



William Patrick O'Brien

March 20, 1948 - May 14, 2025

William "Bill" Patrick O'Brien, 77, of Charlotte, a doting husband, loving compassionate father and epic grandfather, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. Bill was born March 20, 1948 at St. Mary's Hospital in Brooklyn, New York the son of William and Catherine (Hogan) O'Brien.

Bill O'Brien received his early education at St. Brigid Catholic School in Brooklyn, New York, and went on to graduate from St. John's Preparatory High School in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, in 1965. He continued his studies at the Academy of Aeronautics in LaGuardia, New York, graduating in 1968. In February 1969, Bill proudly enlisted in the United States Navy. It was during his time in the service that he met the love of his life, Catherine, on a blind date. Just six months later, the two were married on February 6, 1971 and returned to New York to begin their life together.

After completing his military service, Bill began a long and dedicated career with Xerox, where he worked for over 30 years before retiring. Retirement, however, didn't quite suit Bill's active spirit, and he soon found himself back at work-this time with Delta Airlines, where he spent another decade doing what he loved: staying busy and connecting with people.

Bill was a man of many talents and boundless energy. He cherished time spent with his children, often leading by example as a Cub Scout leader and always ready with a laugh or a story. Never one to sit still, he also ran a

nursery farm on the side and took pride in rebuilding a 1945 Minneapolis-Moline tractor from the ground up. Whether building, fixing, or inventing, Bill had a natural gift for solving problems and bringing ideas to life. Bill treasured the adventures he shared with his wife and family. He especially loved traveling, with cherished memories from vacations in Spain and an unforgettable African safari.

Bill was a devoted father who led by powerful example, instilling a strong work ethic in his children every day-not through lectures, but through his actions. He lived by principles that emphasized never complaining, a deep love for problem-solving, keeping life centered around family, and trusting that prayer is a steady companion through all seasons. Bill's no-nonsense approach was rooted in love, discipline, humility, and deep integrity-values that shaped not only his children but all who had the privilege of knowing him. Bill will be remembered for his countless story sharing, ability to find common ground with anyone, his kindness, generosity and jovial spirit (especially his laugh), and the deep love he shared with those around him.

Bill is survived by his wife of 54 years, Catherine Marie O'Brien; their children, Catherine Erin (Jason) Twizell, Michael Andrew (Tara) O'Brien, Amanda Marie (Harper) Wildern; and their grandchildren, Marilyn Lorraine Wildern, Catherine Elizabeth Wildern, Savannah Izabel O'Brien, Tyler James-Davis O'Brien, Lauren Catherine O'Brien, and Valerie Grace O'Brien. He was predeceased by his parents.

Friends are encouraged to support Bill's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. Visitation will be on Monday, May 19, 2025 from 2:00 - 4:00 and 6-8:00 p.m. with a Rosary Service at 8:00 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at St. Mary Catholic Church with Rev. Fr. Dwight Ezop officiating. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to www.prayfuneral.com, click on Bill's tribute, then click on Photos and

Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to St. Mary Catholic School in Charlotte. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 19. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

MAY 19. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Rosary

MAY 19. 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral Mass

MAY 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church
807 St. Mary Boulevard
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



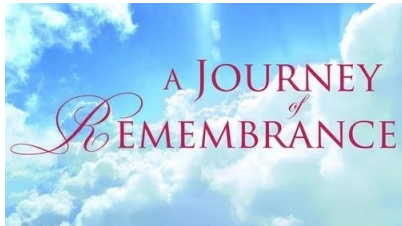
“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of William Patrick O'Brien



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - May 20, 2025 at 08:55 AM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of William Patrick O'Brien



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - May 18, 2025 at 08:11 PM



“ So sorry Bill passed away. To Cathy and the whole family I offer my condolences.

Diane Hudson - May 21, 2025 at 06:47 PM

DH

“ We are sorry we were unable to attend in person, but thanks to Erin, we were able to watch the beautiful service online. Amanda, we loved your sharing your thoughts about your Dad, you made us laugh and cry. Your Dad will be truly missed. Dennis and Rose

Dennis Hudson - May 20, 2025 at 12:46 PM

EC

“ Bill and I became "dialysis buddies" when he first began his treatments. He was such a wonderful storyteller, with a wealth of experiences to draw from! He loved Cathy to distraction and was enormously proud of his children and grandchildren! He was just a fine man, witty, intelligent and very endearing. May God rest his sweet soul and lend His grace and comfort to Cathy and the rest of his family. You are all in my prayers.

Elaine Calvin - May 19, 2025 at 12:58 PM

AK

“ Angela Patrick and Gerald Kizer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Patrick O'Brien.

Angela Patrick and Gerald Kizer - May 19, 2025 at 10:29 AM

AK

“ Angela Patrick and Gerald Kizer purchased the Sereene Retreat for the family of William Patrick O'Brien.



Angela Patrick and Gerald Kizer - May 19, 2025 at 10:29 AM

DH

“ Our deepest sympathy to Catherine and Bill's family. Bill was my younger first cousin and we grew up together in Brooklyn, N.Y., he always felt more like a brother than a cousin. His laugh and smile would light up the room, after all these years I can still hear his laugh. I am so glad that we reconnected with Bill and Cathy later on in life, we really enjoyed there visits to PA. but they always seemed too short. He will be missed. Love you Buddy. Dennis and Rose

Dennis Hudson - May 19, 2025 at 10:16 AM

BP

“ Barbara P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Patrick O'Brien.

Barbara P. - May 19, 2025 at 10:14 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William Patrick O'Brien.

