



# **William Kendrick Cary Jr.**

AUG 21, 1944 - AUG 7, 2022



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6



## **William Kendrick Cary Jr.**

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**M**r. William K. Cary Jr, 77, of Stafford, VA, passed into glory on August 7, 2022 at home with loved ones after battling cancer. A native of Binghamton, NY, Bill was born on August 21, 1944 to the late William Kendrick Cary and Georgia Mae Shackelford. He grew up in Smyrna, DE, where he met lifelong friend Jim Francis, who would later influence his career and relocation to the Fredericksburg area for the next 50 years. Bill graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering.

Bill was drafted during the Vietnam War and served stateside at Fort Ord CA, learning the virtues of leadership in caring for the needs of those in his Army unit. He first worked at Ft. Belvoir, then was hired by the Navy at NSWC Dahlgren, where he developed radar and other systems, and was known as a problem-solver in production issues. One friend who dealt with engineers from the bench to Headquarters throughout his career often noted that "Bill Cary was the finest electronics engineer that I ever knew. He had an insatiable appetite to learn new things."

Bill's life was full of hobbies and adventures—in his own words he took after James Bond. He was an avid swimmer for his entire life and served as a lifeguard for two years at Ocean City, MD and was also prolific at snorkeling and scuba diving. He was a small plane pilot and flew at times for work and family vacations. Bill enjoyed many adventures with his two sons—cycling, camping, canoeing, Hobie Cat and large boat sailing, and often a combination of these. Bill was self-taught in woodworking, machining, plumbing and welding. He enjoyed tennis, target shooting, photography, growing food and improving the soil, learning piano, ballroom dancing, playing pool, cooking, Toastmasters, and endless jokes.

A constant encouragement to those in need, Bill Cary did his own Bible study jail ministry for several years. He was also a supporter of the homeless via the Thurman Brisben Homeless shelter and was part of a team that fed the homeless weekly in downtown Fredericksburg. He was renowned for his macaroni and cheese and his own "Willy's Chili."



## Obituary

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Bill Cary is preceded in death by his sisters Gayle Cary Doughten and Cynthia Fessman, and survived by his devoted partner Sai, brother Con Cary, his two sons by former spouse Marcia—William Kendrick Cary III and Robert Douglas Cary (spouse Jewel), granddaughter Hazel, cousins Diane and Johnnie, and several generations of nieces and nephews.

Bill Cary's ashes will be interred at Quantico National Cemetery in a private ceremony.

Per his wishes, there will be no service. The family requests that memorial donations be made in his name to the Thurman Brisben Homeless Shelter in Fredericksburg, VA.

Please visit Bill's Life Tribute Webpage at [foundandsons.com](http://foundandsons.com) and sign his online guestbook.




## Events

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### Cemetery Details

 **Quantico National Cemetery**  
18424 Joplin Road, Triangle VA 22172





## Tribute Wall

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DG

**Dean Gossett** posted:

I just recently learned of Bill's passing, be it belated I just wanted to express my sorrow at the news. Bill and I usually only crossed paths for a few weeks every year, but I always looked forward to knowing that as fall approached so did my opportunity to see Bill again. When I first started working on Riverfest many years ago, Bill had already made his mark on our event as the resident handyman and someone who could fix just about anything. He immediately made me feel welcome and at some point for a few years there I was his favorite aide de camp. I was lucky enough to spend quite a few hours, holding boards, tracking down tools, standing for hours in the river as we tried to fix a dock that always seemed in need of fixing every year. We got to talk quite a bit and shared a lot of laughs. Every problem had a solution if Bill was around. Riverfest won't be the same this year without him, and I know I'll be looking for his smiling face.

September 15 at 12:03 PM

RG

**Ronald Gross** August 16 at 4:38 PM

Bill was one of the greatest people in my life. When I first went to work as an electronics engineer he solved a very difficult problem for me that I probably still would be grappling with. He was a real sweetheart and I will always have him in my heart. Take care my friend.

MM

**Michelle Meyer** posted:

Riverfest will not be the same without Bill's tireless work. He will be missed!

August 24 at 3:36 AM

LG

**Lou Gramann** posted:

Thank you for the nice obituary for Bill. We worked with him for many years on FOR's Riverfest Committee. Bill's many projects and contributions behind the scenes always improved the event. We appreciate seeing that he was active in so many other good works around town. And we are not surprised. Bill, we will miss you. — Bob and Lou Gramann

August 23 at 6:46 PM



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CP

**Chris Payton** posted:

The board and staff of the Thurman Brisben Center send our deep condolences to Mr. Cary's family. Mr. Cary was an ardent supporter of our efforts to help families with children and individuals experiencing homelessness get back on their feet. Clearly, his life overall was marked by a genuine desire to be of help. In keeping with his wishes, donations in Bill's memory can be made to the Brisben Center via our website: [brisbencenterv.org](http://brisbencenterv.org). Thank you, Bill. Your kindnesses continue to resonate.

August 19 at 1:22 PM

DG

**Darlene Gallahan** lit a candle in honor of William.



August 18 at 12:46 PM

HW

**Hal Wiggins** posted:

Bill, was a good man and always willing to help people in need. I will never forget the time Bill fixed a broken coolant line in my jeep engine, right on the spot with tools and rubber hose he produced seemingly out of mid-air. He will be missed.

August 17 at 11:10 AM

DG

**Darlene Gallahan** posted:

Bill was a bright light when he served the inmates as a Gideon at RRJ in Stafford. I am so sorry to learn of his passing. Always the upbeat person willing to help. Good memories. Rest easy Bill, you served God and the less fortunate well. Thank you. Darlene G former case manager at RRJ.

August 17 at 4:44 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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