

William "Bill" Wimmer

October 28, 1925 - July 20, 2014

William Oliver Wimmer, age 88 of Oakdale, died July 20th, 2014 at UT Medical Center in Knoxville. He is preceded in death by his Wife, Nancy Carolyn Wimmer, and granddaughter, Mary Lee Rodgers. Survivors are: Children; William Kendall Wimmer of Oakdale, Paula Rodgers and husband Mark of Cookeville, Robert Peyton Wimmer and wife Karen of Austin, TX, Edward Garris Wimmer of Nashville, Charles Alexander Wimmer of Maryville, Grandchildren; Seanne and Alex Rodgers, Oliver Milo, Lucy and Wendy Wimmer and Madeline and Jacob Wimmer.

Bill, or Doc as he was known, was born in Roanoke VA, to Mary and Paul Wimmer in 1925. At birth the doctor asked, "and what is this baby to be called?" Mary said, "William Oliver Wimmer" to which the Doctor remarked... WOW.

It could not have been said better. He was a true one of a kind, quick of wit, eternally loyal as a friend, and loved to ponder the imponderable. Born an imperfect perfectionist, as he would say, he spent his life trying to get it right and learning to accept the results. His perfectionist streak led him on a road of adventure and left him with a strong sense of family and community, knowing it truly takes all of us to 'get it right.'

At 17 Bill thought it better to join the war effort than continue the battle of High School and left shortly before graduation. He joined the Navy and served as a torpedoman's mate in the submarine corp aboard the USS Haddo I (ss-255) until the war's end in 1945. He loved the submarine service for its small,

tightly held community and maintained the friendships he forged there for the rest of his life. He also continued to have a love of the sea and sailboats. After leaving the service he attended ETSU and the University of Wyoming, working his way through by drawing blood at the nearby hospital where he lived. Upon graduation at UW he returned to Kingsport as a junior chemist for Eastman Kodak; a career that convinced him of two things: 1. he should marry the beautiful young journalist he had recently met and 2. he should go back to school. He did both.

Bill and Nancy moved to Memphis where he entered dental school. After graduating in 1954, he went home to Kingsport, and after a few years there he chose Harriman as the place to set up his practice. And the next chapter began. Moving to Harriman in 1957 with wife and 3 (to be 5) small children he quickly found his place in the community. He became known as the 'singing orthodontist' and provided care to many who would otherwise not be able to afford it with his flexible barter, trade, or long, long term payment plan. Once a lady from Nashville, bringing her son in for an initial visit, said, "I hear you are that cheap orthodontist!" He replied, "I prefer to think of it as inexpensive." He then promptly referred her to a dentist in Nashville, as his gifts of time and talent were for his community.

Bill joined the Lions Club as soon as he got to Harriman in 1957. He was soon elected to the office of 'Tail Twister,' the office in charge of harassing, stirring up camaraderie, keeping people proactive and having fun at the meetings. He was re-elected every year. He was also a Melvin Jones Fellow, a recipient of the Lions Club International award for service to community, and Chairman of the Harriman Lions Club Eye Screening Program in conjunction with Vanderbilt University. He loved the program and the impact it had on so many people's lives. He also flipped pancakes and cut watermelons for fundraising events. Like so many other things in his life the Lions Club was a lifelong commitment with lifelong friends.

In addition, he was a Band Aide Popcorn Admiral for the local High School band and manned the concession stand till his arms were covered in cotton

candy. Helping to bring forth and maintain the Roane Choral Society, Bill's dedication also showed in his work with Roane Co Park and later the Riverfront Park. He planted and maintained gardens with his wife Nancy at Riverfront.

He grew potatoes for the church food pantry and served on numerous church boards and classrooms through the years (and would like to leave us with the thought: if your church is carrying debt... you need to take tithing a little more seriously).

Bill liked to people watch, knowing that he was giving as good a show as he was getting. In 1963 he hauled the family out to South Dakota to pick up a starter herd of Scottish Highland cattle. They had long hair and huge horns, another part of the show and instrumental to his passion of farming. He and Nancy raised organic vegetables and lean beef long before it was cool. He considered his orthodontics to be part work and part community service eventually longed to be out of the office and on the farm. In 1980 he retired from dental practice to do that and continued to farm up to his final days.

After all the adventures, raising his family, community action and his farm, Bill found his true calling in life: to be the worlds best Grandfather. And he was. His love for and pride in his grandchildren was as obvious as the twinkle in his eye. He never missed a birthday or special occasion. He 'got it right.'

With Bill Wimmer you knew where you stood and where he stood. He had great capacity for diversity and differences. He supported the rights and needs of a diverse community and respected opinions whether or not he personally agreed with them, giving himself room for debate, his favorite pastime. His most defining characteristic however was humor. He was just funny. Everyone he has ever met has a Bill Wimmer story. In his honor, the family asks that you share those stories with people you love and strangers you meet. Humor enabled him to help those in need, give to his community, truly be with his friends and family, to never meet a stranger and generally make the world a better place than when he got here. It is a legacy that we can all afford to

donate generously. For cash donations, the family asks that you support the Kingston United Methodist Church building and general funds. At least until the tithing catches up.

From Kingsport, TN to points all around the world and then to the Oakdale and Roane county area, Bill has enjoyed the world with curiosity and intensity. He has had tremendous impact on many, many lives. His was a life well lived. As that Doctor 88 years ago exclaimed looking to a child's future, today we all look at the life Bill Wimmer lived and collectively say... WOW!

