

Billy Andrew Erwin

Billy Andrew Erwin passed away on January 28, 2013 after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's disease. A devoted husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, he will be deeply missed by family, friends and the community.

Born March 8, 1937 in Brady, Texas to Roy and Eva Erwin, Bill and his family moved to Denison, Texas when he was five. Because his parents were deaf, Bill was from a very young age the voice of the family. While a student at Austin College, he married his long-time sweetheart, Barbara Garrison and in 1961, he began a 35 year career with GTE. It was that career that brought him to the Bryan-College Station community in 1967, a place that he would proudly call home for the next 45 years. While serving as Division Manager/Public Affairs Manager for GTE, he began his unique and personal commitment to volunteerism, lending his name, service and considerable efforts over the years to numerous local charitable events, worthwhile causes and community activities. He cared deeply about the Bryan-College Station community and was a firm believer in freely giving his time and energy to various organizations that served to benefit and promote health care, economic growth, leadership development, education and literacy. He openly encouraged others to get involved and to give of themselves and to share his guiding principle, which was to always give back more than you take.

To know Bill Erwin was to be accepted without hesitation, as his friend and to be placed into his special "Friends of Bill" network. While he may have been the pied piper and ring leader, hosting numerous lunches and other social events, he knew in his heart that the true value of this network was simply to provide a venue for bringing people together who might not otherwise have known one another, but who shared a love for their community and a willingness to get involved. It was this extended network that served as the foundation for many of the successful charitable and philanthropic community-wide events that brought so many people together across the Brazos Valley for the greater good of their community.

While the effects of Parkinson's slowed his body, it never diminished the love and commitment that he showed for his family and friends. He continued to persevere and when his physical condition created road blocks, he found new ways to stay involved, all the while cherishing the relationships with the many friends and colleagues that he was so honored to have known throughout his life. A truly wonderful and selfless person, he never once complained about his physical condition, instead choosing to focus on the positives in life and the good of others.

The family would like to acknowledge the wonderful people who cared for him over the years. These include Joyce Brown, the staffs at Crestview Retirement Community and St. Joseph Manor, and the numerous doctors and nurses who assisted him along the way.

Bill is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Barbara, two daughters, Karen Zee and Amy Jones, one son, David Erwin, son-in-law Glenn Jones and daughter-in-law Jennifer Gill Erwin, and five beloved grandchildren, Jay Gillespie, David Andrew Erwin II, Julia Erwin, Zach Jones and Will Jones. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the MRC Crestview Benevolent Fund, 2505 E. Villa Maria, Bryan, TX 77802, Attention: Donna Williams or to The St. Joseph Foundation, P.O. Box 993, Bryan, TX 77805, Attention: Thomas Pool.

A public viewing will be held on Thursday, January 31 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Hillier Funeral Home, 2301 E. 29th Street, Bryan, Texas. Following a private burial service, a memorial service will be held Friday, February 1 at 2:00 pm at Christ United Methodist Church, 4201 State Hwy. 6 South, College Station, Texas.