



William "Bill" Yates

November 19, 1938 - August 31, 2024

William Barksdale "Bill" Yates, 85, of 105 Greencroft Place, Danville, VA, having said goodbye to those he loved, died at his residence following a long and courageous battle with leukemia that finally took him on Saturday, August 31, 2024.

Born on November 19, 1938 in Halifax County, VA, Bill was the son of the late Claude Benjamin Yates, Sr. and Annie McDowell Yates. He lived most of his life in Danville, VA.

Bill had a full and productive life in tobacco with Dibrell Brothers Inc., retiring in 1995 as Vice President, and Phillip Morris U.S.A. where he retired in 2007. He travelled overseas to ten countries over his career. He also arranged and wrote the script for the first Tobacco Auctioneering Championship in Danville with R.J. Reynolds and was known by the contest as "Pretty Boy".

He was a member of Mount Tabor Baptist Church, the Ruritan Club, the Young Men's Club, the Danville Golf Club, and was honored with many awards and recognized by his peers as well as those he led as being wise and fair to others. He also had arranged for a boy from Brazil to come to the U.S. to be fitted for an artificial leg.

Bill was married on April 7, 1965 to Betty Adams Yates, who survives.

In addition to his wife, of the residence, Bill is survived by two sisters, Dot Bennett of Danville, VA, and Mary Lee Reid of Round Rock, TX; five nieces and nephews; and several great nieces and great nephews.

He was predeceased by two half brothers, C.B. Yates, Jr., and Henry Woodrow Yates; two sisters, Betty Yates Whitt, and Ruby Kathryn Yates; and a brother-in-law Billy Adams.

A special thanks for Bill's caregivers, Commonwealth Hospice, Gregory Smith, Teresa Edmonds, and Polly Foust for their wonderful care and compassion during his illness.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. at Highland Burial Park with the Reverend Carl Burger officiating. The family will be at the residence at other times.

The family suggests memorials may be made to the Danville Life Saving Crew, 202 Christopher Lane, Danville, VA 24541 or Commonwealth Hospice, 101 Holbrook St., Suite 203, Danville, VA 24541.

Wrenn-Yeatts North Main Chapel is respectfully serving the Yates family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrenn-yeatts.com.

Previous Events

Graveside

SEP 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Highland Burial Park
3049 North Main Street
Danville, VA

Burial

SEP 4 (ET)

Highland Burial Park
3049 North Main Street
Danville, VA

Tribute Wall

PC

“ I will always remember Bill's smile and his friendship to my Dad. I have beautiful memories of time spent with you both from my childhood. Prayers and love to you Betty



Penny Willis Campsey - September 14, 2024 at 09:09 PM

WB

“ Betty: We are very to hear about the passing of Bill. He was a fine gentleman and friend. Prayers are with you and the family.

Wesley & Violet Barker - September 03, 2024 at 11:41 AM

PB

Patricia (Pat) Burton
So sorry to learn about the passing of a good friend, Bill! Enjoyed getting to know Bill & Betty while working at Dibrell! Sending my sincere condolences, love & prayers to Betty & family. 🙏🥰

Patricia "Pat" Burton - September 04, 2024 at 03:54 AM

KS

“ Betty this Kitty Strode from Ky. I have such fond memories of you and Bill from RJR auctioneer contests. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

kitty Strode - September 02, 2024 at 09:04 PM

BC

“ Brenda C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Yates.

Brenda C. - September 02, 2024 at 07:09 PM

JF

“ Jay Barker and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Yates.

Jay Barker and family - September 02, 2024 at 05:07 PM

JF

“ Jay Barker and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William "Bill" Yates.



Jay Barker and family - September 02, 2024 at 05:07 PM

MH

“ Bill will be missed in the tobacco business. He truly demonstrated his abilities and knowledge and love for the business. My prayers and sympathy goes out the family.

Merion Haskins - September 02, 2024 at 07:53 AM

DK

I worked with Bill at Dibrell until he retired, he gave Dibrell (100%+) 24 hours seven days a week. Then the same work ethics at Phillip Morris. Betty, there is a "higher power" that will help you through the lost of Bill.
RIP "Yates"
Doug Knott

Douglas Knott - September 02, 2024 at 06:08 PM

TD

Dot sorry to hear about Bill.
Neal & linda

T Neal Dodson - September 02, 2024 at 07:03 PM

PC

Betty,

Larry's and my heart are saddened to learn of .Billy's passing. Please know you are on our minds and in our prayers. Let us know of anything we can do for you.

Pamela Clark - September 04, 2024 at 07:46 PM