



Howard William 'Bill' Taylor Jr.

June 30, 1939 - December 8, 2018

Howard William (Bill) Taylor, Jr., arborist, conservationist, and community volunteer, passed away on December 8, 2018 after battling pancreatic cancer. Bill, age 79, was born June 30, 1939 in Lansing, Michigan, to Howard William and Marguerite E. (Holt) Taylor Sr. Bill was raised in Lansing and attended Lansing Sexton High School. After graduation he attended Michigan State University where he earned a BS in forestry and MA in history. One of his first careers was as a firefighter in the forests of Montana. Bill went to work for the federal government in Washington, DC, where he worked in several agencies, retiring after 33 years of service in 1999 from the National Institutes of Health.

After retirement, Bill moved to Duck Lake. He worked tirelessly after his retirement for causes that he cared about. He was Chairman of the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy in Bath, he wrote numerous articles for the Springport Signal newspaper, and volunteered for the Springport Area Foundation for Education where he helped the Foundation provide assistance to students. Bill also developed his skill in making pies to support the organizations fundraising efforts. Bill and his friend Bud planted over 900 trees on a 40 acre tree farm in Clarence Township, making a legacy of a nature preserve in Calhoun County. Bill and his friends took a special interest in preserving , studying and protecting the soft shell turtles that live in Duck Lake

When Bill was not working on projects, he loved to be outdoors hunting,

fishing, and just enjoying nature. He was very fond of hunting in Montana, and fishing in Canada with his friends. Bill was a man of high integrity and he helped others in any way he could, whenever he could. He could always be counted on. One newspaper reporter referred to Bill's quick wit and sly humor.

Bill is survived by his brother Thomas Michael (Sandra); two nieces; cousins and extended family; and many beloved friends who will all miss him greatly.

The family and friends are invited to an Affirmation Service at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, Wednesday, December 12 at 1:00 PM. The family will receive visitors Wednesday starting at 11:30 am at Pray Funeral Home until the service time. Interment will take place in Evergreen Cemetery, Lansing. If desired, the family has suggested memorial contributions to the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, Springport Area Foundation for Education, Eaton Community Palliative Care, or any charity of your choosing in lieu of flowers. Family and friends are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online in Bill's Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

2600 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 12. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral Ceremony

DEC 12. 1:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Howard William 'Bill' Taylor Jr.*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 11, 2018 at 02:09 PM

ST

“ *Message from Canadian, Scott Taisey:
Bill was a great guy and will always be remembered by his Lake Nipigon friends and we will salute and toast to him as well as Dave and Captain Buzz whenever we pass by McIntyre Bay and Ingall Point as well as many other favorite spots their crew fished on their many years of fishing trips that were spent on Lake Nipigon on-board the Verna T. I can only hope they are behaving themselves if they are together now playing Skip Bo. I had the pleasure of spending time with Bill and the boys on the Verna T with my father Captain Buzz Taisey and they will always be cherished.
Sincerely, Scott Taisey and Family*

Scott Taisey - December 11, 2018 at 04:50 PM

BK

“ We are so sorry to hear of Bill's passing
Bill was a champion for Duck Lake causes and issues. He was a
great neighbor
and friend you could count on. Always friendly and gracious with an
easy going
way about him. Bill was just a wonderful person who always tried
his best to make the world a better place. He will be greatly missed.
Bill & Debra Keehne

Bill & Debra Keehne - December 11, 2018 at 11:54 AM

WG

“ It has been 38 years since we first met Bill when we bought our
property next to his mother. During that time we built our homes,
retired, worked on Duck Lake projects and went on fishing trips to
Canada. Bill was the local "house sitter", watching over more than
one neighbors home and collecting mail and papers while they
traveled. Evan told it was not necessary, he cleaned snow off to
make house look lived in. Always outside working on his 'natural'
shoreline, gardening or mowing Bill had a cheerful wave or word to
all. He was a sponge for information, but, as John Rowan said, Bill
only passed it out on ' a need to know' basis. Bill is missed!
Wayne & Jan Gay