May 19, 2025 at 09:38 AM

GE

“ Bill was such a good friend. He will definarely be missed by all who loved and knew him. Our thoughts and prayers are with Cathy and the family. Gary and Gail Eaton

gail Eaton - May 19, 2025 at 06:41 AM



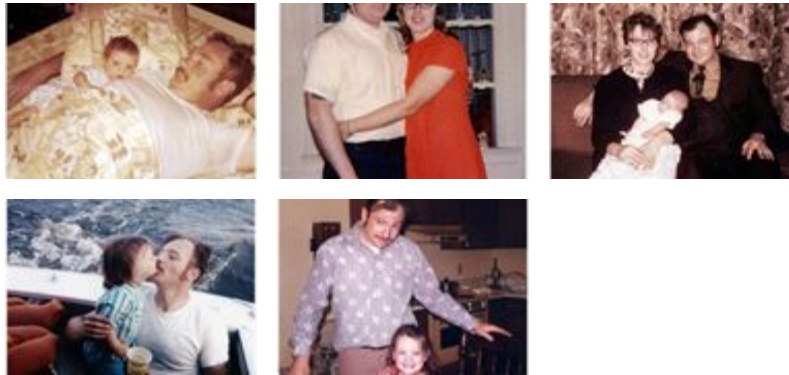
“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Patrick O'Brien.



May 18, 2025 at 09:35 PM



“ 55 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - May 18, 2025 at 08:06 PM



“ Your friends at St. Martha School planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Patrick O'Brien.

Your friends at St. Martha School - May 18, 2025 at 03:36 PM

YS

“ Your friends at St. Martha School purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of William Patrick O'Brien.



Your friends at St. Martha School - May 18, 2025 at 03:36 PM

KS

“ Bill continued to be a big part of our lives after the many years we all worked for Xerox. Bill and Cathy, Tom and Jackie and us would get together at least once a month during summers and spend an afternoon together, eating and playing cards or Sequence.

There are no words adequate to tell how much we will miss Bill, his friendship and his love. Bill was truly a very special friend and person in every way.

With our love, Ken and Ev Stoffer

ken stoffer - May 18, 2025 at 03:31 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Patrick O'Brien.



May 18, 2025 at 01:58 PM

RK

“ *My sincerest sympathy to the O'Brien family. Bill was a mentor to me when I started working for Xerox in 1979. I have always held the highest respect for him. We had so many great times over the years. I'll always remember his quick smile and the big bear hug the last time we saw each other. Goodbye my friend.*

Ron Kennedy - May 18, 2025 at 01:00 PM

JP

“ *Bill and I worked many years together at Xerox. I was in sales and Bill was one of all sales people favorite technician. Our customers loved him. They knew they were in good hands when Bil was there for a service call.*

I do not think I ever remember Bill without a smile on his face and a story to tell.

You will be missed Bill. I would be there for your Mass but I know live in Florida and cannot make it.

Bill I send to you an Irish prayer, "May the angels kiss you and the devil miss you"

Rest in peace and God Bless.

Jim Piotter

Jim Piotter - May 18, 2025 at 11:52 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Patrick O'Brien.*



May 17, 2025 at 04:20 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of William Patrick O'Brien.*



May 17, 2025 at 03:35 PM



“ *Love, The Yates and The Oostdyk Families purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of William Patrick O'Brien.*



Love, The Yates and The Oostdyk Families - May 17, 2025 at 01:38 PM



“ *Kevin Hogan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Patrick O'Brien.*

Kevin Hogan - May 17, 2025 at 12:42 PM



“ *Kevin Hogan purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William Patrick O'Brien.*



Kevin Hogan - May 17, 2025 at 12:42 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Patrick O'Brien.*



May 17, 2025 at 10:33 AM



“ *Chad & Carol Walker lit a candle in memory of William Patrick O'Brien*



Chad & Carol Walker - May 17, 2025 at 08:08 AM



“ *The Dill Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of William Patrick O'Brien.*



The Dill Family - May 16, 2025 at 08:04 PM



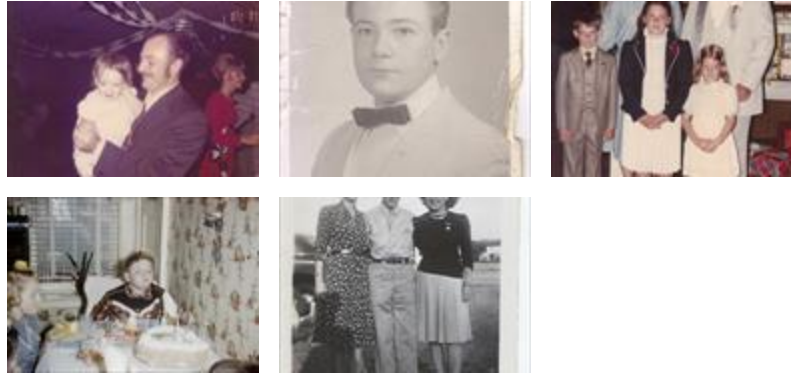
“ *Herb Hogan & Family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of William Patrick O'Brien.*



Herb Hogan & Family - May 16, 2025 at 04:13 PM

HH

“ 6 files added to the album *My Cousin Bill*. You will be sorely missed



Herb Hogan - May 16, 2025 at 04:05 PM

MM

“ *Bill O'Brien, was a remarkable, human being. I knew him.. when he worked for Delta Airlines and the father of the O'Brien girls.. that were former student's. He was such, a pleasant, person, to be around always, and loved telling his stories. He was a blessing, on this earth and will be missed.. I'm keeping you all, close in prayer...Marilyn Thomas Mathews.. aka Mrs. Armstrong..*

Marilyn Mathews... - May 16, 2025 at 03:23 PM