



William "Bill" Russell

August 17, 1931 - July 16, 2019

William "Bill" Russell

August 17, 1931 – July 16, 2019

William "Bill" Russell went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, July 16th, 2019 at the age of 87. Bill was born on August 17, 1931 to William and Laveti Russell in Luling, Texas.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents William and Laveti Russell; his loving wife of 60 years Francoise Russell; son Steven Russell; sister Barbara L. Dean; brothers Charles N. Russell, Robert Russell, Earl "Bugs" Russell and Alvin L. Russell. He is survived by his daughter Patricia Wakim (Jean-Claude); son Tony Russell (Fayellen); sister Mary Annette Rummel; daughter-in-law Delores Russell; grandchildren, Rebecca (Josh), Catherine (Adam), Steven (Ashley), Sydney (Ethan), Ellen (Garnett), Alicia, Christian and Natasha; great grandchildren Nolan, Marshall, Kalani, Roman, Clark and Isaac.

Bill was a man of faith that served his country proudly. He reached the rank of Senior Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force while earning his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from the University of Nebraska. He served twenty years within the Air Weather Service. During his last six years, he served within the 3 Weather Wing Aerospace Sciences Division as a Climatological Superintendent. In this capacity, Bill received several NCO Achievement Awards, which culminated in October of 1970 with The Air Force

Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service. This award was for Bill's overall distinguished career and contributions, most notably his contributions in the development of an accurate and comprehensive worldwide climatological solution for forecasting and planning. Also, during his service and while stationed in Europe he met and married Francoise Bastide in Paris, France. Together, Bill and Francoise traveled and grew their family before settling for a while in Houston, TX. In Houston, all three of their children graduated high school as Bill was reaching for the stars at NASA while employed with Lockheed Electronics Company. Bill worked as a project leader in the development of computer systems. Most significantly was his work on the orbiter phase of the Space Shuttle program and an automatic landing system for the Boeing 737.

Before retiring to Plano, TX, they lived in Beaverton, OR where Bill continued his work with computers at Floating Point Systems. When their youngest daughter was about to have her first child they heard Texas calling them back. Bill and Francoise were attentive parents and grandparents. They particularly loved being a part of their grandchildren's lives and enjoyed watching them grow and thrive.

Over his lifetime, traveling was a big part of Bill's life. In addition to the Air Force, work and family travels carried him from San Antonio, to destinations that included the deserts of Saudi Arabia, the rich vegetation of Singapore, and the majesty of Japan. While he enjoyed his world traveling, he also loved reading, and playing 42. He especially enjoyed 42 when playing with family and evoking the "Russell Rules" when needed. Most of all Bill enjoyed being with his family, as one of seven children himself; he found great joy, comfort and pride when surrounded by family. Bill passed from this life with his son and daughter by his side, and surrounded by the love of his family and friends. Visitation will be Tuesday, July 23rd, 2019 from 5 – 7 p.m. at Mission Park Funeral Chapels South. Funeral Service will be Wednesday, July 24th at 9

a.m. at Mission Park Funeral Chapels South with Interment to follow at
Woodland Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 23. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Funeral Service

JUL 24. 9:00 AM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Interment

JUL 24 (CT)

Woodland Cemetery
San Antonio, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Russell.*



July 22, 2019 at 07:17 PM



“ *Jay and I were close to Bill and Francis through the years, even though we did not see each other that often. They visited us when we lived in St. Louis, we visited them in Portland, Oregon, and we visited in each others' homes in Houston and Dallas. My memories of Bill go back to times that Aunt Laveti and Uncle Bill came with their family to visit us on my parent's farm in Beasley. Bill probably picked his first cotton on one of those visits, getting very sunburned in the process. Many, many loving memories of our associations with the Russells followed through the years of weddings, funerals, birthdays, reunions, graduations, and on and on. Jay and I send our heartfelt love to all the family.*

Jay and Lucille

Lucille Cunningham - July 22, 2019 at 04:44 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Russell.*



July 22, 2019 at 04:17 PM

LS

“ *Linda & Stephen Spellicy purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of William "Bill" Russell.*



Linda & Stephen Spellicy - July 21, 2019 at 10:49 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Russell.*



July 20, 2019 at 12:17 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Russell.*



July 20, 2019 at 12:59 AM

BG

“ Patricia and family, I remember the wonderful times we had in Co. Bluffs. You lived behind us and we became friends. Then Bill introduced us to the minister of the Baptist Church, his Church. Since it was the only Church out there we went with him and his family. Jan and Don moved in directly across the street from the minister and they introduced the 4 of us to them and we all became close friends. Bill and Fran came to see me when I moved to Texas to be with Sue, and we got to Plano to see them so we continued to be friends over 50 years. I did not hear from the Cranes last Christmas so it might just be Jan and I left. One day we will all be together again. God Bless you and your family. Betty, Bob, Robbie and Sue

Betty Giffin - July 19, 2019 at 07:10 PM

PL

“ Mr Russell had a wonderful smile and sense of storytelling. I loved to hear him talk. He was a wonderful father to all 3 of his children. He was also an incredible father-in-law to my sister Delores, especially after the passing of Steve. We will miss him. We grew up around them. We attended church with the family in Houston. Wonderful man and loved by all.

Patricia Letendre - July 19, 2019 at 03:10 PM

YR

“ your family at M/A/R/C Research purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of William "Bill" Russell.



your family at M/A/R/C Research - July 19, 2019 at 01:13 PM

PW

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Patricia Wakim - July 19, 2019 at 11:44 AM