William Earl "Billy" Brewer Sr.



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William Earl "Billy" Brewer, Sr.

Pink Hill

William Earl Brewer, Sr. (Billy) died March 15, 2014 at 5:00 PM. He was a veteran of World War II, UNC Tar Heel, CPA, Rotarian, Methodist, tobacconist, small business owner, and--above all--a dedicated family man. Born on October 21, 1921, to W. Earl Brewer and Sophia Knott Brewer in Kinston, North Carolina, Billy grew up in Kinston under the watchful eyes of his mother and four Knott uncles: George, Thomas, Alan, and Henry. He graduated from Grainger High School in 1937 and his first

job was with the family business, Knott Brothers Warehouse in Kinston, then with Branch Banking and Trust Company in Trenton, NC. Upon the United States' entry into World War II, Billy enlisted in the Army Air Corps.

He served as a bombardier/navigator with the 416th Bomb Group of the 9th Army Air Force in the European Theater. Between August 1944 and V-E Day, he flew missions over France, Belgium, and Germany.

Billy enrolled in UNC's School of Business on the GI Bill in 1946, graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in accounting in 1950, and earned his CPA license. While attending UNC, Billy and his cousins, Graham and George Knott, continued the family tradition of owning and operating a tobacco warehouse with the establishment of Knotts New Warehouse in Kinston. Billy and Graham operated the business as partners until Graham's death, and Billy continued to operate the business with Graham's son, Graham Knott, Jr., until Billy's retirement in 1986. He also worked with Kinston CPA, Simon Sitterson, during tax seasons for over thirty years.

In 1947, Billy married Kinston native Mary Marsh Hood (Marsha), a pharmacist who graduated from UNC's School of Pharmacy. In 1950, they saw the need for a drug store in Pink Hill, in Lenoir County, and moved there with their twin daughters, Bobbie and Betty, to establish Brewer Drug Company. Billy and Marsha made their lives and raised their family in Pink Hill, having three more children, Billy, Jr., Carolyn and Johnny, and operated their drug store until 1976.

Throughout their 66 year marriage, Billy and Marsha have been leaders in the business, social, professional, and civic life of Pink Hill and Lenoir County. Billy's service specifically included the following: Pink Hill School Board, Lenoir County Commissioner (1964 to 1980), Board of Trustees of

Lenoir Memorial Hospital, Neuse River Council of Governments, Lenoir County ABC Board, and many roles at Pink Hill United Methodist Church.

Billy is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mary Marsh (Marsha) Hood Brewer and four children: Bobbie Brewer Hankins (Irvin W. Hankins, III) of Charlotte, Betty Brewer Watson (Charles M. Watson, Jr.) of Kinston, William E. Brewer, Jr. (Jo Anne Sanford) of Raleigh, and Carolyn Brewer Whitfield (Tom Whitfield) of Pink Hill. He is also survived by seven grandchildren: Marybeth Watson Terry (Chad), Marsha Hankins Thrasher (Drew), Laura Jane Hankins, Sarah Watson Lynch (Brad), Thomas Brewer Whitfield, Michael Lewis Whitfield and Charlotte Pait Brewer, along with five great-grandchildren and his "driver and friend", Megan McMahon. He was predeceased by his parents, his sister, Peggy Brewer Jenkins, and his son, John Hood Brewer.

Billy spent his retirement years happily engaged in a wide range of activities. They included participating in any and all activities of his church, following his beloved Tar Heels in their athletic pursuits, attending Living Legends programs in Chapel Hill and weekly Rotary meetings in Kinston, traveling to annual reunions of the 416th Bomb Group, and shopping at Aldi's(!). He was a man of modesty, integrity and commitment to whatever he did, and was happiest when surrounded by his family.

A visitation will be held Monday, March 17, 2014 from 6:00pm to 8:00 PM at Pink Hill Funeral Home (1056 Hwy 11 N., Pink Hill, NC 28572). The funeral service will be held Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 2:00 PM at Pink Hill United Methodist Church (102 W. Walnut St., Pink Hill, NC 28572). The burial will follow at Oak Ridge Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests support of Pink Hill United Methodist Church (102 W. Walnut St, Pink Hill, NC 28572). The family

extends deep appreciation to devoted caregivers, Ann, Geneva, Irma and Peggy.

Published in The News & Observer on Mar. 17, 2014.

Brewer Pages
See more records on Ancestry

MEMORIAL EVENTS

No memorial events are currently scheduled. To offer your sympathy during this difficult time, you can now have memorial trees planted in a National Forest in memory of your loved one.

Funeral services provided by

Pink Hill Funeral Home Inc

1056 N Nc Hwy 11
Pink Hill, NC 28572

(252) 568-3184

Plant Memorial Trees

MEMORIES & CONDOLENCES

What would you like to say about William?

Not sure what to say?

Add a photo

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30 entries

March 11, 2020

I just remember him and Mrs. Brewer always making our class of 1975 feel so special. They were always doing little things to let us know they loved us. Even in the loss of Johnny they made us feel better. Love to your family.....

Sharon Axelberg
Friend

March 12, 2019

One of the best men I have ever know. He and Marsha raised a wonderful family and we always giving back to others

Miriam Edwards
Friend

March 21, 2014

Although, I did not know Billy very long I will always have fond memories of our time together at the 416th reunions. What a great gentlemen.

Jim Church

March 20, 2014

I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Brewer's passing. I spent a lot of time at their home in pink hill. I remember Mr. Brewer and the whole family picking me up on Sundays mornings to go to church. Such a nice and soft spoken man he will be missed.

Danny Herron

March 19, 2014

Billy (Jr.), your father had a long and successful life. I had a number of prescriptions filled at Brewer Drug and always enjoyed going in there.

