



## Bill Donnelly

May 5, 1931 - February 21, 2018

William Robert Donnelly

5/05/1931 - 2/21/2018

Bill Donnelly passed away last month at the age of 86. He died on February 21st surrounded by his five surviving children and his wife of 63 years. Bill has been a resident of Cape May for close to 30 years. He is predeceased by his son Bill Donnelly, Jr. He is survived by his wife Dorsey, his sister Evelyn, and his children Anne Donnelly, Evelyn Donnelly, Kit Donnelly, Jay Donnelly, Rebecca Donnelly and his 10 grandchildren. Bill was born in Mineola, New York and went on to attend Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York. At Hofstra he played football and lacrosse and soon found himself in love with the lacrosse coach's daughter Dorsey Myers. He entered the Marines after college and during his tenure, married his beloved Dorsey in 1955. A steadfast son and brother, loyal athletic team member, military man and husband, he also excelled during his career at Western Electric. He provided well for his wife and six children and prided himself on saving a dime or two. The family spent every summer in Cape May, N.J. with a large group of assorted relatives and friends until he retired at 55 and he and Dorsey moved permanently to Cape May. Up until his death, you could find Bill on his bicycle, down at the tennis courts, reading the New York Times on the porch, telling stories at the dining table and having a Wednesday night drink at the Grand. He took pride in taking care of his home with his own hands. He was a wonderful friend, son, brother, story teller, and pretty decent guitar player too, and he excelled as a husband and father. Bill stood by his wife and all six of his children through many challenging times with optimism, steadfastness, kindness and support. He truly was the rock and the foundation of the Donnelly clan and will be deeply missed. Services will be held from 2 to 6pm on June 9th, 2018 at 1031 New Jersey Ave. Cape May, NJ. 08204.

# Comments

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“ Just a few things from Dad's desk. His best buddies are from the Hofstra Lacrosse and football team. My mom says that the only reason that these guys played lacrosse was because Grandpa Howdy told them they had to. Haha.



**Kit Donnelly** - May 19, 2018 at 08:54 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Richard Steggerda** - May 09, 2018 at 08:06 AM

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“ My heart sank when I heard of "Uncle Donnelly"'s passing. I remember him as a kind man, reserved but having a good sense of humor, a dedicated family man and best friend to my Dad.

I called him "Uncle Donnelly" because he was chosen as my Godfather, and the name just stuck. Both being Hofstra classmates, teammates in football and lacrosse, fellow Marines and even guitar players - they had so many things in common. So many times I'd chuckle at them being on the phone with each other - laughing and being a bit silly over who knows what.

I recall my parents enjoying so many fun times with your parents; parties, Hofstra Alumni events, weddings, vacations and of course weekends in Cape May among other things.

Remembering your Dad with great fondness, he was a good man.

Jennifer Hayes Lawler

Jennifer Hayes Lawler - May 06, 2018 at 08:44 AM



“ Thank you Jenny. I have been meaning to post some lacrosse pictures here too. If you see this message, please send me your email. You can text my phone. I would like to send you an evite to the memorial!

**Kit Donnelly** - May 07, 2018 at 05:18 PM



“ Thank you Jenny so beautiful

**Anne Donnelly** - June 01, 2018 at 06:27 PM

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“ Today would have been my dad's 87th birthday. Or as he liked to count it in "chinese years" he would be 88. I don't know. I'll let him have that argument.

I read this quote by Mary Oliver recently and it made me think about no matter how much we love, loss is a constant part of life.

"In the mystery and the energy of loving, we all view time's shadow upon the beloved as wretchedly as ant of Poe's narrators, We do not think of it every day, but we never forget it: the beloved shall grow old, or ill, and be taken away finally. No matter how ferociously we fight, how tenderly we love, how bitterly we argue, how pervasively we berate the universe, how cunningly we hide, this is what shall happen. In the wide circles of timelessness, everything material and temporal will fail, including the manifestation of the beloved. In this universe we are given two gifts: the ability to love, and the ability to ask questions. Which are, at the same time the fires that warm us and the fires that scorch us".

And here are the pages from his 80th birthday celebration book. Hopefully you can read the writing! What a man. I miss you Dad.



**Kit Donnelly** - May 05, 2018 at 08:12 AM



“ oops...excuse the typo. I don't know how to go back and edit. Haha

**Kit Donnelly** - May 05, 2018 at 08:19 AM



“ Thank you for the beauty

**anne donnelly** - May 05, 2018 at 12:09 PM



“ Oh what wonderful tributes to an extraordinary man. I thoroughly enjoyed reading them...Jennifer Hayes Lawler

**Jennifer Hayes Lawler** - May 06, 2018 at 08:41 AM



“ We've always known Bill as the father of the Donnelly clan. We met him soon after we opened our Baileywicke and hired Ev for a summer job in the late 70s. He was "Ev's dad." Over the years, Ev became much more than a part timer. She became our friend and colleague. And we came to know and love the whole family. We watched the grandkids arrive and we saw them grow up as they visited us at the Baileywicke during their summer visits. Bill was always there for all of them; a true patriarch and the "glue" that kept them all together. We truly regret that we will not be at the gathering to share our memories of a man who will be forever missed by all of us.

John and Nancy Bailey

**Nancy Bailey** - May 30, 2018 at 08:37 AM



“ At Dad's memorial I was taken aback at all my sisters telling stories after I thought we'd open it to extended family and friends so I wasn't prepared to say anything about the most wonderful and generous man I've ever encountered,

My Dad was there for me in the lowest most bottom part of me life. Both financially with no hesitation but emotionally there for me as a true cheerleader, "You can do this Evo". Little did he know, I couldn't have done it without him.

I used to tease him about the book I was writing about all the Grandpa's soooooo cheap..... But the truth is, he was far from cheap. He gave and gave in every way.

Dad always wanted a Mercedes Convertable . After the all the Ford Esquire Wagons that fit all the kids, he bought a red Capri with a 4 speed as his first sporty car that all of us learned to drive a stick on and ruined the clutch.

Dad treated each and everyone of his kids with respect, love, and incredible fairness. No matter what we chose to do as children and into adulthood with all of our careers that we've found ourselves in, he supported us all.

I could go on and on, but I am so proud to have had Dad as my Dad and have him as my son's grand-pa.

Love you forever Dad

**evelyn donnelly** - June 28, 2018 at 09:59 AM