



William "Bill" Allen Stebner

September 25, 1953 - June 20, 2020

William A. Stebner

TRAVERSE CITY – William “Bill” Allen Stebner, 66, died on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at home with family present.

Bill is a lifelong Traverse City resident with his youngest years of summer spent with family at his grandmothers (Flora Stebner) fishing resort, Sportsman’s Paradise (now part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore) making memories born from childhood adventures, mischief, and sun-up to sun-down discovering the joys of nature, and his fair share of chores.

Bill attended Traverse City High School, where he was an honor roll student and a drummer in the marching band. Bill was an avid skier, windsurfer, and loved music. He earned his undergraduate degree from Central Michigan University. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with his master’s degree in social work from Michigan State University, while working full-time and beginning a family.

Bill helped countless people at Munson Hospital negotiate their needs as they transitioned through the healthcare system. Bill worked with those most vulnerable individuals and families for 38 years. Before Bill had the chance to retire, he was hit with a ruptured brain aneurysm five years ago. Determined to recover, Bill regained his speech, manual dexterity, drove a car, laughed and navigated through life again. The beginning of this year Bill began a new battle. This gentle man, whose career was one of picking people up and helping them to balance the consequences of life was unable to counter his own failing body.

Remember Bill as always having the ability to see the lighter side of all that came at him, his sense of humor, a welcome balm, and that sweet Bill’s chuckle. Those who’ve been fortunate enough to hear it will not forget Bill.

Bill was preceded in death by his mother, Patricia Marie Stebner (Baehr) his father, Allen Charles Stebner, his former wife, Debra Michelle Covell, grandparents; Flora (Rudolph)

Gladys Stebner (Lader), William (Marie) Howard Baehr, and his uncle, William Kenneth Martin.

Bill is survived by his life partner, Melanie Teresa Ackerman, his two sons; Thomas (Patrice) William Stebner, Kenneth Craig Stebner, granddaughter, Debra Madison Stebner, his brother James (Suzanne) Dennis Stebner, his sisters, Linda (Richard) Kenny and Carol (David) Mikowski, his nephews; Samuel Allen Stebner, and Jack Dennis Stebner, his aunt Noreen Faye Stebner, and his cousins; Kermit (Debbe) Vermillion Douse, Kathy (Paul) Grace Bellmore, Judi (Bill) Lee Jopling, and Trisha Ann Martin.

Visitation for family and friends will be held from 3:00 – 5:00 and 6:00 – 8:00 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home on Saturday, June 27, 2020. A celebration of Bill's life will take place at 2:00 pm on Sunday, June 28, 2020 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home with a visitation one hour prior to the service.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers memorial contributions be directed to either; Northern Lakes Community Mental Health, 105 Hall Street, Suite A, Traverse City, MI 49684 or The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Donor Services, PO Box 98018, Washington DC 20090-8018.

Events

JUN **Visitation** 03:00PM - 05:00PM

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUN **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUN **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUN **Funeral Service** 02:00PM

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ Video Tribute - Family Memories



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - June 27 at 07:54 AM



“ I was really sad to hear the news that Bill had passed away. I will never forget how kind you were to my brother and I. Whenever we would visit my dad, Allen, at Munson you always made time to come hang out. You had some great stories about trout fishing at your grandparents place on Narada Lake, and I can still remember the details. You were always a highlight of my visits. You will be missed and remembered.

Michael McSweeney - June 29 at 01:09 PM



“ Had the pleasure of working with Bill at Munson. Such a nice, funny, compassionate man.
Bill you will be missed here, but heaven gained another beautiful soul.

Caroline Perreault - June 28 at 02:35 PM



“ Bill, I'm going to miss you. You've been a great friend and colleague for the past 41 yrs. Circumstances over the past few years prevented us from seeing each other as often as we would have liked but when we were able to touch base, we were able to ease into that comfortable conversation that we shared and pick up where last left off. Our talks changed over the years from arguing over who was the best character on Bonanza (you of course had a soft spot for Hoss), our love and frustration with our jobs at Munson, significant others, children, illness and finally grandchildren. I remember our last conversation, you were bragging on the grandchildren and looking forward to the next time you would get to see them. You taught me how to be a "non-fudgie" so I could "blend in." You said, "appreciate the beauty of the area, get out and enjoy nature, learn to love the winters, respect the people and history of Traverse City, that all rules of the road are suspended during Cherry Festival, and remember to behave because someone's always watching (especially when driving a yellow pickup truck). I admired that you were always up for a new experience. I remember your motorcycle, old Dodge 4X4 and you kite sailing across East Bay. You were a

legend in some groups because I heard stories about you paragliding off the bluffs in Frankfort and skiing down Mt. Holiday wearing an old bearskin coat. Thanks for being a de facto brother and introducing me to your great family. Thanks for being an “uncle” to my boys. They have fond memories of you- mostly because you always seemed genuinely happy to see them and for your ready smile and laugh. Bill, I’ve always respected your skills as a social worker and was so proud and happy for you when you completed your MSW at MSU. I admired your kind and gentle manner and loved you as a person. I will miss you. Melonie, Jim, Tom, Kenny, Carol, Linda and Aunt Noreen, I’m so sorry for your loss. God bless. Allen M.

Allen McSweeney - June 27 at 12:12 PM



“ Allen what a beautiful tribute of my brother Bill. Thank you for the memories you shared with the family. Bill will live on in my heart forever and hopefully the pain of losing you will ease little by little. Bill is a heavenly Angel now and hes with Mother and Dad and Granpa Baehr and Grandma Stebner. Hes fishing on Shell lake, and Narada. Bill is free of pain and smiling once again.

Carol Stebner Mikowski - June 29 at 07:18 PM



“ While working at CMH Emergency Services would get messages from Bill re: discharges. He could never complete what he had to say in the allotted message time and would call back sometimes twice to complete what he had to say. Bill was always upbeat and a pleasure to deal with. Never needed an attitude adjustment and never suggested I needed one either. Vic Poertner

Vic Poertner - June 27 at 11:04 AM



“ Bill was a very caring and compassionate Social Worker who was dedicated to going the extra mile for his patients and co-workers. His smile for everyone and kind heart will be greatly missed.

Linda Chism - June 25 at 11:06 AM



“ Bill was a friend and colleague. A rare and special man who brought care and kindness to each and every interaction. R.I.P. Bill

Tom Keith - June 25 at 06:34 AM



“ Yet another Munson employee who knew and cherished Bill. He made my day as we would frequently pass in the hall, Bill always with a smile on his face and a kind word. The world will miss you Bill.

Jeanine Easterday - June 24 at 02:44 PM



“ I worked with Bill at Munson for many years. He gave of himself to the patients and was very kind. I also enjoyed playing golf with him. I saw Bill at Sixth St. pharmacy a few weeks ago and he was talkative and happy. You will be missed, Bill. Bonnie Visser

Bonnie Visser - June 24 at 02:22 PM



“ I had the privilege to work with Bill at Munson on the Mental Health Unit. His presence was calming. What a kind soul. His life is how all lives should be lived. So sorry your loss.

Melissa - June 24 at 02:04 PM



“ Always an advocate for the under served. Steadfast in his love for countless patients in his work as a ground roots social worker. A friend for over 35 years. Bless you sweet Bill. Gods speed in your new adventure.

Beverly Warnaar - June 24 at 10:51 AM



“ One of the things about Bill that will always make me smile are his descriptions of food. A group of us at work would often eat lunch together. It was fun to listen to Bill describe his lunch selections..."succulent", "scrumptious", "delicious", etc. were some of my favorites...please note, this was hospital food he was describing. Munson should have hired him to plug their menus! You will be much missed, Bill. God bless you.
Becky Willsey





“ I will always remember Bill as the hard working discharge planner on orthopedics at Munson. Bill worked diligently daily to help patients get home to a safe environment and helped the families cope with many difficult circumstances. He was a fun co-worker and loved to come to our "potlucks" on the unit. We nearly lost him in 2015 with his aneurysm, but he came back fighting. We were able to enjoy his company and frequent visits to the unit for 5 more years. We will miss you Bill. Bless your heart.

Cheryl Waisanen

cheryl Waisanen - June 23 at 01:46 PM



“ I worked with Bill for many years at Munson - he was always professional, kind and so very caring !!! What a loss for his family and our community. My deepest condolences to his family and friends! Rest In Peace Bill

kelly don stuhmueller - June 23 at 12:15 PM



“ Laura sent a virtual gift in memory of William "Bill" Allen Stebner



Laura - June 23 at 11:33 AM



“ Oh, Bill! I was so glad you were a part of my life at Munson. You are one of the most kindhearted and caring people I know. I may not have met all your family members, but I feel I know them. You shared many stories of your family and there was no doubt of your love for them. I have many fond memories of our social work lunches and how you enjoyed your lunch:) . My condolences to your family.

Cherie Wilson - June 28 at 12:39 PM



“ Bill, my memories of working with you are all good! You really cared about our patients. I do not remember sarcasm, but only kindness. That was something so desperately needed on that floor. I only recently met your partner, Melanie. That was meant to be, I'm sure. It's so nice to think of you with her! Blessings and peace to your family here on earth. We will meet again, my friend.

Marilyn Metiva

Marilyn - June 29 at 11:15 AM