



William J. Lavelle

August 22, 1944 - June 5, 2023

William J. Lavelle, age 78, of Bonita Springs, FL, passed away in his home surrounded by family, on June 5, 2023, after a heroic battle against cancer.

Bill was born in Pittsburgh, PA, to Aloysius and Martha Lavelle. He was the youngest of their children. He is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Mary Ann Lavelle, and his brother Gerald Lavelle. Bill attended St. Joseph Catholic School and joined the Marine Corps after graduation. When Bill returned from Vietnam, he became engaged to Elaine, his wife of 55 years. They have three children, Stacey Johnson (Scott), William J. Lavelle, Jr., and Laura Strollo (Dominic). They have been blessed with 4 grandchildren: Reagan Johnson, Bridget Johnson, Sydney Lavelle, and Raegen Sherfey.

Bill spent 32 years working for Columbia Energy Group. During this time, he went to night school and completed his Associate of Science Degree from Point Park College in Pittsburgh, PA, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Franklin University in Columbus, OH, and Master of Business Administration from The University of Dayton. He was also a Certified Public Accountant. He retired as Vice President and Controller for Columbia Gas and Distribution Companies.

Bill loved teaching. He taught night classes at Franklin University in Columbus, OH. Upon retiring from Columbia Gas, it was only natural for Bill to

pursue his teaching career. He taught at Flagler College in St. Augustine, FL, and Ava Maria in Naples, FL.

Bill was passionate about golf. He loved the game. He was also a devoted Pittsburgh Steelers fan. He had season football tickets when he lived in Ohio and tried never to miss a home game. He also enjoyed attending whatever sport his children and grandchildren played. Playing Gin was a favorite pastime that he taught his children and grandchildren to play. He took pride in working in his yard. Bill was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone who had a project going on. He enjoyed keeping busy.

He was enthusiastic about everything he did. He enjoyed serving on community boards. He loved telling jokes. He was proud of his wife, children, and grandchildren and their accomplishments. He loved his dog, Buddy, who was a great comfort to him during his illness. Everyone who knew him knew he had the gift of gab. Giving up was never in his vocabulary. He bravely did all he could to survive his illness. Bill was proud of being a Marine and a Vietnam Veteran. Once a Marine always a Marine. Oorah and Semper Fi!

A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at St. Agnes Catholic Church, 7775 Vanderbilt Beach Rd., Naples, FL 34120, at 11:30 am on Saturday, June 17, 2023. Internment with military honors will follow the service.

In Lieu of flowers please make donations in Bill's name to Our Lady of Light Catholic Community who provided spiritual guidance during Bill's illness: Our Lady of Light Catholic Community, 19680 Cypress View Dr., Fort Myers, Florida 33967

The family of William Lavelle would like to give a special thank you to the Bill Young VA Home Health Team,

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The Pace Hope Hospice Team, and the Home Health caregivers for all they have done for Bill over the past several months.

To sign his guest register or to leave an online condolence please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Church Columbarium

7775 Vanderbilt Beach Rd.
Naples, FL 34120

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 17. 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Agnes Catholic Church
7775 Vanderbilt Beach Rd.
Naples, FL 34120

Inurnment

JUN 17. 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Agnes Church Columbarium
7775 Vanderbilt Beach Rd.
Naples, FL 34120

Tribute Wall

SR

“ *Professor Lavelle was my favorite accounting teacher at Flagler College, in Saint Augustine, FL. He was very hard and expected much out of his students. He really drove the best out of us. I was a shy student, so conversation with Bill was scare, but I admired him greatly. I think about him often as I continue accounting for my brother's business and how I would love to ask him so many questions about accounting now! Lol! I looked him up recently to see if he is still teaching and sadly found his obituary. I will always remember him as a great encourager and motivator for those willing and wanting to learn. Thank you!*

Sophia Russo - June 27, 2024 at 12:32 PM



“ *William J. Lavelle*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM

CL

“ *Dear Elaine and Family,*

My heart goes out to you as you travel this journey of grief. May fond memories and the family you have created be your comfort along with your faith.

Sincerely,

Claudia (Wuenschel) Finnegan



Claudia - June 18, 2023 at 10:36 AM

AD

“ My deepest condolences, Nothing is more painful than the loss of someone you love, there are no words that can comfort you, but I want you to know that I am here for whatever you need, I appreciate them very much.