Wayne Gay - December 11, 2018 at 11:34 AM

CA

“ I was so sorry to hear of Bill's passing- what a loss for our Duck Lake community.
He was so dedicated and hardworking on the many lake issues he was involved with.
Our Morse Road neighborhood has not been the same without his presence and friendly wave. Our condolences and sympathy to his family.
Carolyn Palchak

carolyn - December 11, 2018 at 07:29 AM

MS

“ Our condolences to Bills family. I first met Bill when I started to serve on the board of the Duck Lake association. His guidance regarding all things Duck Lake have been priceless.
A great man and steward for Duck Lake.
JoDean and Mike Snyder

mike snyder - December 10, 2018 at 09:01 PM

MK

“ Growing up next door to the Taylors I'll always remember football games in the side yard, kick ball and red rover! Also lots of fun at their cottage at duck lake! Bill was my brothers age but a great friend to all of us! He will be missed by those that loved and respected him! Much love to the family! Mary (Rowan) Kusiak



Mary Kusiak - December 10, 2018 at 07:26 PM



“ 34 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 10, 2018 at 04:10 PM



“ *Bill was a good man. He cared about people, creatures, and the environment and worked tirelessly to make this world a better place to live for all of us. He was always willing to lend a hand, even when he wasn't asked. If he saw you working, he was there, offering assistance. I was fortunate to be a neighbor of his and admired his knowledge of and passion for Duck Lake. He championed many efforts aimed at keeping Duck Lake a special place. We will miss you Bill! Thank you for a life well lived and God Bless you.*

Pete and Julia Munoz

Pete Munoz - December 10, 2018 at 03:06 PM

JR

“ My husband John and Bill were friends from birth until death. “The boys” championed each other in their success and through sadness. After John’s death Bill continued to show what a true friend was by helping me (his friends wife) with tasks and checking on me each day with the ruse of delivering his Lansing State Journal to me to read. Our children and grandchildren all called him ‘Uncle Bill’ and felt of him that way.

True friends are hard to loose but leave us with a lasting impression that our lives have been enriched by knowing them



Joanne Rowan - December 10, 2018 at 10:27 AM

JR

“ I would like to send my sincere condolences to the family. I am so sorry for his two nieces for their loss of a wonderful uncle much too soon. I want you to know that uncle Bill spoke of you both very often - and was so proud of you both!

Bill was my Chairman of the Board for the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy for the past five years. I've had many Chairmen over the years but none with a greater integrity and passion for their organization and mission work. I looked forward to our conversations weekly and especially to our weekly lunch meetings. He had a subtle sense of humor that was always witty - and we would always play off each other to pick on the waitresses, and they all loved him.

Bill was not afraid of rolling up his sleeves and working along side of myself and our volunteers as we did trail cleaning work, tree cutting and planting of many trees. He would buy seedlings and plant them at his Duck Lake property and then we would transplant them at the Bengel Wildlife Center. He was a true and passionate forester. His knowledge of wildlife was amazing and he wrote on various species/subjects for every Conservancy newsletter.

I will miss his leadership, but I will never replace his friendship. He was, simply put - an intelligent, caring, generous... wonderful man! You will be missed by many. I love you, Bill. RIP. John Ropp, President of the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy.

John Ropp - December 09, 2018 at 11:15 PM

MF

So sorry to hear about Bill's passing..Bill was my son's neighbor at Duck Lake; and he was a wonderful neighbor. Whenever I would visit my son, Sean, and would see Bill outside he would always acknowledge me with a "hello" or a wave, and always a smile. I always enjoyed looking at his garden to see what he planted. The fact that Bill enjoyed the outdoors...Duck Lake was a perfect, happy place for him...lots of nature and beauty. He surely will be missed.

Marge Frese (Holt, MI)

Margaret Frese - December 10, 2018 at 06:13 PM