



## William Irvin

March 12, 1925 - May 9, 2012

Today, William “Bill” Irvin, passed quietly away at his home in Ft. Collins. Affectionately known as “Hoppy” when he worked at the Howes Street Post Office, Bill was a fixture at the front windows from 1966 through his retirement in 1985. Bill and, his wife of 62 years, Camille, were strong advocates for the Larimer County Foster Care program. During their 19-year tenure with the organization, they served as foster parents for 42 children. This was in addition to the multitude of foreign exchange students, unwed mothers, and private placements they sponsored over the years. Their home was always open to those who, as Camille said, “Only need someone to provide them with a little love and attention.” Before they moved to Ft. Collins in 1963, Bill spent over 20 years in the US Navy as a cook in the submarine service, where he earned the nickname, “Ma”. His experiences during World War II were recently captured in a video produced by the Northern Colorado Veteran’s History Project. Copies of the video are available for viewing at local libraries as well as the Library of Congress. Always active, Bill was a member in the Navy Fleet Reserve, the Veteran’s of Foreign Wars (VFW), Submarine Veteran’s of WWII, the Knights of Columbus, and the Slightly Older Adult Players (SOAP) Troupe, an acting company where he played a variety of rolls both on, and behind, the stage. Bill is survived by his wife, Camille; his four adopted sons, Leon, Michael, Martin and Tony; 9 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. Visitation will be from 6:00 until 8:00 pm Friday, May 11 at St. Joseph Catholic Church with recitation of the rosary at 7:00. Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 10:00 am Saturday, May 12th at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Interment, with full military honors will be in Grandview Cemetery.

# Comments

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“ Bill's friendly demeanor was always evident whenever we met him at 8:00 Mass. Even when he was not feeling his best he would always come up and shake my hand. He was a delight to run in to because he left you feeling good when he left. Bill was a true fighter. He will be sadly missed by many, but knowing he is in a better place gives us all peace of mind. Sincere sympathy to Camille and family.

**Bob Brunacci** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Our prayers are with the family. May God bless you and give you peace that he is home in heaven.

**Sandra Collins** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I have many fond memories of my days in Boy Scout Troop 195, with which Bill often helped. He was very dedicated to the scouting movement. Thank you Bill, for helping me and so many other boys.

**Will Woodard** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Hoppy was my mentor when I became a retail window clerk at the main post office in Fort Collins in 1984. At first I thought, No one could be as positive and upbeat as hoppy seemed to be all the time. Well he proved me wrong on so many different occasions, he was still smiling and telling funny stories the last time I saw him a few weeks ago.  
Have fun sailing on the big sub in the sky my brother.

**Lorrie R Walls** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ God bless you and thank you for serving our country.

**Jeff C Jensen** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you Camille at this time. We are so very sorry for your loss. The USS Growler has lost a favorite shipmate. Don & Pat

**Don & Pat Bosetti** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ To Camille and Family:

"Hoppy" always made me smile when we worked together at the Post Office. He was upbeat, positive, and a bright spot in my day. We always joked with him about spending 20 years in a submarine.

I'm terribly saddened to see he has passed but know he did many good deeds during his life. He'll keep the Great Beyond hoppin'. I will always remember Bill.

**Wendell Frey** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I have always known Bill as a strong and caring man, and my Dad's Best Friend. When I was a young child my family would go pick cherries from Bill & Camille's tree. It was a family production. The cherries would have to be cleaned, pitted and some frozen, the rest made into jam/jelly. My memories of Bill are of Happy Times and Good Spirits, and always will be.

**John Schurman** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ In 1950,my parents bought a home in Cypress, CA. around the corner from where Bill Irvin's folks bought property and built their home. Bill was in the Navy and I suppose was out to sea most of the time. I believe I recall he and Camille had a home next door, where Camille stayed when Bill was away. As a kid, I did not really know them. Too busy playing in the dirt.

In 1962, I joined the Navy, went to submarine school and was sent to Pearl Harbor, HA., to my first assignment. The day I arrived, Bill and Emil Holborrow(one of my grammar school and high school mischief-making friends) met me on the dock where our boats were berthed to welcome me to the submarine service.

Bill retired and moved out of state, so I only saw him and Camille two or three more times, the most recent about five years ago, when they returned to CA. to visit Millie and Cathy. and came over to our house to visit with us. My parents had both recently passed and we were cleaning, painting and repairing their old house for sale (finally sold in Sept., 2011).

Bill and Camille were a kind, loving and compassionate couple. We are saddened for her loss, for the family's and friend's loss, but pleasantly note that we have all been priviledged to know a man who set a fine example by the measure of his life. Our sympathies to Camille, who must now continue without he great partner.

Sincerely,

Bill Smith and Nancy Wheaton

**William C. Smith** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ May God's angels great him in heaven. Our prayers are with your family.

**Kathya Lopez** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Bill was brother to my friend Millie, he loved his wife, chilren, and family. His passing is our loss and heavens gain. He will be so missed but his kindness, and thoughtful spirit will be with us as long as we remember.

