



## William H. Schnakenberg III

March 9, 1939 - September 11, 2015

Most recently of Chalfont, Bucks County, PA, formerly of Centerport, Long Island, and originally from Staten Island, NY – Bill peacefully passed away at home on September 11th, 2015 surrounded by his loved ones.

Successful and accomplished, Bill initially served as a Customs and then DEA agent in the early stages of his career. One of his proudest accomplishments was beating all odds and becoming one of the only individuals without a college degree to earn the status of “agent”. His fondest memory of this phase of his life was being featured on the news magazine 60 Minutes in the only series segment that actually lasted the entire hour. After moving to Pennsylvania, Bill started his second career and joined Merrill-Lynch as a Supervisor of Physical Security and after many dedicated years, went on to become Vice President of Physical Security; the position from which he retired in 2009.

Bill is preceded in death by his mother Margaret (nee Toth), his father, William H. Schnakenberg II, and his step-mother Barbara Schnakenberg. He is survived by his children Susanne Routh and her husband Chris; William H. Schnakenberg IV and his wife Jen; Sybil Letting and her husband Mark; and Tenley Schnakenberg and Dave Brown. Also survived by his seven grandchildren - Megan and Ryan Routh, Chesney and Liam (William Hamilton V) Schnakenberg, Dylan and Logan Letting, and Cameron Brown. He also leaves behind his faithful dog, Ralph who refused to leave his side during Bill’s final days.

A US Marine, Bill led a colorful life and no one will argue that he left an impression wherever he went. A loyal father, grandfather, son, cousin and friend - Bill will never be forgotten and will be missed immensely by everyone who was blessed to know him.

# Cemetery

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**Sellersville Cemetery**

PA,

# Events

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**SEP 16 Viewing 09:30AM - 11:00AM**

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Shelly-Dinan Funeral Home

24 E. Main St., Lansdale, PA, US, 19446

**SEP 16 Service in Funeral Home 11:00AM - 12:00PM**

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Shelly-Dinan Funeral Home

24 E. Main St., Lansdale, PA, US, 19446

# Comments

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“ It is just now that I am learning of Bill's passing. I met him back in the early 60's, when we were both members of the Hawthorne Caballeros Drum and Bugle Corps. Bill was the kind of person that you never forget, and I didn't. Before he became a U.S. Customs Agent, he was a photographer in that agency, working out of the Customs House in downtown Manhattan. At the same time, I was working downtown on Wall Street. We met MANY times for lunch and an "occasional" beer. After God made Bill, he broke the mold. As tough as he might have appeared, he would give you the shirt off his back, and I am proud to have called him my friend. RIP Snapper!

**Harry Hazelwood** - September 29, 2018 at 12:48 PM

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“ Bill, as you know, I met your Dad at Merrill Lynch. He stopped me in the underground parking garage and gave me his business card, saying to call him. He wanted to make sure my name got on the list for the parking garage so after security gates went up, I'd still be able to park my Harley down there. :)

**Roxanne Ranallo** - September 17, 2015 at 05:26 PM

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“ If there were one last thing that I could've said to Bill before his passing, it would've been thank you. Although, I don't think that "thank you" truly expresses my gratitude. I would like to thank him for helping raise three amazing individuals, that I proudly get to call friends, if not family. Billy, Sybil, and Tenley are probably the most outspoken, honest, strong, and caring people I am lucky enough to know. As anyone that knows Bill could tell you, if Bill had something on his mind he said it. And that was definitely passed on to his children, for better or for worse. Just like most people, Bill went through things in life that weren't always enjoyable, but he was able to stay strong, shake it off, and move forward. If you know any of his children, he passed that trait on to them. And although, he may have had a hardshell coating, underneath he was nothing but sweet. He may be shaking his head at one moment, but also in that same time be bear hugging his children. He would glow when he was near his grandchildren. Family meant everything to him. Through the good or the bad, family was always the defining line. The strength that I have seen from the Bill, Sybil, and Tenley only goes to prove that Their dad passed on those loving and caring traits of a parent and person to his own children. So, thank you Mr. Schnackenberg because you were the father, you were meant to be, and I now know and love these incredible people.

**Jamie Meyers** - September 15, 2015 at 10:50 PM



“ Bill was like a second father, and always made me feel like such a part of the family. His humor was priceless... his generosity, loyalty, and genuine caring nature were very much appreciated... I have never met anyone like him, and I will definitely miss his unfiltered jokes and honesty. Whether he was telling me my hair looked like I had been electrocuted, or joking with me about about shipping in boyfriends from other states, I will miss it all SO much! He always made me laugh and smile, and truly cared about my well-being. Bill you will never be forgotten. I love you!  
Elizabeth Moraux



**Elizabeth Moraux** - September 15, 2015 at 09:34 PM

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“ Bill - You lived your life to the fullest...fun, outspoken, larger than life, and a true New Yorker. Most people could only wish to live as free spirited as you. You were always yourself. I can honestly say that I have never met anyone like you. There was never a dull moment when you were around and I feel privileged to have known you. I plan to live life to the fullest and be myself without hesitation in your memory. You are a true inspiration. Rest in peace Bill.

