



William B. Stavinoha

June 11, 1928 - March 29, 2021

William B. Stavinoha, Ph.D., loving husband, father and granddad, scientist and friend, passed away on Sunday, March 28th, 2021.

Bill was born in 1928 to Lillian and A.A. Stavinoha in Temple, Texas. Growing up, he visited his grandmother's ranch outside Temple every Sunday with his parents and his sister Marguerite. He maintained a strong love of that land until the end of his life. His Czech family came to central Texas in the 1850s, avoided the Civil War, and farmed for now 170 years.

After graduating as valedictorian from Temple High School in 1945, Bill studied at Temple College and then University of Texas at Austin, earning a bachelor and masters degree in Pharmacy. He volunteered for the Army and served as a pharmacist in California during the Korean War. After working in San Marcos, Austin and Belton pharmacies, he completed his doctorate in Pharmacology at University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 1959. He enjoyed a long research career, beginning at Galveston, moving to the FAA/CAMI in Oklahoma City, teaching at the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, and culminating at University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, where he was a founding basic science faculty member and researcher from 1968 until his retirement in 2000. During his career, he was named distinguished graduate at both UT Pharmacy school and UTMB graduate school.

He married Karen Peterson in 1958 and they had a daughter, Anna Christa. After Karen's death in 1965, he married Marilyn Cole in 1967, to whom he was married to for 54 years and together they had daughters Shannon, Elena, and Rose.

His doctoral research on thallium began as a response to a public health request for assistance at UTMB. His work was instrumental in saving children and crop-dusters being inadvertently poisoned in Corpus Christi. He later accomplished the first sensitive accurate chemical assay for acetylcholine. He built the first microwave instrumentation for neurochemistry research, allowing the first accurate measurement of many enzymatically labile compounds (choline, acetylcholine, high energy phosphates, cyclic AMP). He brought the first mass spectrometer to UTHSCSA and enjoyed hosting visiting scientists who wanted to use it. He studied sleep; the use of caffeine to delay gravity-induced loss of consciousness in astronauts; and used pharmacognosy to understand anti-inflammatory and anxiolytic properties of South American, Japanese and Korean folk medicines (e.g. *Ganoderma lucidum* and others).

He loved science, architecture, books, dogs, flowers and plants, views of water, family, and friends in various parts of the world. He enjoyed his many friends and acquaintances he knew through the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio, where his beliefs were shared.

Bill was preceded in death by his sister, Marguerite Caesar and her husband Ralph Caesar. Bill will be missed by his wife, Marilyn; daughters Anna Christa and husband Justin, Shannon and husband Michael, Elena, husband Chris, and grandchildren Cole, Phoebe and Max William, Rose, wife Allison, and grandchildren Jensen and Piper. He is also survived by numerous beloved nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Bill's life will be scheduled at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio at a time when it is safe to gather. The family requests donations to the First UU Church of SA in lieu of flowers.

Tribute Wall

SW

“ I was very saddened to read that Bill had passed away. Although we didn't stay in touch over the years, I think about him often and continue to be grateful for the amazing introduction he gave me to biomedical research. A number of the papers I was privileged to co-author with Bill are still being cited today - a real testament to the valuable contributions that he made to neuropharmacology. The opportunities and encouragement that Bill gave me as a research assistant were the key building blocks to my future career in academia at the Health Science Center (where I'm still working as a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Structural Biology). As the pain of losing Bill eases in time, I know you will be comforted with fond memories of your wonderful times together.

Sue Weintraub

Susan Weintraub - July 04, 2021 at 06:24 PM

MM

“ Dear Marilyn, Anna Christa, Shannon, Elena and Rose,
How can I explain I suddenly felt I had to know how you were all doing, in which occasion I learned that Bill had just passed away. And a tremendous sadness struck me. Bill was an incredible loving person, whose intelligence, culture and interests I valued so much, as well as the general intelligence with which he managed life. All of you welcomed me so warmly when coming from France, about 40 years ago...Many souvenirs are coming back...Many precious moments.

Bill was one of the nicest persons I met and I will remember him always.

Much love to all of you,

Marie-Noelle (Jarousseau, married Maes)

maesmn@gmail.com

Maes Marie-Noelle - April 30, 2021 at 06:23 PM

CC

“ *A truly great person. I loved his infectious laugh. Enjoyed his warm hospitality for many years. His many book reviews, talks about world travels and family history. A genius, yet a simple, loving heart who welcomed all into his experience. He lived a good life and he made the world a better place. Condolences to Marilyn and his girls and their families.*

cathy Cummins - April 20, 2021 at 10:05 AM