**Ti'Shia Miller** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I was very saddened to hear of Bill's passing. He was a wonderful person. I loved the stories He told all of us during our times at SHARE distribution Saturdays. He was always smiling and happy, no matter how hectic it got. He will be missed by all who had the priviledge to know Him. We are so sorry for Your loss Camille, but we all know that He is in Heaven with Our Lord. To His Sons, You also have our deepest sympathies. God Bless You All.  
Always, Nancy and Gary Aylward

**Nancy Aylward** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I miss my grandpa more than I can say, but I know he is hanging around and watching over us. I'm sad that he won't be here in person to watch his great-grandson graduate high school in two weeks, but I know he will be there. Grandpa (and grandma) so supported us during difficult times. If it's one thing that's been reinforced by his passing, it's how many people he helped and how many people loved him. I hope I can honor him by being as caring, helpful, and positive as he was during his time here on earth. Grandpa, I'm so glad I was able to spend your final minutes beside you, praying. I love you and miss you.

**Christel (Irvin) Gray** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Bill was a especially kind man who will always have a special place in my heart. My prayers are with his family.

**Josh Harris** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Camille, and family please accept my deepest sympathy  
luv  
patsy

**Stephen Difrancesco** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Bill was a wonderful man and dear husband to Camille. We in Denver will miss him at our Submarine Memorial at Sloan's Lake on June 2. He was a great American who served his country with pride who now has gone on eternal patrol. Rest your oars, sailor.

**Sandy & Gene Kellar** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Next door neighbors for nearly forty years. We were the lucky ones! Bill was the best guy in the world. Now we'll be here for Camille. In His love, Bette

**Mike & Bette Sawyer** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Bill was a true and friendly friend to anyone whoever met him. He and Camille were always at the Knights of Columbus functions helping and making everyone happy in whatever way they could. Bill will be truly missed!  
God Bless you,  
Ray & Nina

**Ray & Nina Velasquez** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I remember Bill first from his years at the post office, and then from his involvements at the Lincoln Center, and finally seeing him perform for years with the S.O.A.P. group.  
Son Michael was a friend of mine, and he always spoke so highly of his father, so I know Bill was loved very much by his family and will be missed by so many people. My sincere condolences to Camille and all the family.  
I'm sure Bill's now busy in heaven.  
Debbie

**Debbie Dixon** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Bill was a shipmate of mine on the USS Growler. We all knew him then as "Ma". Ma and I came aboard the guided missile submarine USS Growler about the same time in 1961 while the ship was in dry dock. We sailed together on a number of nuclear deterrent patrols in the North Pacific. Ma was a favored cook on Growler and was well liked by myself and the rest of the crew. Ma was a member of a select few US Navy sailors who served on submarines during WWII, a time when nearly 15% of submariners died in combat. He will forever be among the ranks of those WWII submarine sailors whom are my heroes and I will always owe a debt of gratitude. Rest your oars Ma.

Al Odette

Allen Odette - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Hoppy certainly is an unforgettable character to so many people! I really enjoyed working with him at the Post Office on Howes Street. Many time he would eat lunch with me and others in the break room, always carrying his old lunch box from the Navy. He was the most happy-go-lucky person ever and brought a smile to everyone's face with his upbeat personality. I know the customers in line at the windows were always pleased when they ended up at Window 5 and were able to enjoy his cheerfulness, optimism and expertise.

All of the retirees appreciated Hoppy's calling us every month to remind us of the upcoming postal breakfasts, and letting us know of other recent news. He will definitely be missed! My sincere sympathy to Camille and the rest of the family on their great loss.

Miriam Ford - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ My deepest sympathies Camile to you and family, I am so sad to hear of Bill's death. We always were glad to see you at the submarine activities over the years, and Bill will be missed. I do hope that you will be able to attend activities to keep our memories alive. love Glo.

Gloria and son Val R. Unrein - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I want to extend my condolence for the passing of Mr. Irvin. I went to High School with Martin and lived with your family prior to moving to California. I always had the most respect and admiration for you and your family! You were like 2nd parents to me and the world is a much lesser place without you in it! RIP.

**Mark E. Sitzman** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ My Uncle was a man of few words, unless you took the time to sit & listen. I could sit & listen to him for hours as he would tell me about our family history and his adventures at sea. A fond memory of my youth was helping to pick raspberries and I couldn't understand why his bucket filled faster than mine and why I wasn't hungry when supper time came. Does anyone remember what would happen to a grasshopper if he got ahold of it?  
My family moved to Gay Street in Cypress in 1954. I am the third generation to live here and live in one of the 4 houses (3 they built) my family owed over the years. Our history here is strong and in tribute to my uncle, I will pass any of our family history on to future family members, when they want to sit & listen.  
My only sadness is that he won't be able to meet his great niece Holly, whom he whole heartily supported coming into our family the way so many of our family has come...by adoption.  
I love you Uncle and will always think of you when I eat raspberry anything.

**Cathie Erickson** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ We lived next to Bill and Camille and their ever-changing family in Fort Collins from 1974 to 1986. They were great neighbors and I will always remember the big smile on Bill's face.

Camille, Susi and I are thinking and praying for you and Bill's memory!

**Bill Kraus** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Camille, Bill's family (both immediate plus all of your foster family members). We have all lost a real hero. His was a name and face we always liked see on the patient schedule for his cheerful, humorous, honest, and genuine quality. We were honored to have been hi dentist. We all will miss him.

**Dr. Tim Anderson** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM