



Bill Hare

June 28, 1955 - June 10, 2016

HARE, William Joseph "Bill" – 60, of Cape May and formerly of Philadelphia passed away on June 10, 2016 at home. Bill was born in Philadelphia on June 28, 1955 to the late Joseph Michael Hare and Anne Agnes (nee Amenhauser). He graduated from Northeast Catholic High School in 1973 and later attended DeSales College and the restaurant school. Bill proudly served in the United States Navy as a Corpsman on the USS Nimitz in the Mediterranean for 4 years where he provided medical services to evacuated Mideast hostages. Most recently he was employed by WalMart in Rio Grande. Bill was well-known as "Bill the Leprechaun" throughout Philadelphia and Wildwood; often on floats in parades for St. Patrick's Day and Irish Weekend in Anglesea. He was featured in the Channel 6 Action News montage each March, and was often featured in the St. Patrick's Day coverage in the Philadelphia Inquirer. He had been Santa Claus for Strawbridge and Clothier in downtown Philadelphia for several years. A man of different personas, whether costumed as the Easter Bunny, a Christmas elf, a clown, or as 'Hat Man' in the old Red Garter in Anglesea, NJ, he delighted in entertaining and will be remembered as the life of the party. Bill is survived by his brother, Joseph M. (Linda); his sisters, Anne T. Kugler (George), Maureen A. Luschini (David), Donna M. Mellon (James) and Kathleen Hare; his aunt, Marie Amenhauser as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Bill's memorial gathering will take place on Saturday (June 25th) from 10am to 11am in the Spilker Funeral Home, 815 Washington St., Cape May. Please wear your favorite shade of green as a tribute to Bill! Bill's Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday (June 28th) at 10am in St. Anne's RC Church, E. Lehigh Ave. & Memphis St., Philadelphia, PA where friends will be received from 9am to 10am. Interment will follow Mass in St. Dominic's Cem., Phila., PA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Citizens/Veterans Advisory Committee (CVAC) c/o Jacki Meiluti or to Volunteers in Medicine, 423 N. Route 9, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210.

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Although this website offers many options to send flowers, PLEASE observe the request of the family to send a memorial contribution instead to either the Citizens/Veterans Advisory Committee (CVAC) c/o Jacki Meiluti or to Volunteers in Medicine, 423 N. Route

9, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210.

Comments



“ 4 files added to the album RIP Bill...A Leprechaun with a Heart of Gold



Cathy - September 23, 2016 at 03:00 PM



“ Prayers and sympathy to Maureen Luschini and family... Sister Frances P. Kirk, Philadelphia

Sister Frances kirk - June 29, 2016 at 05:10 PM



“ In my many roles as a spectator, participant , Board member and long time announcer at the Saint Patrick's Day Parade, I have fond memories of Bill Hare, the Leprechaun of the Parade, yearly marching and handing out candies to the crowd. He embodied the true spirit of the parade and the Irish. It is certainly a sad day for Bill's family and friends and for the Irish community because a spirit like his is lost forever. May he rest in the peace of our Lord and be held in the palm of His hand.
Judge Jimmy Lynn

james Lynn - June 27, 2016 at 07:24 PM



“ Billy's only real job on this earth was to make people smile and that he did. See ya Friend!

