



William J. Clark

October 1, 1923 - October 14, 2022

Written by Bill Clark, obviously prior to his death.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri on October 1, 1923. Had wonderful parents. We were poor but so was everyone else I knew. The result was a happy, carefree childhood.

Graduated from high school shortly before Pearl Harbor. After enlisting in the Army Air Corps, I was based in Foggia, Italy from which we flew 35 combat missions. I was lucky to have survived.

Returned to Kansas City and graduated from the University of Missouri in 1947. Hired by Mass Mutual Life Insurance Company. Retired in 1988 as CEO and Chairman. Proud of this success but I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time.

Had the privilege of being married to Virginia Hollingsworth Clark, now deceased, the mother of my 4 daughters, Holly, Jane, Nancy and Patty. They in turn produced 6 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. All of whom, of course, are outstanding.

I had the joy of being married to Betty Smith Clark for 38 years. She made my life complete and made it possible for me to handle the many challenges that

life can bring. My friends often point out that I married above myself. I agree.

As I look back, I realize I've been most fortunate. A loving family, many friends and a lifetime of failure and success, sadness and joy, fear and courage, pride and regrets. I had it all for 99 years. What more could anyone ask?

Bill passed away peacefully on October 14, 2022 at home in Naples, Florida. A Celebration of Life will be held for family members at a later time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Western Massachusetts, 324A Springfield Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

To sign Bill's guest register or to leave online condolences, please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated since 1978.

Tribute Wall

BB

“ To Betty from Bob & Judy Bruce... sorry to hear about Bill's departure. So glad you're doing well. We both wish you the best.. Thinking about going back to Burmuda this year, brings back memories. Love Bob & Judy

Bob&Judy Bruce - September 12, 2024 at 06:43 PM



“ William J. Clark

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM

LI

“ Bill was a shining example of a great man who always had time for others. He retired before I came to work at MM but was a friend of my dad Paul Adornato. He will be greatly missed.
Linnea Adornato

Linnea - October 24, 2022 at 10:36 AM

SO

“ I never knew Bill. I wish I had. I really liked his balanced outlook. I am writing because his obituary inspired me to write my own. Imagine! He continues to inspire people. Writing my obituary has been something I been putting off, but who better to write it than the subject thereof? I am so happy for the Clark family that you had this courageous and obviously wonderful man in your life. He also inspired me to make a donation to NAMI of Western Mass.

Steve O'Brien - October 23, 2022 at 01:32 PM

DR

“ *Bill Clark - A good man. Privileged to have known and worked with Bill. Sympathy to his family. Dean Rogeness*

Dean Rogeness - October 23, 2022 at 12:49 PM

JG

“ *Grateful to have known and worked with Bill Clark. He was an inspiration and one of the funniest men I knew; and of course, he wrote his own obituary. Always admired his ability to lead a major company while taking time to listen to employees and the field. Condolences to the family.*

Joanne Gruszkos - October 22, 2022 at 12:34 PM

MR

“ *Hi Betty—this is Mary Miller Raffenetti from good 'ok Mass Mutual back in the day! My condolences to you and Bill's family—you and he were two of my favorite people! What a great human he was—wish I could have told him that....may he rest in peace*

Mary Miller Raffenetti - October 21, 2022 at 07:36 PM

BB

“ *To Bill Clark's family - my husband Bob Burger was one of so many life long employees of Mass Mutual who liked and admired Bill. Obit he wrote reflects exactly how he related to his staff and employees - huge decisions to be made running this iconic company but took time to have coffee in the cafeteria on a regular basis - he could always talk about golf. I am so sorry for your loss but trust you will all find comfort in what Bill brought to our world. Beth Burger*

Beth Burger - October 21, 2022 at 09:29 AM

BG

“ *Bill was an inspiration and wonderful friend. My life was enriched by knowing and respecting him. One of the kindest sharpest wits I have known. Barnett Grace*

Barnett Grace - October 20, 2022 at 12:49 PM

JD

“ *A thoroughly good man. It was 40 years ago that Bill taught me something I never forgot: A CEO made a bad decision and one of his staff said "I told you not to do it!" His reply: "If you had been so sure you would have found a way to stop me."*

Judy Discenza - October 20, 2022 at 12:37 PM

DC

“ *Bill was my greatest mentor at MassMutual. I am most grateful to him for his faith and confidence in me. I will miss him terribly. Don Cameron*

Donald Cameron - October 20, 2022 at 10:03 AM

SF

“ *Condolences from the Fuller family, here and in heaven! David's parents knew Bill and would want us to share their condolences. And we just knew what a wonderful leader and asset to the Springfield MA Bill was. He is a legend in Springfield. May he Rest In Peace after a long and well-lived life. David and Sally Fuller*

Sally and David Fuller - October 20, 2022 at 09:09 AM

GG

“ *As I am a former employee of MassMutual, you were one of my heroes during my entire business career, Bill. Rest in peace and with my continuing admiration.*
Gary Greenfield

Gary Greenfield - October 20, 2022 at 08:06 AM

DP

“ *Betty, Sad to hear of Bill's passing. We're grateful to have known both of you and thankful Bill was willing to give a couple of Chicopee kids a chance. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*
Dorothy & John Pajak

Dorothy & John Pajak - October 19, 2022 at 12:26 PM

WI

“ *Love you Gramps*



Will - October 18, 2022 at 09:46 PM