



William Lee Gross

November 9, 1944 - April 12, 2021

Obituary – William Lee “Bill” Gross

On Monday, April 12, 2021, William Lee “Bill” Gross, proud husband, father of two children, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, passed away at age 76.

Bill was born on November 9, 1944 in Washington, DC to Lee and Ruth Gross. He earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Michigan and worked for AC Spark Plug (later Delphi) in Michigan until 2003.

On May 7, 1965, he married Nancy Oakley. They raised a son, Mike, and a daughter, Debbie.

Bill was active in the Lions Club and often coached baseball while his kids were in school. He was an avid and vocal fan of the Detroit Tigers, Michigan Football, and the Detroit Lions. He was steadfast in his cheering, and his belief that they all could win. He enjoyed trips to visit friends, loved American history, and made it to all 50 State Capitol Buildings with Nancy. He golfed at Pebble Beach, ran the Bobby Crim Road Race multiple times, played with baseball greats at Detroit Tiger Fantasy Camp, and more. Bill went to the Rose Bowl, The Masters, and the World Series. He was never shy with an opinion, and readily had a colorful story to tell!

Bill was preceded in death by his father, Lee, and his mother, Ruth. He is survived by his wife Nancy, his two children, Mike (spouse Sharon) and Debbie (spouse Michael), his sister Connie (spouse Brad), grandchildren Meagan and Dylan (spouse Laura), great-grandson Keegan, Sally Voakes (sister in law), numerous cousins and Jan Gross. A small (limited due to COVID protocols) funeral service will be held on Trinity Memorial Gardens on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 1 o’clock p.m.

It will also be streamed live at the link below. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association (<https://dysphonia.org/>) as Bill suffered from this rare, chronic, voice disorder since 1986.

Link to live stream:

<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/authorise.php?k=1618380051560043>

Previous Events

Memorial service

APR **12**. 1:00 PM (ET)

TRINITY MEMORIAL GARDENS
12609 Memorial Dr.
Trinity, FL 34655

Visitation

APR **19**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

TRINITY MEMORIAL GARDENS
12609 Memorial Dr.
Trinity, FL 34655

Tribute Wall

DL

“ Thanks for the wonderfully thoughtful outreaches and mentions regarding my dad's passing.

Here is the beginning of what I shared Monday at his funeral, and this is a favorite photo with him, as we were mid-twirl at Dylan and Laura's wedding (my dad loved to dance):

While every person born has a father, not everyone gets a dad.

Bill Gross loved the role of being a dad (among other roles, too).

As our Dad, Mike and I could rely on many things from him, including:

- 1) He liked gatherings, especially family gatherings & he took a lot of pictures (not without their camera mishaps along the way)*
- 2) He had an opinion on most everything & he expected us to do our best*
- 3) He loved sports & he was competitive*

Through the stories shared (that won't fit here in the word count), it was fun to recollect our trips, historical discussions, laughs, and our rounds of golf.

Certainly through people around him, photos taken, ideas shared, high standards, games and championships, we learned much from "Mr. 144" as our Dad!



Debbie Lundberg - April 21, 2021 at 10:52 AM

DK

“ Thoughts and prayers go out to the Gross family.

Kratz family

Dale Kratz - April 19, 2021 at 10:03 AM

WP

“ Deepest Sympathy to Nancy and Bill's daughter and son, he was so proud of you. Oh, how I will miss His "Jokes and Email Postings the last couple of years. The Heritage Springs Euchre Group will never be the same..Rest In Peace, Bill 🙏 Patricia Welch

Welch Pat - April 18, 2021 at 11:27 PM

“ Dad,

Thank you for always supporting Debbie's and my sports endeavors, through coaching or spectating, including Meagan and Dylan for all of their activities from Harry Potter and Drama to soccer, hockey and baseball all the way through college and Crossroads Village. Thanks for setting up the Irish music for Sharon's family and heritage at the rehearsal dinner, even though we were just a bit late.

Thanks for the golf and the come from behind Spring Meadows championship.

Thanks for being a part of Dylan and Laura's wedding

Thanks for doing what you could during a pandemic for Keegan.

Thanks for always being there for Mom.

Thanks for always driving on vacations, otherwise, how would we know how to use a CB radio or drive from Orlando to Clearwater to see the Kapok Tree? And, oh what a memorable site. 120 minutes over, a giant hmmmmm, and then 120 minutes back. And then we move here 20 years later to see it again, coincidence?

In the end, thank you for all that you have done for the family.

Rest easy, we've got this. Had a good teacher.

Love,

Mike

Mike Gross - April 18, 2021 at 09:13 PM

“ I first met Bill and Nancy in 2000 when I married his cousin Fred. We hit it off immediately. Seems like yesterday.

