



## William J. Mills

April 17, 1934 - April 3, 2015

William J. "Bill" Mills, 80, Lebanon, passed away Friday, April 3, 2015 at Tremont Nursing and Rehab Center. He was the husband of Sue E. Small Mills, whom he married December 28, 1958. He was born in Lebanon on April 17, 1934, son of the late John W. Mills, Jr and Hilda A. Shanaman Mills. Bill was a retired music teacher. He was a 1956 graduate of Penn State University where he played in the Blue Band. He started his teaching career as the band director at Greenville High School, Greenville, PA. While teaching there, he received his draft notice and served in the Army as a member of Patton's Own Army Band from 1957-1959. After being discharged from the Army, Bill & Sue remained in the Atlanta, GA area where Bill became the Music Director at Tucker High School, Tucker, GA. While at Tucker H.S., the band and choirs under Bill's direction earned several state awards for musical excellence. In 1965 Bill & Sue returned to Pennsylvania where Bill became the band director for Conrad Weiser Junior/Senior Schools, retiring in 1992. While at Conrad Weiser , he earned his Master's Degree in French Horn performance from University Of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He was also a guest conductor for Tanglewood's Summer Music Program. He was elected to serve as Secretary for Pennsylvania's Chapter of Music Educator's National Conference.

Bill was a member and past presiding officer of Mt. Lebanon Lodge #226, F&AM, Weidle Royal Arch Chapter #197, Lebanon Council #27, Hermit Commandry #24 and Tall Cedars of Lebanon Quittapahilla Forest #25,

Fellowship High Twelve #669. He was a member of Penn Priory #6 Knights of York Rite Cross of Honor, Reading Consistory and Rajah Temple Shrine. He was a member of Conrad Weiser #449, Order of Eastern Star, where he served as Grand Chapter Choir Director. Bill was a keynote speaker and was well known for his talk on the History of Taps.

While living in Georgia, Bill was choir director for a Methodist Church in Tucker. As a member of St. Paul's UCC, Robesonia, he was the director of the Youth Christmas Band, president of church council, member of Joint Consistory and a founding member of the 3M Sunday School Class. Bill began and ended his Christian journey as a member of Tabor UCC, Lebanon. Outside of his teaching career and involvement in Masonic Bodies, Bill was member of several community bands, Ringgold Band of Reading, Keystone Band of Rehrersburg and Reading Philharmonic Band. He was a Cub Scout Leader and a parent volunteer for Robesonia's 4H Club. During the Bicentennial, Bill became very knowledgeable about the history of the founding of the United States and led trips and gave tours of the Historic District in Philadelphia.

In addition to his wife, Sue he is survived by a daughter, Julia, wife of Kevin Organtini of Fredericksburg, son W. Jay, husband of Debra Schlegel Mills of Bath, grandchildren Joyce, Joseph, Kathleen and Priscilla Organtini. He was preceded in death by a son John Willis Mills. These are the highlights of the "Dash" between Bill's birth and death date that will appear on Bill's tombstone. Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend Bill's funeral service on FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015 at 11:00 AM from Porterfield-Scheid Funeral Directors & Cremation Services, Ltd., 890 Isabel Dr., Lebanon (next to Quentin Circle) with Rev. George Miller officiating. Friends will be received THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015 from 6 to 8 PM at the funeral home. A masonic service conducted by Mt. Lebanon Lodge #226 F&AM will be held Thursday evening at 7:00 PM. Casket interment will be held in the Mt. Lebanon Cemetery.

# Tribute Wall



“ *William J. Mills*

October 22, 2023 at 10:35 PM



“ *William J. Mills*

October 06, 2023 at 08:29 AM



“ *William J. Mills*

October 05, 2023 at 11:43 PM



“ *Simply put, William Mills was one of the greatest influences in my life. I not only learned the horn from him, I learned music in general, and I had the opportunity to follow a great role model. Being part of the band was the best experience in high school I could have imagined. My condolences to all. Doug Garlin*

**Doug Garlin - Lancaster, PA** - May 06, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Bill was both my teacher and colleague. He provided much needed advice to me as a young teacher on how to survive teaching in the late 1970's, a period of little student discipline. I will always be grateful for his advice.*

**Phil Hays - Robesonia, PA** - April 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ *My sincerest condolences. Bill has been very influential in my life. From numerous church organizations to school music programs to 4H, every activity formed the person I am today. Sometimes, you never fully appreciate the efforts in younger years, but grow to understand this as years go by. Bill, may you rest in peace, and may God bless you and your family!*

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**Kevin Kline - Sinking Spring, PA** - April 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ *Mr. Mills was a wonderful mentor, role model and teacher for us at Weiser. He not only taught me music but also how to be a leader. I have reflected on our time together while I was in high school and am saddened to hear about his passing. Thanks Mr. Mills for wonderful memories of the CW Band and our trips to Penn State Band day.*

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**Todd Shultz - Wilmington, DE** - April 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *I will ALWAYS remember Mr. Mills. A truly influential person in my life... Not only as trombonist from 1971-1977, but in teaching me lessons in life... From the importance of Punctuality, Appreciating a Team ( Band) effort to the leadership abilities he instilled in me for my life after High School! He will be missed, but more importantly ... REMEMBERED*

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**Brad S. Beamesderfer - Stouchsburg** - April 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ *Rest in peace, Mr.Mills.Jane McDonald Yaun*

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**Jane Yaun - Fredericksburg, VA** - April 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Mr. Mills was my band instructor at CW during my time there - I have wonderful memories of the parades, concerts, football games among other events that I participated in as a band member. My condolences to all of you in his family on his passing - I knew him as a wonderful, caring teacher who truly loved what he did.*

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**Sue Milstein - Portland, OR - former student** - April 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ *Sue and Family, Sorry for your loss of a good man. May your memories give you comfort in the years to come.*

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**Gwen & Fred Sattazahn** - April 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ *Sue - we are sorry to hear of Bill's passing. May you find comfort, peace and strength in God's love for you. Rick and JoEtta*

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**Rick Shultz - Lebanon, PA** - April 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Sue and family My sympathies are with you at this time. May you remember the good times you had as a family. Susan M. Shanaman*

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**Susan Shanaman** - April 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM