



William "Bill" Sykes

February 11, 1937 - October 6, 2020

Frankfort – William “Bill” Ray Sykes, age 83, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at Homeplace in Midway surrounded by his loving family. Private services will be held.

Bill was born in Frankfort on February 11, 1937, to the late Edgar Ray Sykes and Mattie Ruth Marcus Sykes. He graduated from Frankfort High School in 1955 and Georgetown College in 1959 (BA Degree; fraternity member of Pi Kappa Alpha). He was a member of the United States Army National Guard from 1959 – 1967 and attained the rank of 1st Lieutenant. During his growing up years and through college he was an avid baseball player and loved the game of golf. From this love of sports, he applied and was hired as Director of the Frankfort Parks and Recreation (1962–1964). In 2009 Bill was inducted into the Inaugural Living Hall of Fame. Other aspects of his career included serving on the First Federal Bank’s Board of Directors (1974-1987), employee of the Farmers Bank and Capital Trust Company (1967-1998) where his last position at retirement was serving as the 12th President/CEO. Following his 1998 retirement, he served on the Farmers Bank Board of Directors from 1999-2009. Bill was a proud member of the Frankfort Country Club for 46 years where he served as President in 1981. It was during this time that he and his beloved wife Sue found an extended family village that has provided many lasting friendships and wonderful memories.

Amongst all of Bill's successes and experiences, he was most dedicated to the love and care for his beloved wife of 59 years, Sue Allen Sykes, who survives him along with his niece, Patricia "Patty" Gorman (Lance); nephew, James Michael "Hoss" Cartwright (Velma); great nieces, Angie Durrett Parker (John Brandon) and Helen Maines; great-great nieces/nephew: Kaitlyn Parker, Katie Mitchell and Alex Maines. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved sister, Bonnie Sykes Cartwright.

During Bill's declining health issues over the last several years, he has been so blessed to have a very special caregiver, Benita Noel, for whom he and his family are eternally grateful for the loving and protective care of him. In addition, the family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the Homeplace at Midway and The Bluegrass Hospice Care Orange Team for the wonderful, loving care shown to him and Sue.

Serving as honorary pallbearers will be Sam Blackburn, Bruce Brooks, George Burgess, Tom Eifler, Bob Foster, Rickie Gaines, Charlie Grote, Rick Harp, Jerry Jones, Debbie Melton, Buzz Nave, Barry Norfleet, John Penn, Rex Pitts, Louie Polsgrove, JoAnn Reynolds, Louise Roach, Tommy Smith, Doug Sutterlin, Gordon Taylor, and Don Tyre.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to Bluegrass Hospice Care, 643 Teton Trail, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, or the Alzheimer's Association (in honor of Sue), 2808 Palumbo Dr # 205, Lexington, KY 40509.

Services for Bill may be viewed via Live Stream on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. at www.harrodbrothers.com/service-videos

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory.

Tribute Wall



“ *William "Bill" Sykes*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *I love this man and will miss him dearly. He was my rock at Farmers Bank and taught me never to give up. Thank you so much Mr. Sykes, now you rest in peace in Gods hands. I love you. Felicia AKA Flea Banks.*

Felicia Banks - October 13, 2020 at 01:33 PM



“ *Bil was a very special person, always kind, thoughtful and smiling. He and my husband, John, played baseball together at Georgetown College. I will never forget the fun lunches several high school friends had together at Serafinis. May God bless his family during this difficult time and keep watch over Sue,*

Barbara Lykins - October 12, 2020 at 01:06 PM



“ *I've known Bill since childhood as my father was on the board at Farmers Bank. Last year WesBanco held a luncheon for trust department clients and I got to have lunch with him, catch-up and reminisce. I always got a kick out of seeing him at Kroger's carrying a small basket or pushing a small cart. When I asked him why he never used a big cart he said each day he and Sue would decide whether to cook dinner or eat out and then he would do shopping. Bill was truly a class act and he will be missed.*

Jay Hopkins - October 09, 2020 at 05:03 PM

PE

“ *Paul Edwards lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Sykes*



Paul Edwards - October 09, 2020 at 03:56 PM

PE

Bill was the kind of man whose character, essence and mannerisms are worthy of respect and emulation. Great boss. Rest in Peace my friend.

Paul Edwards - October 09, 2020 at 04:02 PM

JB

“ *Bill was a caring person. He was a wonderful advocate for the FHS Class of 1955. He actively kept the activities of the class together as one of the primary participants in organizing our class reunions. He was a classmate from Murray Street School through Second Street School to Frankfort High. He will be missed by many of us who called Bill our friend.*

John C Bridwell - October 09, 2020 at 02:10 PM

KC

“ *Kathy Campbell lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Sykes*



Kathy Campbell - October 09, 2020 at 01:25 AM

DL

“ We extend our condolences to Sue and family at this sad time. There are so many great memories of fun times with Bill (whom we called "Silk" because he was so smooth) and Sue. A trip to Vero Beach with several couples had to be our best memory. Rest in peace, dear Bill. We will miss you.

David and Anne Lee - October 08, 2020 at 02:07 PM

JR

“ Jennifer Ryan lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Sykes



Jennifer Ryan - October 08, 2020 at 12:21 PM

JR

I worked at Farmers Bank when Bill Sykes was president. He was truly a kind and wonderful human being. Years after I left the bank, I would see Bill in Kroger. He would always have a genuine smile and be so happy to see me. His light will be missed.

Jennifer Ryan - October 08, 2020 at 12:28 PM

DB

Bill was a class act. A kind caring person with a big heart. He was a man of habit. He would come to gym at 9 a.m. and get on treadmill setting at 4miles per hour at a 5 incline. This was a ritual never swaying. Then each day he would eat lunch at the club and every day around 2 p..m.. you could find him at Kroger buying fresh food for supper. When Sue became ill he was dedicated to her care. He told me that she was his gal. I enjoyed Bills company and pleasure to see him at gym. I will always have a very happy memory of Bill. Best wishes to family.

Dennis Bourne - October 08, 2020 at 11:20 PM

YS

I worked at the bank and Bill was always a kind and thoughtful man.

yvonne Schmidt - October 09, 2020 at 08:59 PM

PD

Bill was a quite , gentle and very careing man. Always a pleasure to spend time with. We will miss him but glad to have know. Him. Love and prayers at this sad time Paula and Mike DeBoor

paula deboor - October 10, 2020 at 09:19 AM