



William "Bill" McConnell Benton

August 16, 1931 - June 10, 2014

William "Bill" McConnell Benton, 82, died June 10, 2014 at his home. Viewing, Recitation of the Rosary and Vigil service will be held at 7:00 PM, Thursday, June 26th at St. John 23rd University Parish. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 AM, on June 27th at St. John XXIII. Cremation follows the mass with his cremated remains to be placed at Fort Logan National Cemetery in the future.

Bill's request would be that a donation of blood please be made to the blood bank, since he was a 20 gallon donor, in lieu of flowers. Or to the Hospital Foundation in his memory.

In his own words:

"Born at home on August 16, 1931 at a time when doctors actually made house calls, to my father, Thomas Franklin Benton and my mother, Minerva Brenzelia nee McConnell Benton in Animas City, Colorado; which was later incorporated into Durango. The youngest of a family of seven; four boys and three girls; the boys were always out numbered.

Being the "baby" of the family, I was spoiled rotten. They kept changing my diapers frequently, but it never helped. At about age three, my parents moved down to Durango and opened a grocery store on Main Street and they also

managed the apartment house next door. I attended Central Grade School for the 1st and 2nd grade and since Central was only three blocks from our store, up the hill and past Durango High, I was discouraged by my parents from riding the bus. I would have had to walk four blocks to catch the bus; so, they decided I should walk to school! Besides, I always beat the bus to school! During 3rd, 4th and 5th grade was a time when my folks were slowly going broke in the grocery store business; too much credit given to poor folks on welfare who, when they got their welfare checks, paid my Dad about 25% of what they owed and spent the rest of their money at Safeway down the street, because it was cheaper. After awhile, my folks figured supporting the people on welfare wasn't too solid a business practice; like me, they were slow learners. They were forced by their wholesalers to file bankruptcy and move back to Animas City.

The rest is rather boring and smacks of being Braggadocio! So, we will leave out my football years, the year we lived in Carlsbad, New Mexico; where during WWII (I won the city wide scrape metal collection contest,) my U.S. Army Intelligence Service, my pistol team awards and triumphs, my years as a radio announcer, my professional acting career, being a father of eight children, being past Grand Knight of three different councils, being a Life Knight of Columbus member, being a President and District Governor of Sertoma (SERvice TO Mankind) Service Club, former Kiwanis Club member, donated over 25 gallons of blood to Bonfis, since 1957, worked three years on the United Way Donation Screening Committee from 1977-80, have been in jail twice for charity, Salvation Army President and Board member from 1978-1988, member of the Larimer County Office On Aging Board from 2001-present, board member of the Fort Collins Children's Theatre in the 1970s one of the founders of S.O.A.P (Slightly Older Adult Players) in 1990 under the auspices of the Senior Center, and having the absolutely best wife God could possibly give any man!"

In addition to Jean, Bill is survived by his eight children, David Benton of Washington, D.C., Mary Carol (and Fred) Fuller of Fort Collins, Pamela Moran of Oxnard Shores, CA, William Gerard "Gerry" Benton of Santa Clara, CA, Patricia "Trish" (and Jim) Aschenbrener of Fort Collins, Vincent (and Teresa) Benton of Aurora, CO, Michael Benton of Loveland, CO and Charles Benton of Aurora; ten grandchildren, Jacqueline Killmer, Eric Larson, Justin Aschenbrener, Amber (and Tom) Dayton, Geoffrey Benton, Carter Benton, Sela Benton, Connor Benton, Kaelyn Benton and Vincent Benton; and four great-grandchildren, Samantha Killmer, Logan Dayton, Taylor Dayton and Xander Dayton. He was preceded in death by a grandson, Jeremy Dayton.

"All my accomplishments are written in the sand. All of my loves and hopes are chiseled in stone."

~Bill Benton

"It has been a grand life, crammed full of good friends and relatives, who both loved me and were pissed at me; sometimes at the same time. And, if I'd written the script my self, I would have changed a word. Well, maybe I'd have dropped some of the meanness and put in more love, nut, hey I think it is too late no, damn! Love you all!"

"Those who would sacrifice freedom for security deserve neither."

~ Ben Franklin

"A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have." ~ President Gerald Ford and ~ Thomas Jefferson

"Without God as the needle in your moral compass, you are doomed to wander in this desert of life!" ~ W.M. Benton

"When I'm Gone

Don't cry because you miss me.

Don't fret that I am gone.

I'm only changing forms you see,

My soul will carry on.

I'm bound to visit Jesus.

So, don't be blue or sad.

Just know that I am thankful

For the wondrous life I've had!"

~ Doug Benton, Bill's nephew (2005)

Previous Events

Rosary

JUN **26**. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

St. John XXIII
1220 University Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN **27**. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

St. John XXIII
1220 University Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Tribute Wall



“ *William "Bill" McConnell Benton*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Bill was a longtime friend friend of mine. He sponsored me into the Knights of Columbus, Council #1214. He was an exemplary Catholic gentleman. He loved his wife and family, and was kind to probably everyone he ever met. Bill was a clear thinker, had a great sense of humor, and is one who left a big impression upon our community. May he rest in eternal peace.*



Bob Schaffer - July 07, 2014 at 02:48 PM



“ *Bill was indeed a great man. I felt he was almost related to me because of the philosophy we held in common. Bill was always supportive of my endeavors and always had an encouraging word when things were not going well. He definitely left some broad ripples on the ocean of many folks lives.*

Greg R. Snyder - July 06, 2014 at 10:13 PM

KS

“ I remember Bill always trying to keep me safe at church when we had our spring clean up. I would be on top of a ladder cleaning for all I was worth and he would not leave my side. He held the ladder and I am sure prayed for my safety. I loved his hugs, his smile and his sense of humor. Bill, you were a friend, a mentor and a wonderful man. My heart goes out to you Jean, with love and respect.
Kelli Jo

Kelli Jo Stadlman - June 23, 2014 at 01:28 PM

CF

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Carol Fuller - June 17, 2014 at 10:32 PM

SM

“ Bill was a man of many interests and talents, being "The Banzake Kid" among them. I knew him first as a colleague and then as a good friend for many years. Cheryl and I will miss Bill. Our best thoughts to Jean and their family.

Steve Miller - June 16, 2014 at 02:10 PM

PM

“ I was saddened to see Bill's name in the obituaries. Then, I read the words he wrote and smiled. Bill's voice was heard loud and clear. Bill was something else...quite a character! However, he brought tears to my eyes when he told about serving our country and being honored as a veteran. My heart goes out to his sweet wife Jean. Bill and Jean volunteered for me for over tthree years. Everyone at Bauder Elementary got to know them. I wish for his family peace and many wonderful memories that make them smile.

Penny Mitchell - June 15, 2014 at 10:22 PM

CH

“ Chrissy lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" McConnell Benton



Chrissy - June 12, 2014 at 10:54 AM