jack Haas - June 27, 2016 at 01:20 PM



“ My friendship with Bill dates back to when I moved to St Anne's from St Edwards in October of 1963, and right through to our Graduation from North Catholic in 1973. Billy was one of a kind. And Kind a key word in describing him. Many years had passed with only rare occasions when we would run across each other. My memory of Billy Hare and his care for others will always have a special place in my heart and mind. The City of Philadelphia had lost Police Officer Johnny Pawlowski. Murdered in the line of duty the night before St Valentines Day. At that time I was a part business owner of Bonks Bar and Grille. I had organized a large benefit for Officer Pawlowski's family to be held inside and closed the street outside Bonks due to the anticipated size of the crowd. At one point during the event I was standing at the corner if Richmond and Tioga outside the bar with a microphone making an announcement when the crowd let out a roar and began applauding and cheering. Lol. I had no idea what was going in behind me. The route 73 bus had just pulled up and, on St Patrick's Day lo and behold a real, living, breathing Leprechaun had just gotten off of that bus. Billy Leprechaun Hare walked up to me. He shook my hand, gave me a hug and said, " So Sick, saw you on TV earlier. Figured you could use a hand ". Billy had taken a train and Septa from the shore all the way to Philly to lend a hand. He proceeded to stop traffic and collect money from passing motorists in his Pot of Gold. He raised several hundred dollars that night. That Leprechaun didn't need a pot of gold. He had a heart of Gold. God Bless you Billy Hare.
Joe Sickman Sr

Joe Sickman Sr - June 27, 2016 at 12:27 PM



“ A childhood friend . Rest in peace, prayers for you and your family .

Marylou Elias - June 25, 2016 at 08:51 AM



“ My condolences to Bills's family. You are missed at Walmart.



Jenny Lund - June 25, 2016 at 01:14 AM



“ My uncle Billy was also my godfather as well. I have very fond memories of him playing the banjo when my dad would bring us to mam and pop pop's house. I always talked about him all the time. I am glad my dad made him my godfather. He was my favorite uncle as well I will miss him. Uncle Billy was the only uncle of mine who was a lot of fun being around. When I was a kid he came to visit us in Maryland he was dressed in a clown suite. I remember me and my brothers and Uncle Billy he drove us in his car we were playing what he called starsky and hutch. I could talk man to man with him a lot easier him than my dad. Uncle Billy explained to me that dad was part of the old testament new church. I will miss you Uncle Billy. Michael Hare

Michael Hare - June 24, 2016 at 07:05 PM



“ I am very sad. Bill accompanied me to my junior prom on April 11, 1973....such a kind face. Kris McDonnell Mitlas

kris mitlas - June 24, 2016 at 12:00 PM



“ Bill was a fellow Navy Hospital Corpsman as well as a dear friend. He always had a smile and a joke for everyone. I loved his spirit and his stories and I miss that everyday. What a great loss for our community, his family and all who loved him. God Bless, and I wish Fair Winds and Following Seas. Farewell my friend.

Jackie Blaydes - June 24, 2016 at 11:07 AM



“ That's a major loss to the folks from Epsilon NU and all the people who ever saw Bill at a parade or whatever in full regalia. He was kind, charitable and easily made friends with folks down at the Irish Pub in AC or in Wildwood or anywhere in Philadelphia for that matter. I remember a photo of Bill on the front of an edition of the Inquirer the day after St. Patricks Day one year. It had the caption "Where do leprechaun go after the parties are over?" or something to that effect. He was also an inspiration to many of us. In fact, he presented me with an idea for the Squires to participate in at my home Council of the Knights of Columbus many years ago, and that was to have the living "Stations of the Cross" for a Lenten meditation. Everyone got into it and made for a special evening those many, many years ago. He led a group of us on a ski weekend trip up to Big Vanilla from our singles club another time. He was the catalyst for good humor, and good fun. Where do Leprechauns go? to heaven, we trust.

Ed Mockapetris - June 23, 2016 at 08:51 PM



“ We knew Bill from a Catholic Singles Club, he was a great guy. Our thoughts & prayers go out to his family. He was far to young.

Tom & Kathy Dougherty, Lenore, Idaho

Kathy Dougherty - June 23, 2016 at 08:14 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Bill



Maureen Luschini - June 23, 2016 at 06:48 PM



“ I remember Bill in all the parades in Philadelphia he was such a nice man getting out candy to the kids..you will be missed



Patty Kendrick - June 23, 2016 at 12:02 PM



“ Billy was my best friend for most of the time we were at St. Anne's Elementary School. Even then he was cheerful and funny, and, simply, fun. He often had a place at our dinner table--my family really liked him--and we often rumbled around in each other's basements as kids do. Billy was incredibly loyal. There was an evening once when an older kid in the neighborhood who was not a bully was acting like one, and when he turned his attention to Billy and me, my friend told him he'd have to take us both on. What more could a sixth-grade boy want from a friend? It's a small incident, but loyalty really was one of Billy's strongest qualities. If he considered you his friend, you knew it and he showed it. Billy and I drifted apart by high school, a natural development, but I cannot imagine having a better best friend in those years. I was very fortunate to be his friend. He had a very important impact on my life, and I'm indebted to him.

