



William Clifford Hartwig

September 21, 1939 - May 29, 2015

Bill passed away early Friday morning May 29, 2015 in Fort Collins, CO at the age of 75.

He was born on September 21, 1939 at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, CO to Heinie and Thelma Hartwig. He was raised in the Fort Collins and Wellington, CO areas where his father farmed. Bill attended Fort Collins High School and graduated from Wellington High School in 1959.

He married the love of his life, Linda Lou Folkerts of Lodgepole, NE on 7/30/1961 and gained an extended family that he adored.

He joined the United States Air Force and served in the 274th Tactical Air Command Squadron in Okinawa, Japan during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He then was stationed at Edwards Airforce Base in California working on the XB70 and at the AEC Test Site in Mercury, NV.

The family moved to Houston, TX where he worked at the Manned Space Center in the acoustical lab on the Apollo Space Project. At Colorado State University, he worked on the Atlantic Tropical Experiment with the Global Atmospheric Research Program. It was his job to record information while flying through hurricanes.

For 3M Company he was a repair technician for their equipment, traveling all over Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado. Bill and Linda returned to Fort Collins with their three daughters. After his fathers' death, his mother came to live with the family.

In 1988 Bill moved to Las Cruces, NM where he worked at New Mexico State University in the Astronomy Department. He maintained all NMSU telescopes and crafted components for their experiments. He loved working with Clyde Tombaugh, who discovered Pluto.

When he retired he did so by building his bride one last house, blood, sweat and tears in Torrington, WY. He attended Trinity Lutheran Church in Morrill, NE.

Bill loved to work with his hands. He loved the outdoors. Fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, were all his passions. Most of all he loved exploring on the ATV with Linda riding shotgun.

He was a self taught "jack of all trades" who built two homes himself and remodeled many more. He was able to build or fix almost anything. He was an artist, painting pictures, throwing pottery and doing leatherwork. He even learned to cook Chinese cuisine. He learned to sail. He enjoyed Nascar Racing and Football.

Bill was always willing to teach anyone whatever he could. Bill was ornery, always one to drop ice down your neck, throwing wet boots into the fireplace, or convincing his grandsons of the existence of the Easter Pig. He was also sentimental and loving, always for one for a big hug or a snuggle. He was super smart and very hard working. He lent a helping hand to family, friends, neighbors and strangers. He was loved. He will leave a hole in the hearts of those who loved him.

Bill was survived in death by his best friend and beloved wife of 53 years Linda Hartwig of Torrington, WY; daughters Jerei Krejci of Wheatland, WY, Pennie Brollier of Douglas, WY, and Denise Blasius of Fort Collins, CO; grandsons Levi Crowe of Craig, CO, Bladen Brollier of Douglas, WY, Brenden Krejci of Cheyenne, WY, Tanner Krejci of Wheatland, WY; great grandson Kacen Krejci of Cheyenne, WY; many nieces, nephews and their families; lastly numerous precious friends across the country.

Bill was preceded in death by; parents Heinie and Thelma Hartwig of Wellington, CO; sister Maryann Gideon of Wellington, CO.

A Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday June 3, 2015 at 10:30am at Trinity Lutheran Church 405 Jackson St. Morrill, NE. A viewing will be held Thursday June 4, 2015 between 9:00am and 12:00pm at Bohlender Funeral Home 121 West Olive St. Fort Collins, CO. The graveside service is to follow at 1:30pm at Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins, CO.

Memorials to Trinity Lutheran Church in Morrill, NE. in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524.

Cemetery Details

Grandview Cemetery

1900 W. Mountain Ave.
Ft. Collins, CO 80521

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN 3. 10:30 AM (MT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
405 Jackson St.
Morrill, NE

Viewing

JUN 4. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)


Bohlender Funeral Chapel
121 W. Olive Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524
(970) 482-4244
<https://www.bohlenderfuneralchapel.com/>

Graveside Service

JUN 4. 1:30 PM (MT)

Grandview Cemetery
1900 W. Mountain Ave. Fort Collins, CO 80521
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Tribute Wall

 Denise
Blasius

“ *I would like to thank all those who loved my dad. He cherished you all.*

Denise Blasius - June 14, 2015 at 02:33 PM

DM

“ *Bill and I became friends when we worked at 3M Company as field service technicians. I was in awe of his many talents. He could design, build and fix anything electrical, electronic or mechanical. And, at the same time create beautiful pottery and paint wonderful pictures.*

He was always thoughtful and encouraging when I was down and out. Bill was the older Brother I never had. I thank God for giving him to me as a true friend. I will miss him and his sense of humor.

My God Bless Bill with the Joy of being in His awesome Glory and Presence in Heaven!!!

Dave Mazzocco

Dave Mazzocco - June 04, 2015 at 10:40 AM

ND

“ *Linda and Family, Ken and I would like to send our prayers to you all! We remember the fun times when Linda worked at First National and we would get together with you at times. Also, when we were on our way to Az. and stopped for a visit when you lived in New Mexico.*

Nancy and Ken Dimick

Nancy Dimick - June 02, 2015 at 02:12 PM

“Charlotte and I express our condolences to Linda and the Hartwig family. Bill and I crossed trails in 58-59. I was standing in line at Fort Collins High School to buy a ticket to a school play. Standing behind me was Bill. We started a conversation. Bill and I set together at the play and went out for a Coke after the play. This set the foundation for a friendship lasting over 56 years. From the time we first met I held a strong bond to Bill. I considered we were spirit brothers with different mothers.

As friends in high school and post high school, our partnership was a piece of work. Bill and I was interested in science and probably considered “geeks”. Bill was interested in rocketry and I joined him in the launching of rockets Bill designed. I do not know how we did not burn parts of Ft. Collins and his father’s crops. The newspaper published an article about Bill and his rocket interests.

It would not be appropriate for me to reminisce about our wild, foolish, comical and silly activities prior to Bill leaving for the Air Force. However, we were the classic American graffiti, rebel rousing, hot/fast car loving kids. I wished I had a \$1.00 for every mile we cruised up and down College Avenue. Long live the A&W root beer stands.

When Bill left for the Air Force our lives went their own way. Over the years we still were able to connect and visit each other. Every time we would get together we would reminisce and replay this record over and over about our past times. Linda and Charlotte would set there patiently bored when Bill and I would replay our past times. One side of the groove in the record is now gone. Charlotte and I became dear friends to Bill and Linda later in our lives. As a couple, we had wonderful times with Bill and Linda at a Fiesta Bowl, Monument Valley, Rose Bowl Parade, and several visits to Tucson and Greer.

We will miss him and will always be there for Linda.

Mitchell (Mick) and Charlotte Griffith - June 02, 2015 at 12:59 PM