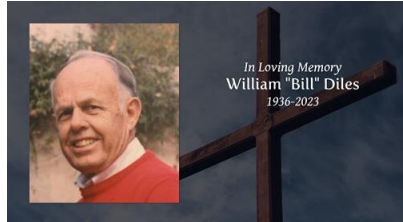
MAR 10. 1:00 PM (CT)

College Church Of Christ  
712 E Race Ave  
Searcy, AR 72143-4421  
(501) 268-7156

# Tribute Wall



“ Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Bill" Garth Diles



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**Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - March 09, 2023 at 07:14 PM

JD

“ Mr. Diles was one of the best men I've ever known. I took his I Timothy through Hebrews class in high school. I learned more in that Bible class than any other as we deeply studied the text. Mr. Diles was principal of the high school at Harding Academy when I was in school. Although being the top of the administration, he walked the halls and picked up trash as he was trying to serve. You had to watch closely to catch him doing this because it wasn't for show. It was his heart of being a servant. He was very generous and I'm thankful to have experienced such a wonderful person when I was such a young person. I remember his last talk to our class right before graduation and it was inspiring. I think about it often and hope to try and repeat it to my kids some day as they strike off on their own.

Jacob Duke

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**Jacob Duke** - March 19, 2023 at 11:32 PM

MH

“ He would no doubt have been surprised to know that I still draw on knowledge of the Chapter themes of Romans that I learned in his Bible class Harding Academy. I am grateful for him, the good he promoted in my own life, and the good that he did in the world. Thanks, "Mr. Diles."

Martha Farrar Highfield - March 17, 2023 at 11:42 AM

SS

“ Bill was a strong God centered man. Always the Christian we should strive to be.

Susan Stotler - March 10, 2023 at 12:21 AM

LB

“ My son Jessy n trey n I Absolutely love Mr. Bill and Mrs. Billie we're so sorry to hear of his passing may God be with Ms Billie . Wonderful wonderful wonderful man They are both an inspiration to all of us as what a marriage should look like and great wonderful Christian people to follow miss Billie I asked God to wrap his arms around you and around the rest of your family during this time And for days to come in comfort and peace. I love you all so much Mr. Bill I know you'll be looking down on everyone I'm a neighbor one and keep a watch over your family and all of us that you remember.



Lamonica R Brady - March 09, 2023 at 08:38 PM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Garth Diles.*



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March 09, 2023 at 01:51 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Garth Diles.*



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March 09, 2023 at 12:11 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Garth Diles.*



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March 08, 2023 at 08:33 PM