--Joe Wakelee-Lynch

Joe Wakelee-Lynch - June 23, 2016 at 10:40 AM



“ Bill always made me smile at work. I will always remember that smile even if he wasn't feeling so good..Thank you Bill for the stories you told me and the memories we made. My prayers are with the family and may God give you all peace knowing that its not goodbye it's see you later.



Michelle from Pets - June 23, 2016 at 02:13 AM



“ Saddens my heart not to see you at Walmart Bill....you always knew how to put a smile on everyone's face...it was such a great pleasure working with you and laughing with you...wish we had more time to talk and learn about your interesting life....Rest on peace Bill you will forever be remembered and loved by so many....

Rose Mac - June 22, 2016 at 10:22 PM



“ Having Uncle Billy as you uncle was awesome...who else could say your uncle was a leprechaun. ..and mean it? I have so many memories, and the one thing that stands out is he always made us laugh and always made us smile. You were the cool uncle...the one we got away with things our parents would have cringed had they known...you were also the uncle with a caring heart...I remember when I was in the hospital in 2nd grade...you came in, dressed like a clown, did some magic tricks, and had a gift for me and the other 3 girls you didn't even know...I got an etch a sketch. .I will never forget that! I will never forget the party after Annes wedding either. . As one of my friends said...we lost a legend....SLAINTE...SLAN GO FOILL

Mary Kay - June 22, 2016 at 09:22 PM



“ I worked at ShopRite with Bill and always enjoyed our interactions. I know there are a lot of smiles that happened because of him

Brendan C - June 22, 2016 at 09:00 PM



“ As a Cumberland Street neighbor, Billy and I made some wonderful mischievous memories growing up. My favorite was when we were in the basement of St. Anne's rectory repairing toys for the CYO Operation Santa Claus. We found a human-sized stuffed bear and Bill thought it would be a great idea to put it in Father Bond's bed. I can still hear Bill's "tee hee hee" laugh as we snuck away. He was by far the funniest guy in the neighborhood and always a delight to see because you knew that no matter what was going on in your life, Billy Hare was going to make you laugh. But kind people like Bill never really pass on, they live on in wonderful memories that even the mighty power of time cannot take from us. Here's wishing everyone happy memories.

Gerry Shields - June 22, 2016 at 08:12 PM



“ Condolences to the family. Billy was the best, and he was always kind to my mom and always had a smile on his face!!!
Geri Hoffman Schneider.

Geri Schneider - June 22, 2016 at 07:36 PM



“ I wish to share how Billy always made me smile. I think we may all neglected a lot of his serious side as that is what Billy wanted. Knowing him was an honor and he has left us to soon.
Billy, I loved you and I am so proud to call you my friend. You will be missed.

All My Love and Prayers,
Mary Ann Hildenberger



Mary Ann Hildenberger - June 22, 2016 at 06:55 PM



“ We always called him Willie he was our little leprechaun he worked for me at Kandy's he worked in our lights Department and he was so helpful and friendly to everyone they came into the store I don't think there was anybody that did not like him he would be our little elf during the holidays Willie with his watch and his little suitcase he will be missed he was a big part of a lot of people's lives

Diane Power - June 22, 2016 at 06:52 PM



“ Bill was a good listener. We met in high school and became friends. He would come over my parents house and we would sit on the porch and talk for hours. I just wish we would have stayed in touch, but as time has it we did not. My loss. RIP Billy. My sincere condolences and prayers to his family. Our loss is Heavens' gain.