They called one day and were heading to Marti Gras. We decided we would go along. What a trip it was. Bill in his plastic boobs shouting to the girls on the balconies to throw beads down to him so he could catch them with his spear! The day before we were watching the parades in the rain. Of course we were standing on the corner we were advised not to go to. Some woman was leaning on me, I think to pick pocket me but my pockets were pinned shut. I went to the room to take a nap and heard a knock a little later and Bill, Nancy and Fred were there with big bags of beads, teddy bears and spears, laughing up a storm.

We had so much fun we starting traveling together every year. Bill was always ready for some fun. He enjoyed visiting forts! One time we passed a sign about a fort in Charleston. We were in separate cars. I said to Fred don't tell Bill about that fort. As soon as we got there Bill jumped out and said did you see that? A fort! We went to the fort. I think that was the third fort visit in our travels!

Another funny time we had, in Australia. I will always remember how Bill wanted his coffee right away. He had gone to the restaurant ahead of us and brought coffee up to the room (leaving a trail from the elevator). When we later went down to the restaurant he wanted coffee right away. All of a sudden different waitresses started delivering coffee and more coffee and more coffee and this went on and on! The maitre d was having some fun with Bill. We all had a laugh about that.

I will always remember how Bill and Nancy came and spent time with me and helped out when Fred was so sick. I will always be grateful to them both. They are the brother and sister I never had. I love them and I will miss all the fun times with Bill. ❤️

Jan Gross

Jan Gross - April 18, 2021 at 08:11 PM

JS

“ I had no idea that I was sixteen months older than my cousin, Bill Gross . We were inseparable every August when his family came to visit and stay with us for a week . Aunt Ruth and Uncle Lee would get my bedroom and Bill & I got to sleep on a trundle bed in our finished basement. DC was ours for exploring and enjoyment .



One summer another cousin Gene was visiting at the same time and because he was about four years younger (than Bill ? than Jim ?) Bill and I tried to talk our parents out of making us take him along, to no avail.

It turns out that day was one of the highlights of our Cousin Gene's pre-teen years and equally so for Bill & I getting to know and care for our younger cousin together.

Although separated by miles. I always considered Bill my closest cousin throughout the years.

My condolences to ALL the friends and FAMILY of William Lee Gross (my cousin Billy Lee)

❤️🙏 Jimmy 🙏❤️

James K Mulvey Sr - April 18, 2021 at 02:30 PM

DC

“ Bill and Nancy and Denny and I became friends while our children were attending school together. We took many family trips, DC, Cedar Point and Upnorth. We all worked together in East Flint Lions Club and in our business venture The Buttoneers. The four of us took many trips, shared many laughs and just enjoyed our time together. Through children's weddings, births of grandchildren, loss of parents we shared it all. We'll miss you Bill. Thanks for the memories. Love to you Nancy and family

Denny and Karen Curtis - April 18, 2021 at 12:39 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of William Lee Gross.



April 18, 2021 at 08:28 AM

ES

“ When my family moved next door to the Gross's back in the North end of Flint back in 1958, little did I know what a ride I was in for. Bill had the Flint Journal route and before I could get it from my mentor I had to collect the money every two weeks, often in the rain and other times in a snowstorm. In the winter I would be awoken by snowballs hitting my upstairs bedroom window at 6am every Sunday morning by Bill if he was out on Saturday night too late or not feeling well do to a head ache (as these were the largest papers of the week...all 128 of them) and for this he would buy me a 5 cent bag of Frito's and a 10 cent Cherry Coke at Sunset Drugs...what a guy...!!! Also, Bill would establish ALL the rules for the neighborhood Football, Basketball, Whiffleball and Pool games in his parents basement along with Golf at Clio Country Club and Baseball at Bassett Park...these are still referred to today as "The Bill Gross" rules of Donnelly Street...!!! Bill was a great friend for my last 62 years and it was a total shock when another mutual friend of ours { Denny Curtis} called me and told me of his passing. My thoughts and prayers go out to Nancy and the Family...!!! Elvis Straehly, Big Bass Lake

Elvis Straehly - April 17, 2021 at 12:02 PM

TF

“ The Voakes Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of William Lee Gross.



The Voakes Family - April 17, 2021 at 11:28 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Lee Gross.



April 16, 2021 at 10:21 AM

JC

“ Wishing you comfort and hoping that good memories give you strength. I am so grateful for the brotherly relationship Bill had with my dad, Fred, his cousin. They shared so many good times and Bill was there to provide support during the most difficult times. Heartfelt condolences.

Julie (Gross) Clauda

Julie Clauda - April 16, 2021 at 08:40 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Lee Gross.*



April 16, 2021 at 06:41 AM

CL

“ *I worked many years with Bill at AC Sparkplug in Plant 2 and other assignments. He was a hard working energetic person but at the same time always had time for fun. I saw him last at the Plant 2 reunion in Grand Blanc. I wish your family the best of everything.*
My condolences.
Chris LaBoskey
Bradenton Fl

Chris LaBoskey - April 15, 2021 at 09:20 PM

RL

“ *My deepest sympathy to Nancy, children Mike and Debbie and the rest of the Gross family on the passing of your beloved husband and father Bill.*

I came to know Bill in the later years of his life through the Tampa support group for individuals with a voice disorder known as spasmodic dysphonia. Bill was an active member of our small group and was loved by all. He was determined to find treatment and like the rest of us hoped there would eventually be a cure for this rare disorder.