The family will receive friends from 12 noon to 2:15 PM Sunday at Kingston United Methodist Church. Funeral 2:30 PM Sunday at Kingston United Methodist Church.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 27. 12:00 PM - 2:15 PM (ET)

Kingston United Methodist Church
212 W Church St
Kingston, TN 37763

Memorial Service

JUL 27. 2:30 PM (ET)

Kingston United Methodist Church
212 W Church St
Kingston, TN 37763

Tribute Wall

CH

“ Still miss Mr. Wimmer. I put up a poster in our store and have the pleasure of telling others about him when asked about it.

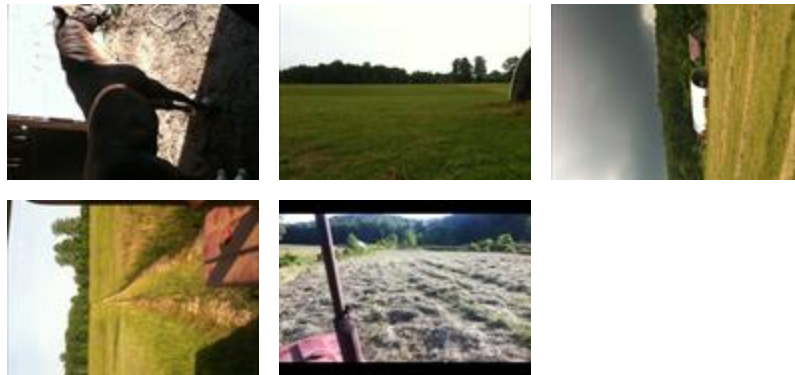
Carmen

Harriman Mcds

Carmen Van Horn - April 08, 2015 at 04:42 PM

JA

“ 7 files added to the album *The Farm*



Jacob - November 04, 2014 at 11:41 PM

CH

“ I am the Hospitality Manager at Harriman McDonald's and Mr. Wimmer and his best friend would come in every week for breakfast. I would refill coffee and would always hear jokes or tall tales. I just heard the news today and it broke my heart. Some people you meet in life bring such happiness into the world and Mr. Wimmer was one of those people. I plan on buying a cup of coffee on Wednesdays and leaving it at his table for a while. I know it sounds a bit corny but it will be hard to pass by and not see him there. Know that you all are in my thoughts and prayers and if I can do anything please let me know. Many Blessings, Carmen Van Horn

Carmen Van Horn - July 30, 2014 at 06:25 PM

DB

“ We already miss Daddy Bill in our family... He extends a beautiful legacy into your hands to carry on in grace, compassion, and humility and with his resilient humor no matter the odds! We love you allso very much! David and Dana Bailey and all the kids ..his extended grandchildren family !

Dana R Bailey - July 27, 2014 at 10:25 AM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Wimmer.



July 25, 2014 at 04:37 PM

WC

“ What a fantastic Obituary!! Only a Wimmer could have written such a great piece!! Wonderful memories that go back many decades. Your dad's handiwork allowed to me look and behave in a more civilized fashion than I might have otherwise. Orthodontist extraordinaire!! Thank you Dr. Wimmer!! Our family will always have wonderful memories of your family and our fun times together!! May God bless you all during this painful, tough loss!!

Walter G. Cunningham

Walter G. Cunningham - July 25, 2014 at 03:56 PM

GH

“ Great fellow sorry for your lose Greg Hill

greg hill - July 25, 2014 at 09:48 AM

SF

“ Scott and Sam and family purchased the Blooming Garden Basket for the family of William "Bill" Wimmer.



Scott and Sam and family - July 25, 2014 at 09:42 AM

PR

“ 10 files added to the album New Album Name



Paula Wimmer Rodgers - July 24, 2014 at 11:44 PM

SB

“ You will be in our prayers, Paula and Mark.
Sally and Nathan Burbank

Sally Burbank - July 24, 2014 at 10:53 PM

AS

“ My prayers are with the family at this time of loss. May God grant you sweet memories of your dad, grandpa, husband, brother and may God bless the time you spend gathered together for this sad occasion.



Adele Seitzinger - July 24, 2014 at 03:58 PM



“ *Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Wimmer.*



July 23, 2014 at 02:50 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of Dr. Wimmer. He was a good friend and neighbor. He will surely be missed. Thinking of Rob, Ned, Kendall, Charlie & Paula.*

Bud & Norma Mathis - July 22, 2014 at 10:08 PM



“ *We are shocked and saddened at the passing of "Doc" Wimmer. We have shared farming and a love of the same community for years. He was considered an icon and pillar of the little town where I grew up and will be greatly missed! Our prayers are with Kendall, Paula, Rob, Ned, Charlie and the extended family.*

Timothy J. Mathis, C.D.T. Ball Camp Dental Laboratory

Timothy J Mathis - July 22, 2014 at 08:58 PM

GM

“ I am so sorry to hear of Bill's transition to a better place. Not only was he my orthodontist, he was the first professional to encourage me to become a dentist. Several others helped me to achieve that goal but it was Bill who saw some potential in me and encouraged me to pursue a dental career. I was only a freshman in high school, and I never wavered. Thank you Bill. I can only shed tears of gratitude and hopefully pass it on.

Gary M. McCown, DDS

Gary McCown - July 20, 2014 at 06:28 PM