Debbie McGrogan - June 22, 2016 at 06:29 PM



“ It's hard to believe that you gone, I miss the talks we had, the jokes you told. You touched so many people hearts. It's not good bye it's I'll see later. R.i.p Bill (leprechaun) gone but not forgotten

Nicole Craner - June 22, 2016 at 06:11 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to the entire family. Bill was the brightest spot in any parade and anyone who met him or saw him in one of his costumes immediately smiled. He'll certainly be leading the parades in heaven. RIP.

Jean M - June 22, 2016 at 06:08 PM



“ I have so many memories of my Uncle Billy, he was only eleven years old when i was born , and I was the first niece in he family. One memory I have and always think of was, when i was a little kid, my grandparents would rent a place for the summer in wildwood, I would stay with them and have little sour cream glasses of beer and pickled herring after the beach with mam, pop pop, aunt marie and uncle billy. One night, Uncle Billy took me to the Red Garter with him while he did his Hat Man Show. I will tell you, i felt like the coolest kid in the world that i was in such a happy fun crowd, and proud that he was my uncle, he even included me in the act. Uncle Billy was the celebrity of the club and i was proud. Now that I am grown, I have encountered so many people who have randomly mentioned bill the leprechaun without knowing he was my uncle. Each one of them had nothing but funny stories and good times to talk about .. I will miss him and so will the city of Philadelphia. Fare he well Uncle Billy '

Annie Olimpo - June 22, 2016 at 06:07 PM



“ I did not know him personally but always waited on him in Big Lots. He always brightened up our day. We are sad to hear of his passing.

Rachel Lester - June 22, 2016 at 05:48 PM



“ This just broke my little Irish Heart! My favorite day is Saint Paddy's Day & my day wasn't complete without seeing my favorite leprechaun! RIP Bill!



Deserie Keenan - June 22, 2016 at 05:28 PM



“ I KNEW BILL A LONG TIME FROM A CATHOLIC YOUNG GROUP HE WILL B MISSED



BOB FOX - June 22, 2016 at 05:00 PM



“ I'm so saddened by this, my deepest sympathies and prayers to the Hare family. I had the pleasure of meeting Bill on Irish Weekend with my friends. We were there having a fun girls weekend, we spent time with him and he posed with us for one of my most favorite picture. Rest in Peace Bill, you were fun, and such a gentleman...

Louise - June 22, 2016 at 04:38 PM



“ I still can't believe your gone my friend, we had so many laughs at Walmart, definitely going to miss our chats and your witty comebacks and jokes. Always made me laugh when you saw i was having a bad day, no matter how upset I was you got a smile out of me. You had a beautiful soul and brought Joy to so many. Rest easy my friend, it's not good bye, it's see you later. ♡

Dani Ginyard - June 22, 2016 at 04:13 PM



“ Remembering Me, Betty Jeanne, John Seneca running down Memphis Street in First grade! We would chase the boys!
How he surprised my daughter when he was Santa... He was THE REAL SANTA ... because he knew all about her and her baby sister and her cousins!

Sincere Condolences to his family,
Annemarie McIntyre Malkowski

Annemarie McIntyre Malkowski - June 22, 2016 at 03:50 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Annemarie McIntyre Malkowski - June 22, 2016 at 03:43 PM



“ Was there ever a nicer guy than Bill? I've known him forever ... School chum. Santa, The Hat Man at the Red Garter ... Life time Leprechaun ...
Always a gentlemen ...
Goodbye old friend by now you are corrupting the Angels
Until we meet again
Anne Marie McIntyre Malkowski

Annemarie McIntyre Malkowski - June 22, 2016 at 03:47 PM



“ Bill will be missed at the VA clinic. His laugh made me smile. RIP

Karen Van Orden - June 22, 2016 at 09:29 AM



“ Bill was always happy and helpful to anyone who needed it. He will be missed. Judy Vasaturo, Victorian Towers



judy vasaturo - June 22, 2016 at 08:26 AM