



William Charles Reiss, Jr.

DEC 18, 1950 - MAR 19, 2020



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Did you hear the one about the guy who died? Billy Reiss of Tilghman, MD died peacefully in his home on March 19, 2020. His children suspect that he died on purpose to get out of cleaning the garage and moving the boat in the backyard. Born on December 18, 1950, he was the youngest child of Bill and Marie Reiss. According to Billy, his parents stopped having kids when they finally got a good one. He grew up in Palmyra, NJ with his sisters, Vally and Cheryl. After graduating from Palmyra High School in 1968, he attended the University of MD and St. Joseph's University.

Billy married Eileen (May) in 1977 and they made their home on Tilghman Island, a place he frequently visited and loved while growing up. Billy and Eileen have three loving, yet irreverent, children: all authors of this obituary.

He was a machinist, a waterman, and a retired U.S. Postal Service employee, but most of all, he was a joker: one liners, knock-knocks, and those of the practical kind. He was an avid fisher, crabber and hunter, which fit perfectly with his storytelling. He loved everything about the water and his boat, the Valentine. He never met a dog that he didn't like. His beloved black lab, Babe, was the apple of his eye, as evidenced by the daily drives to Gary's to get her a treat. His children knew that when he called to check on things while on vacation, the order of importance in reporting was to be the boat, the dog and, if there was time, information about their health and well-being.

He loved helping people and pranking them. He volunteered at the Tilghman Watermen's Museum and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. Additionally, he was a life member of the Tilghman Island Volunteer Fire Company and a Master Mason of Granite Lodge #177, raised on 12/15/04, called from labor on 3/19/20.

Billy is survived by his wife, Eileen Reiss; daughters, Dana Reiss (Guy Reeser) and Ellie Mickey (Adam); son (not the favorite), Ronnie Reiss (Jackie); grandchildren, Jacob, AJ, Peyton, Millie and



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Henry; sister, Vally Schlindwein (Marty); brother-in-law, Pete McGlinchy; numerous nieces and a nephew. He is preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Cheryl McGlinchy. No doubt Billy is also having a raucous reunion with his best friend and late partner-in-crime, John Roemer.

Back to the punch line. The guy died while his children were trying to figure out his blood type. He kept insisting for them to 'be positive,' but it will be very hard without him.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Tilghman Watermen's Museum or Tilghman Volunteer Fire Company.

Arrangements are entrusted to; Framptom Funeral Home, Ostrowski Chapel, St. Michaels, MD.




Events

William Charles Reiss, Jr.

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Memorial Service

 **Saturday**, March 19, 2022

 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

 Tilghman United Methodist Church



Tribute Wall

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EY

Eric Young posted:

Well, it has been 5 months now since you've gone, Bill, and I still cannot find all the words or the right things to say. I miss you dearly. I think of you almost daily. I cannot believe I just can't call you up, catch-up on our families' happenings, bs, listen to a few corny jokes and each say "we'll see you later"! So much was shared between us and so many large and small adventures were experienced as one that it was like we were brothers and not just two friends. Your family lives on, now, and you have ennobled them with your actions and your concerns. Your wonderful wife, Eileen, will now carry on. Good-bye and Godspeed dear friend. Eric

August 26 at 11:43 AM

BG

Bruce Gerwe posted:

Billy was a good friend. The kind of friend you liked to just hang around with. Unfortunately' we have always lived miles apart. I first met Billy when my parents moved their boat down the Bay to Tilghman for the summers. On Saturday mornings I would drive down to Tilghman from Towson, meet Billy at his first boat at 5 am, and go crabbing. I would sort the crabs by size and help out where needed. It was great fun. I often think about those easy days of summer between my years of college and just smile at our friendship and good times. You were always a joy to be with. Bruce Gerwe

April 14 at 5:33 PM

JC

Jeffrey Croft posted:

Billy was a wonderful friend. He was always ready to laugh and make everyone around him laugh. Whether it was in Mr. K's class on a beautiful spring day when he would blurt out "look it's snowing outside", or the jokes that he never seem to run out of he always had a smile for everyone. Some of my fondest memories were from visits to Tilghman Island. Sitting on the porch drinking beer and cracking crabs as well as jokes. Every once in a while we would hear "WILLIAM C. REISS" when Eileen had decided he had crossed some line. He would scrunch up his shoulders a little bit like she was actually going to hit him and he would get that devilish look in his eyes that we all knew so well. It's hard to imagine a world without Billy and it. He will be missed.

