



William John Dankanis

January 10, 2025

William John Dankanis Sr, age 89, passed away peacefully on January 10, 2025, after a lingering illness. Bill spent his entire life in the Northern Liberties neighborhood of Philadelphia. With the exception of his four year stint in the Air Force, which took him around the world to see many cultures and regions that most people could only dream to visit.

He met his wife, Mary, while stationed at the Air Force base in Duluth, Minnesota. They were married in 1960 and raised their four children in Northern Liberties. Bill attended Drexel University, where he graduated with a BS degree in Electrical Engineering. He worked for Boeing Helicopters from 1965 until his retirement in 1995.

In his younger years he was a committeeman for the neighborhood and beloved by his close neighbors and friends. He loved woodworking, gardening, and cooking. He took the neighborhood kids camping and taught them many skills. Bill was the "go to" man for the residents of Northern Liberties.

William is survived by his wife Mary, his children: Mary Fortner, Cynthia, William Jr., and Richard. As well as five grandchildren, Phillip, Ruth, Ryan, Joan, and Cooper.

Funeral services for William will be held at the church of St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene, 801 N.4th Street (4th and Brown) on Friday, January 17th. Viewing will be from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. with services at 11:00am.

Tribute Wall

CW

“ I have many fond memories of Aunt Mary and Uncle Bill and their kids. One of the highlights was our Weidner trip to Philly In 1976 to celebrate the bicentennial year. We went down to see the MarCyn boat at the harbor and Uncle Bill taught us how to crab fish from the dock. We caught some little ones and had fun with that. 🦀 Then we went to the market to buy some crabs
Uncle Bill shouted “and give me the good ones. Not the crap you give the tourists” which made me giggle. We kids all rode in the back of a covered pickup truck with the sound of the crabs trying to claw out of the bag. Scary, lol. Back at their house he also showed us how to eat clams. with sauce and crackers. A whole procedure like a tequila shot. During our visit Aunt Mary and Uncle Bill treated our family to a fancy restaurant serving veal parmesan for \$5 which was much too expensive for us kids at the time. But Uncle Bill insisted, and my dad agreed, and it was a wonderful first time treat. The trip itself was a great adventure. Bill told great stories. He had a wonderful smile and laugh. He seemed larger than life, and I am grateful to have known him over the years. Deepest sympathy Aunt Mary Dear and to MaryBeth, Cindy, Billy, and Richie - and grandkids. Much Love ❤️ ☐

Carol Weidner - January 14, 2025 at 03:52 PM

MW

“ Dear Mary & Family, the Weidner family was so very much saddened at the news of Bill’s passing. Please accept our Deepest Sympathy. I first met Bill quite some years ago when he & Mary came to visit Mary’s sister Barb in St. Louis. My husband Robert Weidner & Bill were stationed together at the same Air Force Base in Duluth, MN. After dinner we spent several hours reminiscing about the very interesting lives they led traveling the world working for the Air Force in defense of our Nation. So many interesting and funny stories they told; Bill has a marvelous sense of humor! it gave me great perspective into the lives of these 2 GI’s whose great friendship has endured over these so many years. What a delightful time we had together, and one I shall never forget. Love, Mary & Family

Mary Weidner - January 14, 2025 at 12:47 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bob Wombacher - January 13, 2025 at 11:01 PM

BI

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bob Wombacher III - January 13, 2025 at 10:32 PM



“ *Lorraine Proctor lit a candle in memory of William John Dankanis*



Lorraine Proctor - January 13, 2025 at 01:44 PM



“ *Jo Schumacher lit a candle in memory of William John Dankanis*



Jo Schumacher - January 12, 2025 at 10:53 PM



“ *Kathy Holland lit a candle in memory of William John Dankanis*



Kathy Holland - January 12, 2025 at 08:38 PM