



William G. Justice

October 25, 1921 - June 24, 2020

JUSTICE, William Garrett “Coach”

On June 24, 2020, Bill went to his Lord and to be reunited with Marian, the love of his life. Bill was born in Asheville NC where he developed his work ethic and athletic abilities. He was the middle child of a family of incredibly talented athletes. He received a football scholarship to Rollins College in Winter Park FL. While at Rollins, Bill met his great love, Marian Russ, and following graduation in 1943, they married in Marianna, FL.

Bill served in the US Marine Corps during WWII. He saw active duty in the Pacific and received a Purple Heart for injuries received in combat on the island of Tinian. He continued to serve in the Marine Reserves, was active in organizing the Jr ROTC/USMC at Clearwater High School, and retired with the rank of Colonel.

Following WWII, Bill and Marian moved to Clearwater with son Garry. He began his career at Clearwater High School teaching math and coaching (among other sports) football. In 1947, '48 & '49, “Bill’s Boys” excelled in the Conference, bringing home the championship in 1948. He and his “Boys” have kept in touch for the past 70+ years. Bill also played for the Clearwater Bombers Softball Team during the same years.

Bill was called back to active duty during the Korean War and was stationed in Quantico VA. The family, now including daughter Julie, returned to Clearwater, and after a brief stint at Hillsborough High, he resumed his career at Clearwater High as football coach, teacher, Dean of Boys, Assistant Principal and Principal. In addition to his teaching and administrative skills, he was well known for his true concern for all students – and for playing his harmonica at student assemblies! Bill retired from education as Assistant Superintendent for the Pinellas County Schools in 1981.

Bill was active at Trinity Presbyterian Church as deacon, elder and Sunday school teacher for the MacKenzie and Chi Rho classes. He was also the one who opened the doors and turned on the HVAC every Sunday morning!

After retirement, Bill was elected to the Clearwater City Commission and served on many boards and committees, including the Parks and Recreation Board. He was named Mr Clearwater and Citizen of the Century by the Clearwater City Commission.

Through the years, Bill served in numerous civic organizations, including the Lions Club, Springtime Kiwanis Club (Lt. Governor), Military Order of the World Wars, The Clearwater

Historical Society, Clothes to Kids and served on the boards of the Salvation Army and UPARC. His professional associations included FEA/NEA (pre-strike), Florida Administrators Association, Phi Delta Kappa and FREA.

Bill is preceded in death by his wife of 77 years, Marian; parents PW and Nell (Foster) Justice; siblings Dale, Jack, Frances, Joe, Charles and Neil. He is survived by son Garry (Carol), granddaughter Molly Wainscott (Derek) and daughter Julie Griffith and grandson Boyce Griffith.

Even as his health declined, Bill continued to sing his favorite song to anyone who asked him how he was doing:

“I’ve been sitting here thinking back over my life
All of the good things, the trouble and strife
Well, my share of heartaches, yes, so many I’ve had
But I still think the good things outweigh the bad.”

Bill was 98 glorious years old, and died comfortably in his sleep.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the Bill Justice Scholarship Fund at Clearwater High School or the Clearwater Historical Society.

Comments



“ Garry & Julie,
I'm saddened by the now loss of your dad.
Guess he was chasing after your mom again to keep her close by.
I feel honored to have grown up across the street from your family my entire life.
Knowing your dad as a family friend, my playmate Julie's dad, a pillar of our church,
my principal of his beloved Clearwater High, and continuing our friendship through
my adult life.
There are so many memories, some that make me chuckle. Such as his Donald
Duck voice, stories of growing up in rural North Carolina with his brothers, including
famous
"Choo Choo" Justice. And his infamous harmonica playing, which he performed for
our
1972 CHS Baccalaureate program.
He left an amazing legacy for Clearwater and your family.
Janet Pace Kaufmann

Janet Pace Kaufmann - June 30 at 10:25 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William G. Justice.



June 29 at 03:01 PM



“ may the Lord our God grant him everlasting life in His Kingdom--thank you for all you
meant to Clearwater and its residents--Carolyn and George Cretekos

George N Cretekos - June 28 at 07:06 AM



“ To me, the passing of Bill and Marian, is the passing of an era in my lifetime. Bill
embodied all the qualities that God wanted instilled in man, such as integrity,
honesty, loyalty, faithfulness, trustworthiness. Bill loved his God, his family, his
country, the Marine Corps and his friends. We all have precious memories of Bill and
Marian.

Barbara Ewert - June 27 at 05:08 PM



“ We'll always remember Coach Justice and Marion as a loving couple always together and most recently at the Clearwater old timers fish fry. Love from Pete and Carol Jackson

carol jackson - June 26 at 04:46 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William G. Justice.



June 26 at 04:30 PM



“ My condolences to the family. Stumbled upon this photo and thought I would share. I was honored to serve alongside Mr. Justice in his service to the community as a member of The Salvation Army – Clearwater Advisory Board. The world is a better place because of him. Rest in peace. ~ Jean Flegiel, The Salvation Army of Upper Pinellas County



Jean Flegiel - June 26 at 10:54 AM



“ Sympathies from Donnette Hurd, Class if '61 : remember him as one of the "good" guys

Donnette Hurd Kugel - June 26 at 09:26 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



William Everett Athanson - June 26 at 07:24 AM



“ Rest in peace, Coach. Bob Baker, CHS Class of 1949.

Robert Baker - June 25 at 10:53 PM



“ I was a neighbor of the Justice's growing up. If Bill was working in his yard when we walked or cycled by he would talk to us in his Donald Duck voice! Always made us laugh. Sorry for your loss.

Deb Greenwood Herr - June 25 at 08:42 PM



“ I was fortunate enough to have Bill as a high school principal and later a fellow Kiwanian.

Michael Brown

Michael Brown - June 25 at 07:56 PM



“ Mr. and Mrs Justice were friends of my family for what seems like forever. I always remember meetings or get togethers where right at the end of the meeting Mr. Justice would break out the harmonica and huge applause came for how wonderful he was. My heart is sad but my memories make me smile. In about 1996, I ran into Mr Justice at a CIA event. We hugged and started talking and when I called him Mr. Justice, he said "oh, you're an adult now Carole, you can call me Bill". We talked a little longer and when we parted, I said good Mr. Justice and he laughed. We all loved him.

Carole Costa - June 25 at 05:37 PM



“ Rest in peace you were a wonderful role model and mentor to so many, thank you for all your years of teaching and coaching, etc. wish there were more like you. We were all very lucky to have known you. Lynda and Art Reiter

Lynda & Art Reiter - June 25 at 05:03 PM



“ Bill Justice raised all the boys at Clearwater High

Lesley Hassel Cox - June 25 at 04:44 PM



“ Coach Justice and his wife were wonderful people. They are together forever now and were blessed with long lives. Thanks for your inspiration and the happy memories!

Diane Hagan Ormerod - June 25 at 04:44 PM



“ Clearwater is saddened with the loss of such a champion! Prayers of comfort for the family that was blessed to have had such a remarkable patriarch.

Nancy Pratt Swartz - June 25 at 03:37 PM