



William H. "Bill" Charles

August 7, 1937 - January 19, 2019

Bill Charles, age 81, passed away peacefully in Bellingham on Saturday, January 19th, 2019. He was born August 7, 1937 in Bellingham to Clifford and Faye Charles. Bill graduated from Bellingham High School and served six years in the Air Force. Bill worked for over 30 years at Sea-K Fish Company in Blaine. He was a talented musician and volunteered with the Mt. Baker Theatre. He was kind, generous, helpful, and a true humanitarian. Bill was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his sister Donna Costello and her children Michelle, Michel, Marcia, Milissa, Martin and Margaret, and many loving relatives and friends. A graveside service to honor Bill's life will be held at Greenacres Cemetery on Friday, March 29th at 2 PM. You may share memories with the family at www.westfordfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery

Greenacres Memorial Park

5700 Northwest Drive

Ferndale, WA, 98248

Comments



“ Bill was quite a man and quite a volunteer. I'll always admire his dedication, positive attitude, and willingness to quietly solve problems and fix things. He was so passionate about the Mount Baker Theatre's Organ. He spent countless hours working away on stage and up in the organ bays making sure the organ would work whenever we needed it. He regularly came down to the theatre to make sure the organ was good to go when we had tours or performances. He was always in a great mood and eager to share the organ with anyone who was interested.

A few years ago Bill spent most of the summer digitizing the console. That may not sound like much, but it required a deep knowledge of the electronic wiring of the organ and it also took hundreds of hours climbing up and down ladders on the stage wings to meticulously track, label, and re-route how each of the hundreds of individual pipe air gates would receive signals. Much of this work had to be done in the cramped and dusty confines of the organ bays above the stage where all the various organ pipes reside. There aren't many people who know how to do this kind of work and even fewer willing to put out the effort make it possible. But Bill did it eagerly, willingly, and was always so positive and enthusiastic while he worked. Now, the results of his work will allow the organ to be more fully utilized. It will also allow us to accommodate larger ensembles in the orchestra pit and will help preserve the console and the organ for many years to come.

I'll always remember Bill as one of the most dedicated and effective volunteers I have ever had the pleasure to work with. He will be sorely missed and impossible to replace, but I'm proud to have known him and I appreciate how much he has done to keep the Mount Baker Theatre organ ready for future generations to enjoy.

Brad Burdick
Executive Director
Mount Baker Theatre

Brad Burdick - January 29 at 05:11 PM



“ When Bill was the president of the Theater Organ Guild at the Mount Baker Theater, he opened the theater for a friend of mine to play the organ. What a rare experience that was for a player who was used to much smaller organs! That is an example of his kindness and generosity.

Andrew Hallum - January 28 at 11:59 AM



“ Just a note, he was preceded in death by his parents, yes, but also by his partner (I believe his name was Fred) who shared Bill's wonderful life for so many years. I feel so lucky to have become friends with Bill a few years ago. He was such a vibrant man even into his 70s and 80s that it's hard to think he's no longer with us.

Rick Segreda - January 25 at 11:15 PM



“ Bill was an amazing friend to my husband and i.. he took us in when we had no where to go.. and helped us get to where we are today.. he was like a father to us and a grandfather to our children..



Amanda willman - January 23 at 12:26 AM