He never let his voice disorder dampen his positive attitude and was always willing to share his personal experiences at our meetings as well as listen to and learn from the other members of the group. I always enjoyed my conversations with Bill and it would always lead to sports talk about our favorite teams.

May God be with you and give you peace at this sad time.

Sincerely,

Ron Langdon

Ron Langdon - April 15, 2021 at 05:14 PM



“ Rays of Light Spray was purchased for the family of William Lee Gross.



April 15, 2021 at 04:39 PM

PM

“ Patrick, Charlene, Michael, Holly & Keira McGinnis purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of William Lee Gross.



Patrick, Charlene, Michael, Holly & Keira McGinnis - April 15, 2021 at 03:51 PM

CM

“ Our love to the entire Gross Family at this most difficult of times. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Our families got together after church on Sundays for a late breakfast at our house or theirs. When Bill was about 7 we had all finished eating when Bill decided he wanted another egg. His Mom asked him, "Are you sure?" He replied "Yes" so she fixed him another egg and put it in front of him. He decided he didn't want it and started to leave the table. Mom told him no way was he leaving the table until he ate that egg even if it took all day. Connie, Fred and I went outside to play. After a half hour or so Bill finally devoured the cold egg and joined the rest of us. I don't think he ever pulled that trick again on his Mom.

Cousin Charlene (Gross) McGinnis

P.S. We had a lot of fun times together growing up in Flint, MI. Both Bill and Fred were both witty and such fun to be around.

Charlene (Gross) McGinnis - April 15, 2021 at 03:12 PM

GL

“ In 2006 Audrey and I (Glen) met Bill and Nancy Gross by chance one afternoon attending a function at the Heritage Springs clubhouse. We had just moved to the community and hardly new anyone. They invited us back to their house and we quickly became closest of friends.

Bill with his infectious laugh, and quick wit was a joy to be around, he loved his family, sports, golf and was passionate about living life to the fullest.

Audrey and I will never ever forget Bill and Nancy in our thoughts and prayers - We love and miss you.

Audrey and Glen

Glen - April 15, 2021 at 01:10 PM

LL

“ My deep sympathies and condolences to Bill's family and many friends. I worked for Bill in 1977, and we maintained a friendship that lasted thru retirement until his final days! He was always a great friend, a thoughtful mentor and a wonderful family man who was very proud of Nancy and his kids! I've long said that's it's easy to separate the great people from the rest of the masses.... Bill was at the top of the "Great" pile! R.I.P. my friend, it was a great ride!

Larry Lubeski - April 15, 2021 at 12:21 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Lee Gross.



April 15, 2021 at 11:10 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Lee Gross.



April 15, 2021 at 09:10 AM

MD

“ *My condolences on Bill's passing. I worked under him early in my AC career and he was a very caring and kind man, a good influence on a young college graduate.*

Mark DuCharme - April 15, 2021 at 09:05 AM

DL

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Debbie (Gross) Lundberg - April 15, 2021 at 08:56 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of William Lee Gross.*



April 15, 2021 at 08:45 AM

RS

“ *Nancy and Family-I knew Bill from working at A.C. He was indeed one of the "Good Guys" from our times at A.C..I'm sorry for your loss.I have many great memories from work and Golf. Always a great laugh and attitude.Dick Swift*

Richard Swift - April 15, 2021 at 08:31 AM

FK

“ *I first met Bill when we worked together at AC's Shipping dept. in the late 70's. We had a lot of adventures together working for the legendary Frank Pontello!! Great times and great memories of Bill throughout the years. He was always a class act!! Loved his family and always was dedicated to doing a good job! One of the good guys from the good old days!! My thoughts and prayers are with his family! RIP dear old friend!!*

Fred Krause - April 15, 2021 at 03:19 AM

JR

Bill was a great guy. I was a secretary to him many years ago at AC. A great family man and loved them so much. He was very much a perfectionist in anything he did. RIP, Bill.

jessie lundy ray - April 15, 2021 at 06:33 AM

JA

We will miss you Bill!

James Anderson

James Anderson - April 15, 2021 at 10:16 AM

BW

The class of Southwestern 1962 just found out about Bill's passing, our deepest sympathy.

Bonnie Weber - June 18, 2021 at 07:53 AM

LF

“ *I am very sorry for your loss, I know how hard it can be at times like these. My prayers are with you.* ”

LAWRENCE FRAME - April 14, 2021 at 08:57 PM