March 26 at 8:58 AM



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ES

Eddie Sutherland posted:

Billy you will be missed. You were the brother I never had. The memories go from the never ending Monopoly games at Christmas time growing up to the picture Lorry took this past January. When I saw it I thought she took a picture of your dad and mine talking together. All the jokes and all the pranks, I hoping this is your biggest prank ever! Two memories stand out the most. Back before we were both married you called and asked if I could come down and help eat the "evidence". It turned out that you had shot two swan and we had to eat them before you got caught. The other was a Tilghman Island Day event and you represented the crabbers. A dear lady from Baltimore asked you about the weather, after about ten minutes of you going on you finally told her about the "Terrible East Westers" that occur on the bay. All of us standing around had a hard time keeping a straight face. I never could keep a straight face around you! Brother I will miss you immensely. You have gone into the Hands of a Loving and Merciful God

March 25 at 6:25 PM

RL

Ron Lippincott posted:

I remember Billy from our HS days in Palmyra. I think he was a freshman when I was a senior and we ran track at the same time. Our paths rarely crossed but he always had a greeting and a smile for me. Coming from Riverton we naturally knew a lot of the same people. Eric Young and Jeff Croft come to mind both of whom were in his wedding. When I moved to Tilghman I had no idea I bought the house next to him and Ilene. They were the best neighbors anyone could ask for and I was disappointed when they moved up to his parents house, the higher class district, two blocks away. It was not unusual for them to invite me to feast on Ilene's cooking and listen to his corny jokes and hunting stories whenever some of the Riverton crowd visited. I'll miss the days when he would bring by his latest hunting trophy like the time he wanted me to take a picture of him and the largest Tom turkey I've ever seen. I told Ilene that I'm a big believer to meet a tragedy like this with humor, but after reading his obituary I'd say they set the bar way out of reach. I never met anyone who said across word about him. Its doubtful I ever meet a happier, fun loving guy who was truly at peace with himself. Sweet Peace, Billy. You'll be missed. Ron Lippincott.

March 25 at 8:33 AM

LH

Lisa Haberlein posted:

Will always remember and cherish the friendship and love....and the many calls to come eat crabs on the back porch. God Bless you Eileen and family. With much love. ❤️ Lisa Haberlein

March 25 at 8:27 AM



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RT

Roy D Trout lit a candle in honor of William.

March 24 at 10:16 PM



KB

Kerri Brandow lit a candle in honor of William.

March 24 at 6:25 PM



GL

Greg & Anna Lowery lit a candle in honor of William.

March 24 at 3:07 PM



RM

Rose Miles posted:

Dearest Eileen and Children I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my prayers. Rose Miles

March 24 at 1:44 PM

JS

Joanne Schill Soden posted:

My sincere condolences to the family. Billy always had a smile and a joke for everyone. I will miss his humor and his concern for others.

March 24 at 7:19 AM

MR

Michael Robinson posted:

Michael William Robinson I remember Bill's little jokes in high school (ask him what time it was, he'd look at his bare wrist and say, "half past a freckle"), his friendly smile, I remember being at his house listening to Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band when it first came out. It is really not easy to imagine him gone, he was one of the most vivid personalities in the class of '68. I know he wasn't doing it any more, but I always think of him "Crabbin' in the bay."

March 24 at 7:04 AM



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KG

Ken Groome posted:

Bill and I, and a handful of others, first met at Sacred Heart School. Billy and I were always in competition in math and joke telling. Billy won best math student in grade school over me. Then we went to Palmyra High and we continued our joke competition. He beat me out again for the Class Clown after a second election. But we enjoyed making others and each other laugh. The folks upstairs are in for a very fun time now that Billy has joined them. RIP Bill.

March 24 at 6:51 AM

DT

David Thorn posted:

Bill was my high school classmate and was clearly the funniest person in our class of nearly 200. He sat next to me in English class and his comment in my yearbook referred to that class. He wrote: "Hey there Dave, remember good old and I mean old Mrs. Leppel's class". That was Bill. Dave Thorn PHS '68

March 24 at 6:43 AM

CG

Clare Grobelny posted:

Uncle Billy was & always will be a nice guy & a great man. He greeted you with a warm smile & big hug. This is the best obituary I've ever read & the only one that has ever made me laugh. It represents him perfectly. I think he'd get a kick out of it. We love you & are thinking about you. Jake & Clare

March 24 at 6:29 AM

TR

Terry B Robbins posted:

Jay and I were shocked and saddened to hear of Billy's passing. Although I've heard you talk about Billy and your kids for the last 20 years and never met them, their tribute to their dad made me know exactly who he was and who they are. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Terry Robbins

March 24 at 3:04 AM

SP

Sandy Price lit a candle in honor of William.



