



William Clay Southwick

June 2, 1958 - December 19, 2016

At age one month, William Clay was adopted in to Bill and Sue's family in Kansas City, MO. He made his confession and was baptized when 12 years old at the University Christian Church in Miami, FL. Soon after graduating from Hialeah Miami Lakes High School, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. After basic and specialist training, he was assigned to the US Airbase, Ramstein Air Force Base in Kaiserslautern, Rheinland Pfalz Germany, until honorably discharged in 1979.

On his road to becoming a master cabinetmaker, he worked at a shipyard in Miami, FL designing and making furniture for high-end yachts. He was a member of the Las Vegas AFL Carpenter's Union and was involved in building and remodeling some of the best known casinos on the famous strip. During those hay-days, Bill acquired a small collection of guitars which he reluctantly had to sell later when the construction boom ended in 2007 along with his benefits.

He moved to Muskogee to be near his parents and pursue free-lance carpentry work. During the last several years, his interests moved to the computer technology field and to cooking. After the death of his sister, Carolyn, he starting spending more time with his nephew, Joshua.

After even a brief conversation with Bill, a name he preferred to William or Clay, it was easy to size up he was an exceptionally intelligent and talented man. He did not have a degreed education, but was comfortable and quite competent discussing subjects such as science, history and religion, although

not a church-goer himself.

His family will always remember his kind heart and his love of small animals, especially cats. His cat, Cisco lived to be over 11 years old and logged literally thousands of miles beside Bill in his Ranger pick-up truck. His parents, Bill and Sue recall that once on a family outing in the Grand Lake area, he abruptly asked his dad to stop the car—several hundred feet in front of the car was an old, slow moving terrapin—Bill carefully picked up the turtle and put it atop the safety of a fence post.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

7600 Old Taft Rd.
Muskogee, OK 74401

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

Memorial Park Cemetery Mausoleum
7600 Old Taft Rd
Muskogee, OK 74401

Tribute Wall



“ *William Clay Southwick*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *Sheryl Lakin lit a candle in memory of William Clay Southwick*



Sheryl Lakin - December 24, 2016 at 11:02 AM



“ *Robert Horkans lit a candle in memory of William Clay Southwick*



Robert Horkans - December 24, 2016 at 10:05 AM



“ *Kurt Albrecht lit a candle in memory of William Clay Southwick*



Kurt Albrecht - December 23, 2016 at 10:51 PM

KA

Bill and I were stationed together in Germany and I have visited him twice at his home in OK, A good man.

Kurt Albrecht - December 23, 2016 at 10:53 PM

AN

“ *Andrea lit a candle in memory of William Clay Southwick*



Andrea - December 23, 2016 at 09:26 PM

AN

“ *Dearest Bill and Sue.... My heart is breaking over the loss of Bill. He was the most wonderful, kind and caring person I have ever known. Not a day has gone by since I last saw him when something about him has not fondly entered my thoughts. He has touch my and Misty's life in a profound way.*

Thank you for raising such a great guy!

With all my love and sorrow,

Andrea

Andrea - December 23, 2016 at 09:24 PM

DE

If this is the same Bill Southwick I knew from Davie, Florida in the mid 80's, then I have some memories to share. The Bill I had met was working at Nova University on organizing a renaissance fair that ended up being cancelled. But meanwhile, he enlisted a crew of students to help him, and I was one. He got a troupe together to learn theatrical stage fighting, and was an amazing coach and exceptionally gifted with working with young people, everyone loved him. He was great with animals, and had a gentle and wise temperament. We had so much fun, and one joke stuck with me which I was reminded of recently, and so I wondered about him and found this obit in my search. I had moved to NYC a couple years after that time at Nova U, where I lived for many years, doing many theatrical, corporate & educational entertainment endeavors; he remained an inspiration I thought of from time to time; last I heard he had teamed up with Andrea, whom he met through local renaissance fair organizers. It is Andrea's post here that confirms this as the Bill we had known in those years. I recall thinking he moved like a cat. The stage performing troupe had done a few gigs at local places, and one hilarious incident stands out in my memory where he brought a gallon of fake blood made in part with syrup. A messy uproarious adventure to be sure. Another name from the troupe comes to mind, Brian Kelly whom I've also wondered about. His father owned Kelly's Bar in Hollywood, Fl. Such great times! I will always remember Bill as a quiet, philosophical and highly skilled fellow who was a terrific leader. There may still exist, a portrait I drew of him, (I minored in art). If I find it, and if anyone wants to see it, I can be found as Deedee Infinidee on facebook. My late condolences to his family. May this good soul be at rest in peace.

Deedee - March 05, 2023 at 12:03 PM