



William Russell Howard

July 25, 1961 - January 3, 2021

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch

William Russell Howard, 59, of Olive Branch, MS passed away January 3, 2021. Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch is in charge of arrangements.

William Howard was born July 25, 1961 in Anchorage, Alaska. He was a Marine Veteran and a retired firefighter/EMT of Central Mat-Su Fire Department (Station 51) in Palmer, Alaska, Poynette-Dekorrra Fire Department and Arlington EMS and Fire, both in Wisconsin. William was a former Village Board President of Poynette, WI. He coached football in Wasilla, AK.

William loved going to all of his children's sporting events and was the loudest in the stands, coaching and encouraging. He was a fire arm enthusiast.

William loved to travel to the Ozarks and loved "The Mountain".

William started his career repairing F-16 jets for the Marine Corps, which led to 32 years of dedication to MarkAir, Flying Tigers and Fed Ex. He was fiercely loyal in all aspects of his life, family, friends and career. Including his family, he is survived by his four bulldogs.

William is survived by his wife, Melissa Ann Howard of Olive Branch, MS; son, Benjamin (Melissa) Howard of Marshall, WI; daughter, Sarah (David Coyne)

Howard of Girdwood, AK; son, Stephen Howard of Madison, WI; daughter, Carley Olson of Poynette, WI; sister, Deborah (Michael) Shade of Mooresville, IN; mother, Judith Underwood of Olive Branch, MS; granddaughters, Haley Howard, Josephine Howard and Brooklynne Howard of Marshall, WI, Hazel Howard of Madison, WI; nieces, Kayla (Adam Henderson) Becker, Brooke Williams of Monrovia, IN; nephews, Beau (Mary) Becker of Lafayette, IN and Carter Williams of Monrovia, IN.

William Howard was preceded in death by his father, Fay Mack Howard and sister, Roxy Lay.

There are no services scheduled a private memorial will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be left on his Tribute Wall at www.colemanfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall

CL

“ My name is Claudia Livermore and Billy is my cousin by marriage on my maternal grandmother’s side. My grandmother was married to Fay Howard. I am so sorry I lost touch with Billy so many years ago. He visited our family in Bakersfield when he was stationed in Lemoore. He was always so fun and kind. I’m sure your family and everyone who knew you is missing you like crazy. My condolences to your wife and children and the rest of your family. May you rest in peace Billy. Love your cousin Claudia

Claudia Livermore - July 26, 2024 at 08:46 PM

TM

“ Bill, I only got to know you much better this past year and it was a good one as well. you and I seemed to think a lot alike and had some things in common as well. Isn't life like that,? just when u seem to make a new friend then they are taken away from you.. yes you will be and are sorely missed and were for sure taken away much too soon. God bless you and your family during this difficult time of loss and grief. I speak for the whole shop as we all do miss you for sure. May God bless you and your family, Trent Marsh AMT engine shop.

trent marsh - January 28, 2021 at 11:40 PM



“ Dear Professor, You called yourself a Red Neck Hill Billy and you asked me why I called you Professor. I told you not just everyone can take apart and put back together the huge plane engines you fixed every day and have the plane safely fly away. I’m going to go out on a limb here and say your average Hill Billy could not do that. When we visited you at your work, you let me stand in one of those engines. You could even make a field trip to an airplane repair shop fun. So many adventures happened during all of our years hunting and fishing and visiting each others homes. I forgive you for rolling my 4 wheeler. One of my sisters said Bill was a gift to us. She was correct. The hole you have left in our hearts by leaving us too soon is huge and I will miss you forever. RIP Dear Friend. Velda

Steve Brown - January 08, 2021 at 08:48 AM



“ Bubba, I am going to miss you so much. I feel so blessed to have had you as a freind and Brother from another mother. From the first time I meet you in Eagle River I knew we would be friends. The memories I have of fighting fires and running rescue with you will stay with me forever. You would make the tough times fun, you're dry wit, and can do attitude, what a combination. I was vey proud to know you. The stories we can tell, like the time we ran on a 4 wheeler accident and you started cutting the clothing off the victim thinking it was a guy, SURPRISE! The look on your face was priceless.

I was honored to be your best man when you took Missy’s hand.

The haunted trolly ride the night before was a hoot.