March 23 at 3:06 PM



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AT

Amy Todd lit a candle in honor of William.



March 23 at 2:54 PM

MK

Malissa Kirszenbaum posted:

We will miss Billy. So many good times fishing off the dock, breaking bread and friendship. So many stories over the years. One story that comes to my mind..... We met Billy And Eileen in August, 2012 as weekenders; our first set of friends. They both knew our kids. Billy would lovingly jab and spar with Our middle daughter who was very verbal in her longtime vegetarian/vegan status (since 3rd grade) and lover of all things animal. Billy was an avid hunter. One chilly November day, Meg was visiting. We just pulled up in front of our house, Meg in the passenger seat. Next thing we know Billy was knocking on her car window, as Meg brought the window down, Billy lifts up two pair of furry legs and tells us they were fresh from a local deer/road kill. My daughter literally screamed“ah.....” (think I got some ear drum damage that day in the car). Billy laughed his butt off (I secretly did too later). Billy’s retribution for having to constantly listen to Meg’s diatribes about why no one should eat anything with a face. Yes, it was a bit awkward in real time, but later, Leon and I were able to laugh - so Billy! He sent us a postcard every time he and Eileen went on vacation - always a funny funny card. He was a kind and deeply sensitive man. We will miss him.Malissa Kirszenbaum

March 23 at 2:10 PM

DE

Doreen Enzor posted:

You always had a good joke to tell me! Rest In Peace our dear friend..Blessings to Eileen and your Family 🙏 ~Doreen & Bob

March 23 at 1:34 PM

JS

Joe, Brittany And Jaxon Schwartz lit a candle in honor of William.



March 23 at 12:35 PM



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JC

Jc And Debbie Correa lit a candle in honor of William.

March 23 at 11:05 AM



BS

Butch & Debby Sweet lit a candle in honor of William.

March 23 at 10:56 AM



CW

Cathy Rokos Wilson lit a candle in honor of William.

God Bless in this time of sorrow. Great memories keep them close

March 23 at 10:36 AM



DM

Debbie & Scott Mister lit a candle in honor of William.

March 23 at 10:00 AM



RW

Robbie & Brenda Wilson March 24 at 9:59 AM

Billy was one of the good ones, always had a smile on his face. Robbie and I want you all to know our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

MF

Moore Family lit a candle in honor of William.

March 23 at 9:41 AM





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TF

The Moore Family lit a candle in honor of William.

March 23 at 9:40 AM



DB

Denise Bosley lit a candle in honor of William.

RIP

March 23 at 9:27 AM



JP

Jennifer Pollard posted:

I worked with Billy for 18 years at the post office. We were all like family. He was so much fun to work with. He always had a joke to tell or a trick to play on someone. I know he would have loved the obituary. Rest easy my friend and catch lots of fish up there in heaven.

March 23 at 8:43 AM

PS

Phil And Kathy Stovall March 25 at 6:21 AM

Thinking of you, Eileen, and your family... and remembering your guy's twinkling eyes and kind, full-of-fun -and -mischief grin. Our love to all of you.

LK

Leon Kirszenbaum posted:

BILLY and his wife were the first couple to welcome us to Tilghman Island about six or seven years ago. I have really enjoyed all the times that I was able to spend with BILLY and being able to call him a good friend became important to me. Some of the most memorable experiences were fishing with him on the valentine and catching my first 21 inch rockfish at Tighlman , or the first time I ever went deer hunting was with BILLY at his blind. The funniest episode which still makes us laugh today occurred about two years ago when BILLY managed to spray paint an obscenity on The back of a local government truck while the workers were horribly trimming a large beautiful tree on BILLY's property . He even managed to evade being blamed for it when the local police were questioning and trying to pin him with the dirty deed. The entire scenario along with BILLY's arms flailing as he was explaining to the police his innocence could've been taken directly out of a scene from Seinfeld. And I guess I don't have to mention the time we ran out of gas while we were fishing on BILLY's pontoon boat in the bay by the lighthouse . I will miss you Billy. Love Leon.

March 23 at 8:43 AM



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Susan Clark lit a candle in honor of William.

March 23 at 8:29 AM



Vickie Bildstein lit a candle in honor of William.

March 23 at 8:22 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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