Aimee Diaz - June 13, 2023 at 03:03 PM

TF

“ We miss Mr. Bill very much!! We are here for you, Elaine. We loved how hard working he was and he showed that in all he did. We didn't hardly go a day without seeing him in the yard and he always had a smile and a high five for the kiddos. Sending lots of love. -The Daliya's

The Daliya Family - June 13, 2023 at 08:09 AM

DK

“ I knew Bill through the Bonita Springs men's club. From the first time we were grouped together, we both made an effort to be in the same group for the the next time we played. Maybe it was because we were both from Western PA or maybe it was that Bill was friends with everyone. He tried hard but was unsuccessful in helping my golf but I did copy his haircut which I still use. As members of OLOL we'll do our part to make sure his memory lives on there. While his spirit lives on, condolences to the family for what must be a devastating loss of a great man.

Don King - June 12, 2023 at 03:28 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William J. Lavelle.*



June 12, 2023 at 11:28 AM



“ *Elaine and Family: I worked with Bill in the Columbia Gas System offices in Pittsburgh in the late 1960's to very early 1970's. At the end of my tenure with Columbia we worked together in the Tax Department, his desk behind mine. One day he got a phone call, muffled talking and then I heard him say, No, I don't think I can do that but I think the man in front of me might and he handed me the phone. Needless to say I eventually accepted the outside job offer. Didn't have any further contact with Bill but often thought of him.*

Elaine, I don't remember if we ever met, but my guess is that we probably did meet at a Christmas party or more.

I was so sorry to see Bill's obituary in today's paper and of his illness. May he be in a better place for all his good works.

Keeping you and the Family in my thoughts and prayers.

Al Kappeler

Albert kappeler - June 11, 2023 at 02:42 PM

JL

“ *Bill was always in a good mood- always willing to help anyone with anything they needed- we loved it when we talked to him because he lifted our spirits-he will be missed by all who knew him. Semper Fi !!*

janet lachapelle - June 10, 2023 at 02:48 PM

JL

“ *JANET & RAY LACHAPELLE purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of William J. Lavelle.*



JANET & RAY LACHAPELLE - June 10, 2023 at 02:35 PM

DS

“ *To the Family, You have my deepest sympathy. Bill was a very nice man and was always helpful when I deliver mail at Columbia Gas. May you find comfort during your time of sorrow. Donna Shepherd*

Donna Shepherd - June 10, 2023 at 02:26 PM

WA

“ Dear Elaine,

I was saddened to learn that Bill passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. I extend to you and your family my heartfelt condolences on the passing of your husband.

Bill will always remain very much alive in the memories of those at Flagler College who loved, admired, and treasured him as a colleague, teacher, advisor, and mentor. We all held him in the highest regard and shared the greatest admiration and respect for him as a member of our college community.

I will always remember Bill's great smile, his warm personality, and his enthusiasm for teaching and playing golf. I feel very fortunate to have known Bill, and I feel privileged to have counted him as a friend.

May the love of family and friends comfort and strengthen you in the days ahead.

Please extend my condolences to the members of your family and know that you are very much in my thoughts and prayers at this time of sorrow.

With deepest sympathy,

Bill

*William T. Abare, Jr., Ed.D.
President Emeritus
Flagler College*

William Abare - June 10, 2023 at 11:19 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William J. Lavelle.

June 10, 2023 at 09:10 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of William J. Lavelle.



June 10, 2023 at 09:10 AM



“ *Bill was a good friend for many years. We enjoyed lots of events together with Bill and Elaine. Sending prayers and love to Elaine and the family. Ron and Bonnie Lucas*

Bonnie Lucas - June 09, 2023 at 11:54 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of William J. Lavelle.



June 09, 2023 at 11:50 PM

JM

“ My husband, Tom, who has passed, and Bill met at Point Park College. Two vets raising a family were fast friends. Raised our families, always kept in touch, visited when we could. Bill & Elaine gave us our first pet, Molly. I wish I could be there for you Elaine but please know you and your family are in my prayers. Hopefully Bill & Tom are having a reunion in heaven.
Love to you and your family. Judi, Bryan, Kelly, Jennifer & Tommy Milewsky

judi Mikewsky - June 09, 2023 at 06:39 PM

TZ

“ Bill, we will miss you forever. You were the best neighbor and more. Rest in peace.

Tibor & Maria

Tibor&Maria Zentai - June 08, 2023 at 08:57 AM

LC

“ Bill's enthusiasm was contagious whether we discussed the Corps, the Steelers ,puppies or golf. Please accept our condolences.

Larry and Connie

ILarry Cohen - June 08, 2023 at 08:35 AM



“ Divine Light was purchased for the family of William J. Lavelle.



June 08, 2023 at 07:05 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William J. Lavelle.

June 07, 2023 at 05:16 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of William J. Lavelle.



June 07, 2023 at 05:16 PM