I will never forget the 4 wheeling and hunting trips, remember the “Kennedy” moose? The back and forth talk we had over who actually shot that one and then you finding the bullet and settling it. Oh that was a great trip. Some stories can only be told with a beer and camp fire, I’ll keep a spot open for you. I will see you on the other side brother, miss you. Your bother Steve

Steve Brown - January 08, 2021 at 08:48 AM

VB

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Velda Brown - January 07, 2021 at 07:30 PM

SB

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Steve Brown - January 07, 2021 at 07:29 PM

KS

“ I will miss my co-worker deeply **BIG BILL** ,he was nice and kind to work around. I always told him I liked how organized his toolbox was.
I remember us in a debate over who can order the part he needed from store the fastest ,and I won ,and he told me you was ordering different from me ,and I said it's okay. **BILL** was pleasant and fun to work around for one year, and seven months, it was a great pleasure to work with.
Williams ,wife Melissa ,and All of his Family have my condolence my thoughts and prayers are with each of you. I pray healing ,comfort ,strengthen and peace up on each of you during these difficult times, so sorry for your **LOSS**
Bill will truly be missed. Karen Scruggs Toolroom Attendant

KAREN SCRUGGS - January 07, 2021 at 12:17 AM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of William Russell Howard.



January 06, 2021 at 09:29 PM

TL

“ Bill and I both started our careers as aircraft mechanics in the Marine Corps. When Marines don't have an enemy to fight, they enjoy picking on the Army, Air Force and Navy in that order. When all else fails, you find another Marine to aggravate so we frequently poked fun at the type of airplanes we each worked on the Marines. Bill loved his family, he loved aviation and he loved the Marine Corps. God Bless you Bill. Another Marine reporting for duty. Semper Fidelis Brother.

Todd Lynch - January 06, 2021 at 07:41 PM

EO

“ Met Bill 5 years ago when I moved in with the Cromeans. I loved to talk to him about his projects and his love for firearms. Will miss him greatly and our talks. Love ya, Bill. Your friend Earl



Earl Orwig - January 06, 2021 at 12:49 AM

KM

“ Sure going to miss you brother. 40 years is a long time to be friends but not long enough. R.I.P.. See you in Valhalla Marine. Prayers and healing Missy and family.

Karl Crim Sgt. of Marines - January 05, 2021 at 11:58 PM



“ Solid White Standing Cross With Pastel Flower B reak was purchased for the family of William Russell Howard.



January 05, 2021 at 10:16 PM

RR

“ *Semper Fi my brother, Gods speed and may the hands of God comfort your family in need.*

Rick Mattice GySgt USMC RET - January 05, 2021 at 09:17 PM

AH

“ *I remember when you got married and how happy the two of you were and still are. Sincere condolences and always keep the fire lit inside and watch for the signs that he is always with you.*



Amy Hall - January 05, 2021 at 07:55 PM

Conni Underwood Katke

“ *Bill, all of the memories have come flooding back! We all had so much fun growing up together. You will forever be in our hearts. Love you!*



Conni Underwood Katke - January 05, 2021 at 07:12 PM

JS

“ *Bill was always a fun loving and laid back guy, and made friends easily in high school. It was nice to reconnect with him via Facebook the past few years and chat about the goings-on in life. We are deeply saddened by his passing and believe we will see him again one day. May God protect and pour out his comfort, mercy, and love upon Missy, his family, and friends.*
Jordy

Jordana (Hicks) Schmidt - January 05, 2021 at 05:13 PM

RU

*I will miss his great laugh. Now he romp through Heaven with his Dad, Grandparents, Uncles and Aunts and cousins - enjoy.
Uncle Russell Underwood*

Russell (Rusty) Underwood - January 08, 2021 at 01:17 PM

CS

“ *Bill always attended dance competitions for Carly and brought fun and laughter with him. I believe he was part of the Dad’s dance which was hysterical. God bless Bill and watch over his wonderful family. Sending love to all.*

Constance Skelton - January 05, 2021 at 04:37 PM

CH

“ *Always was like a father figure in my life, so blessed to get to know Bill and Missy. He will ALWAYS have a place in my heart. <3*

- Casey H.

Casey Huddleston - January 04, 2021 at 02:51 PM

CR

Bill was my neighbor and brother on the Poynette-Dekorrra FD in Wisconsin. We had some good memories there. Shocked by his passing! RIP Bill!

Cameron Radewan - January 05, 2021 at 04:57 PM

AA

Bill was an awesome guy always there if you needed it and he was

annette allen - January 05, 2021 at 07:50 PM

SM

I am devastated...prayers to Missy, Carley, and his family.

Susan McCormick - January 08, 2021 at 11:25 AM

RI

Bill was a great guy to work with and he will be truly missed. I'll always remember the disco ball & grinch on his larger than life tool box! So long Mr. Bill! See you in heaven one day! Rita

Rita - January 11, 2021 at 02:18 PM

MM

So sorry to hear of Bill's passing. I think about you both everyday, Missy. To read about these stories from his friend tells me he lived a full and meaningful life. So many persons never achieve that. Take comfort in knowing that!

Mary Baker McWilliams. (Classmate)

Mary Baker McWilliams - February 05, 2021 at 10:25 PM