



## William "Bill" A. Gordon

November 7, 1934 - March 29, 2019

William A. Gordon of Traverse City died Friday, March 29, 2019 at Munson Hospice House surrounded by his loving family. Born to William Gordon and Helen Woodbury on November 7, 1934, he grew up in Pontiac, Michigan. Bill survived his sisters Patricia Mills, Gerry Boyce, Sally Bowman and his brother Robert Gordon.

Bill married Nancy Upham in 1955 after they both graduated from Central Michigan University. They moved to Warren, Michigan where Bill had a fabulous career as a teacher, principal and administrator with Warren Consolidated Schools from 1956 to 1991. He received his masters degree in 1960 from the University of Michigan. In 1971 he opened the brand new Sterling Heights High School, which was his pride and joy. Bill and Nancy raised three children; Kelly (Robert) Jacobsma of Douglas, Scott (Kim) Gordon of Whitmore Lake and Tracy (Roger) VanDusen of Jacksonville Beach, Fl.

After years of family camping vacations, Bill and Nancy bought their beloved "cottage" on Green Lake in 1971 and retired there in 1991. They were both active with the Interlochen Public Library, where Bill served on the Board, and volunteered at the Interlochen Arts Academy, and Habitat for Humanity. Their home on the Green Lake Peninsula was a much loved gathering spot for family reunions and pot luck dinners. They made many friends through Newcomers Club, Tennis Club, Bridge Groups, and in the Green Lake community. Bill created lasting memories for his grandchildren Gordon, Julie, Hannah, Morgan, Olivia and J-Towner as he taught them to golf, water ski, and swim. An athletic man, Bill enjoyed swimming, tennis, golf, and sailing and had long time golf buddies and tennis partners. Bill was a handyman extraordinaire and often lent his expertise to others.

After losing his wife Nancy of 48 years, Bill was fortunate to find love again. In 2005 Bill and Dorothy (Dottie) Prouty were joined in a ceremony of unity and holy commitment. He had special relationships with and is fondly remembered by Patty (Pete d'Arienzo) Wood of Spokane, Polly (Scott) Walker, of Elk Rapids, Paul (Mishelle) Prouty of Evergreen, Colorado, Peter Prouty of Grand Haven and all of their children. Bill and Dottie shared 14 wonderful years together, wintering in Florida, playing golf and spending time with their

immediate and extended families and many friends.

A memorial service will be held at the Presbyterian Church of Traverse City on June 22 at 11:00 a.m. with visitation at 10:00 a.m. and a luncheon to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Interlochen Public Library or Munson Hospice House.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Bill's family at his tribute page at [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com).



# Comments

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“ I remember Mr. Gordon from the neighborhood. A great educator and a great neighbor. The Bonds (Bill and Faye and Mark, Mike, Suzi and Sara) send their condolences to the entire family. He will be missed.

**Mike Bond** - April 04, 2019 at 07:59 PM

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“ Extraordinary principal and man. I was honored to be a student at SHHS from 88-91 under his guidance. Gentle soul respected by all. Condolences to his family.

**Susan Bork** - April 03, 2019 at 03:43 PM

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“ Bill was such a wonderful gentleman, and I am saddened to hear of his death. I had the privilege of knowing his beloved wife Nancy and his beloved partner Dottie, and I loved them both. Bill was a class act and a caring, kind, engaging man. He will be sorely missed. Peace to his memory and to all who loved him so well. Rev. Becky Chamberlain

**Rev. Becky Chamberlain** - April 01, 2019 at 08:38 PM

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“ A wonderful principal for SHHS! He was so respected and such a great leader. Sorry to hear this news. Condolences to his family.

**Jennifer Polonis** - April 01, 2019 at 02:13 PM

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“ So sorry to read of Bill's passing,Dotty. He had such a wonderful smile.

**bonnie willings** - March 31, 2019 at 01:07 PM



“ so sorry to hear about bill I know he was a person that shared many happy times with you.  
Helen & Hank

**Helen Maurer** - March 31, 2019 at 04:55 PM



“ So sorry about your loss. He was a wonderful Principal when I attended Sterling.

**Arlene** - April 01, 2019 at 04:01 PM



“ My condolences to the Gordon family. We have lost a gental giant of a man. It was a delight a to work with Bill on the GTARSP Board. He was chairman for the Insurance/Legissslation information and did a great job. Bill was one person who made this world a better place by being here. What a pleasure it was to work with him.

**Sylvia Burns** - April 02, 2019 at 12:27 PM



“ Sympathy and Condolences to all of your family.  
Bill, Janet and Stephanie Love

**Janet Love** - April 02, 2019 at 05:59 PM



“ I remember Principal Gordon from SHHS. What a great man, a wonderful leader.  
Condolences to his family.

**Dawnn Brusokas Ferguson** - April 02, 2019 at 09:37 PM



“ Dottie, I'm so sorry to hear off Bill's passing. Sending love and hugs.

**Anne Haines** - April 04, 2019 at 07:36 AM



“ Bill was a great principal and friend. Without his support we would not have had a class for the "Gifted" kids! We all respected him as our leader and he was always there when we needed him! My condolences to his family.

Adrienne Allard

**Adrienne Allard** - April 05, 2019 at 06:13 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear this, Dottie. He was such a friendly man--I remember how tickled Aunt Barb (Palmer) was when you found each other! Nancy Cotcamp

**Nancy Cotcamp** - April 07, 2019 at 09:06 AM