**Crystal Brough** - September 15, 2015 at 07:18 PM

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“ Dad,

I love you & Miss you so much. I hope you are at peace, I hope you have a smile on your face, and I know you are watching over me. I will continue to make you proud. I miss our conversations, I miss laughing with you, I miss your insane humor. I know you knew how much you meant to me, you were the best Dad ever. Not a day will ever go by that I don't think of you in some way. Cameron has not stopped asking for you Pop Pop.. tomorrow will be so sad, but your memory will always live on. You have made so many people laugh, smile & yell at you with the crazy things you say.. one thing for sure you taught me is to just say whatever is on my mind, be honest, eat a bagel, take a nap, to raise Cameron into a good person, have close friends & love my family, don't take life seriously, Go Giants, and That I was so lucky and fortunate to have you as my Dad, my best friend. Thank you for Everything you have ever done for me. I will Always cherish the wonderful memories we had together.  
Lalu, T-Bird

Tenley - September 15, 2015 at 06:49 PM

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“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of William H. Schnakenberg III.



September 15, 2015 at 05:19 PM

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“ The Salem Family purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of William H. Schnakenberg III.



The Salem Family - September 15, 2015 at 04:59 PM

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“ Not even sure where to start, Bill was one of a kind, a great man. Very outspoken and would say what was on his mind, no matter what it was, and that was good and sometimes could be embarrassing because it didn't matter who was around. If he was thinking it, he was saying it. I admired that about him and the care and love he had for his family and friends.

He did it all, worked hard and played hard, if he wanted to do it he did it. He was also a man of quick quotes that stick with you, What a guy, been there done that, I got a guy for that, and the infamous awwee what the .... lol sorry but that was him.

I'll really miss the "Joey" when walking in to see him and just his presence in the room. Truly an outstanding man, father and friend, he gave me a gift in his son who I call my best friend and brother, and for that I am forever thankful. God bless you Bill, may you rest in peace until we meet again.

Joe. S

Joe Squire - September 15, 2015 at 04:53 PM

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“ Mr Shnack was always top shelf in my book ! I am good friends with his son Billy, we would go to Bills house after a night out & Mr Shnack would keep us up laughing to the wee hours of the morning ( mostly @ Billys expense lol ) Later on when I found a girlfriend to settle down with, I would see him @ weddings & such he would kid me " Wow she's still with you " & then say under his breath but making sure I heard " didn't see that coming " lol . He was a kidder but you could see how proud he was of his kids & how much he loved them . He will be missed by Korrin & I .

Ivan Adamczyk - September 15, 2015 at 02:59 PM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of William H. Schnakenberg III.



September 15, 2015 at 02:20 PM

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“ Your Friends at Sal's Nursery and Landscaping purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of William H. Schnakenberg III.



**Your Friends at Sal's Nursery and Landscaping** - September 15, 2015 at 12:58 PM

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“ As a high school friend of Billy ' s I had the privilege of meeting his Father and boy did he make an impression. One of the nicest, most hysterical people I've ever met. I did not know him well but he will be missed. Thoughts and prayers to you and your family Billy.  
Kristin Cepil

**Kristin Cepil** - September 15, 2015 at 11:22 AM

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“ I'm not even sure how to go about saying this, but to say that my Dad was a proud man would be an understatement, but it is well deserved for the many things he achieved in his life and he certainly loved his family and his friends and would go to great lengths to see that they were well taken care of. If you needed something, no matter what it was, he would see that it was taken care of.

His love was a shining example for not just me to be a better father, but for each and every one of us to love one another.

He had a one of a kind sense of humor, loved each and every one of us, and he will be missed incredibly. But we must keep in mind that that death is not the end, but the beginning of something far better than we can ever imagine –

Eternal life.

I found much peace and closure typing your sermon, sipping on a snifter filled with Grand Marnier, listening to the oldies, and just soaking in your pictures and memories on the wall while I typed away from your computer.

Rest in peace "big guy", my best friend, my Dad. I never have lived a day without you, so going forward is not going to be easy. But I thank God for His hope in Jesus Christ that we will see each other again some day. I do not say good bye, only until we see each other again. Enjoy your nap - "You gotta have a nap!"

Love you,  
"Your pal"  
Billy

**Bill Schnakenberg** - September 15, 2015 at 09:45 AM



“ Beautifully said Billy. XO, Syb

**sybil** - September 15, 2015 at 11:11 AM

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“ It was great working with you, a lot of great memories, going to miss you. attached are several photos from our visit to the Giants football games.

Tony Sparano  
26 lowana ave  
Ewing, NJ 08638



tony sparano - September 15, 2015 at 08:33 AM

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“ Just a quick note to say goodbye to my Godfather. Oh, what a character he was!!! He always had us laughing, and what a great heart!! I will always remember him with a big smile on my face. He fought so hard all these years and now he is able to rest. Goodbye Snapper, I miss you terribly.

Barbra Bass - September 14, 2015 at 10:25 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William H. Schnakenberg III.



September 14, 2015 at 07:16 PM

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“ The Bill I know was a Proud Marine, a Dedicated Federal Agent, a Successful Manager, a Loving Father who always put his children first, and a Wise Mentor who had the ability to be firm, fair, funny, and loyal! I am proud to be able to call him my friend! Your suffering is over. May you find true peace in your next mission! Eternal Memory, R.I.P. Schnak! Sincerest Sympathies to the Family!

Ihor Czuczuk - September 14, 2015 at 06:42 PM

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“ 1958, Marine Barracks, 8th & I, Wash. DC. I reported in for duty around Sept. of that year. I was a Sergeant and Snapper was a PCF. I out ranked him by 2 stripes. I first saw him reciting from a bible but making fun of the guy who owned it. I ordered him to stop, return the bible and asked his name. When he told me William Hamilton Schnakenberg the third. I at first thought he was pulling my leg but I caught the New York accent right away and asked where he was from, "Tottenville NY" was his answer, "and everyone calls me Snapper" So for the next 57 years he was Snapper and I was always Nick. We had some good times together, even spent time in the Navy brig together, (had some fun there too). And we both got married. And we both became civilians, (yes, we both were Honorably Discharged). Snapper and I both returned to NY and we stayed in touch with hanging out with each other a lot. I used to visit Grandpa's house in Staten Island, and sing the "Merry Mailman" to his daughter Susanne. There are so many memories of Snapper and I but I'll leave that as just that, memories. One thing of note I mentioned before was when Son Billy IV was born, it actually made the Long Island newspaper, four generations of the W H Schnakenbergs all together. Imagine that, four generations of this great family, I was there for that celebration. I don't want this to be a book so I will say to my dear friend "It's been a great ride, you did well with your family and friends. Semper Fi" (And as a special remembrance to you "HOK-A-NOK"  
Nick  
Ed Nichols

Ed Nichols - September 14, 2015 at 06:29 PM

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“ Bill, I remember your dad well as he was a very sweet, loving but tough VP of Security at Mother Merrill. I know my dad was also very found of him. I'm so glad I got to know him, and you. May God comfort you and your family at time. I know you will miss him, as I have missed my dad for 16 years now, but I know he will always be with you. Many blessings to you .

Amy Paldino - September 14, 2015 at 05:30 PM

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“ The Verhage's send their love and condolences. The dirty ol man used to hit on me all the time at work. And when I visited John at the Levittown Data Center, if your dad wasn't there he'd call or email me asking why I left my shoes under his desk. I have no idea what he was implying...gotta love him!

Tracy Verhage - September 14, 2015 at 05:28 PM

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“ Well, there are quite a few, but I distinctly remember the first time I met your dad... He was wearing a Giants shirt, jean shorts, white socks and white sneakers. I was 15 and I am so happy that I had the privilege to have him included in my highschool memories and beyond. He will be greatly missed.

**Andrea** - September 14, 2015 at 05:21 PM

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“ My heartfelt sympathy to my cousin Billy's children and my 2nd cousins. Love to you all. I will post a memory of your dad in a separate post. Xo

**Christine Secor** - September 14, 2015 at 05:15 PM

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“ Colette Macort lit a candle in memory of William H. Schnakenberg III



**Colette Macort** - September 14, 2015 at 04:42 PM

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“ Well, now it's really a reality dad.... Seeing your obituary... This is all just too sad.... As I told you on Fri morning - you were with me for my first breath and I was there for your last. That is a moment I will keep with me always. LaLu forever and then some.... Syb

**sybil** - September 14, 2015 at 04:19 PM



“ Love you Syb!

**Christina Martinez** - September 14, 2015 at 07:03 PM

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“ Where to begin?! He is the father of my best friend Tenley. I've been able to share memories with the Schnakenberg family and him for the past 20 years. The best memory I have is when we sat down at dinner and had a heart to heart talk. He was serious and sincere and gave me advice about finding the right person to share my life with and with my daughter Eliana. He always asked questions and we always had good (sometimes crazy) conversations! His personality was large but his heart was even larger. I will miss you dearly.

**Christina Martinez** - September 14, 2015 at 04:17 PM