Durant Glover

March 19, 2014

Thinking of you and your family, Billy. What an impressive life.

Margaret Westbrook

March 19, 2014

Our most sincere thanks to "Billy" Brewer for his service to America and the role model he has been for so many people. All of his 416th friends will miss him dearly.

Wayne and Doris Sayles

March 19, 2014

Our deepest condolences go out to Marsha and family on the passing of this very good man. He was a hero to us and over the years have grown to love him as our own. He will be missed and the reunions will never be quite the same again. Love from Jane & Doug Enman

March 18, 2014

I wish my long time friend and fellow WWII 416th Bomb Group air combat flyer a very smooth flight to HEAVEN.
Wayne Downing

March 18, 2014

Betty and Charles I am so sorry to hear the passing of your father! My thoughts and Prayers are with
You and your family!! With love Pam

Pam Duncan

March 18, 2014

Maria and I were so sad to hear of Billy's passing. He was such a great person. In the 10 years that we've known him, Marsha and the whole Brewer clan as part of the Bomb Group family, we have been so impressed with the closeness of your family, which can only attest to the love that Billy & Marsha passed on to everyone. Our prayers are with you all during this sad time. Love, Carl & Maria

Carl & Maria Sgamboti

March 18, 2014

So sorry for your loss. We will keep you all in our prayers and may you all be comforted at this time.

Tommy and Myra

Tommy and Myra Heath

March 18, 2014

Sorry to hear about this Betty, Charles, and all the family of Mr. Brewer. Prayers for all of you.

Dennis Rouse

March 17, 2014

I remember him fondly as a gentleman and a gentle-man. I am sorry for your loss.

Douglass Hill

March 17, 2014

Mr. Brewer was a good man who influenced a generation or more of Pink Hill children. It seemed his basement was always available for a party!

March 17, 2014

Carolyn, Betty, and Rachel,
So sorry to learn of your loss, and I fondly remember sharing my last birthday with him at The Boiler Room in October. It was obvious that he not only loved his family, but his family loved him, too. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Kay Blizzard

March 17, 2014

Pink Hill, South Lenoir, Kinston and Lenoir County have lost a Good and Faithful Servant. He made contributions to our area in many ways and will long be favorably remembered. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family at this time of your great loss. May God Bless and Comfort you. The Bobby Davis Family

Bobby Davis

March 17, 2014

Marsha & Family,
Each of you are in our thoughts and prayers. We treasure all the good memories of your family. May God give you the extra strength you need in the days ahead.

Durwood & Betty Anderson

March 17, 2014

We are so sorry to learn of Mr. Brewer's death. We were privileged to have taken a pharmaceutical association cruise with him and Mrs. Brewer in our younger years and learned what a gracious Southern gentleman he was. From that point forward, he has held a special place in our hearts because he lived the values that we were taught. May God bless all of you as you recall the warm, special memories that you created together.

Rowland and Jane Strickland

March 17, 2014

Dear Mrs. Brewer, Betty, Bobbie and family, we send our deepest sympathy and love to all of you. Mr. Brewer was a remarkable person who will be greatly missed. We feel privileged to have known him. He was so very proud of his family, and we know that your memories of him will be of great comfort in the coming days. Hyman and Dianne Rider Stadiem

Dianne Stadiem

March 17, 2014

He will be truly missed as a friend and customer.
The Tolston Boys
Tolston Heating and Air

March 17, 2014

Mrs. Marsha and family, We all have lost a truly great friend, but he is at his eternal home now. I will never forget babysitting your children while you helped Billy at the drug store. It seems like yesterday. Love and prayers are with all of you. Rev. and Mrs. Walter Tate (Genette Harrell)

Genette Tate

March 17, 2014

My heart and thoughts are with each of you during this difficult time. I hope you can find comfort in knowing that He and Johnny are together again.

Carl Ward

March 17, 2014

I am so sorry to hear about Mr. Billy's passing. He and your mom are both the cream of the crop!!! I will never forget them consoling us when Johnny passed away and their firm faith that carried them through that time. As you remember his birthday today, know that same faith will carry you all through this time. You are in our thoughts and our prayers. Stay close together and God will take care of the rest. Love to all, Dorothy, Don, Sharon & Chris (The Whaley's)

Sharon Whaley Axelberg

March 17, 2014

Pink Hill and Lenoir County has lost another model citizen, Mr. Billy was always striving to make his community better and did so. May the many fond memories and the Grace of God provide strength to all the family at this time. God Bless.

Bill Howard

March 17, 2014

Thoughts and prayers are with the entire Brewer Family!! Mr. Brewer was a very special man who was loved by all. I will always remember him

walking back and forth to the Drug Store - walking by our house - smiling as he walked!! He will truly be missed!!

KIM ANDERSON

March 17, 2014

Bobbie and Hank Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. We were so blessed to have known you Dad.

Ron & Miriam Edwards

March 17, 2014

God Bless the Brewer family in this time of loss. Betty and Bobbie prayers going your. May the peace of God guide you in the days ahead.

Joan Howard Bradshaw

Joan Bradshaw

March 17, 2014

To such a special family, my thoughts and prayers are with you all. May God bless you.

Brenda Taylor

March 16, 2014

To The Brewer Family:

My thoughts and prayers are with you and yours, especially Mrs Marsha. Mr Billy was such admirable, southern gentleman. May God Bless You as precious memories remain in your hearts forever.

Sincerely,
Susie Holland Pearson

Susie Holland Pearson

INVITE OTHERS TO ADD MEMORIES

Share to let others add their own memories and condolences

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ADVICE & SUPPORT

The Five Stages of Grief

Sympathy Advice

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