



John William Bell, III

December 26, 1943 - April 15, 2019

John William Bell, III was one of the last true cowboys. He lived his entire full speed ahead. You wouldn't catch him standing by idly and he never slowed down. He was a tough hombre, playing high school football and riding bareback in the rodeo. He met the love of his life while in college and swept her off her feet then loved her until the end of his life. His life revolved around Ms. Kay, Bill, Steve and his animals.

For several years, he worked alongside his dad as an electrical engineer. He even helped build Hot Springs, AR. Along with several others, John William helped get the Franklinton Country Club up and running as he and Kay always enjoyed playing golf. John William played trumpet while touring with the Showboat Band, made a record with them and continued playing his trumpet all hours of the night. He played Taps at local military funerals several times and played at other patriotic events over the years.

He was a member of Centenary Methodist Church for many years and more recently attended Hillcrest Baptist Church.

John William fought cancer twice and won. He lost all hearing due to the invasive tumors. He lived by feeding himself through a peg tube for eleven years. John William won that battle too. He lifted weights, fed cows, horses and bulls and loved his little dog, Boots.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith...
2nd Timothy 4:7-8

Monday April 15, 2019, John William rode into the sunset one final time to meet the girl of his dreams. He had fought the good fight. He had finished the race. Daryl Dunigan wrote that John William will be missed-but Heaven gained a great trumpet player and choir member. Cousin Beth wrote that Kay was along with other friends and family on the other side. As Easter approaches, I take it as a blessing, peace and comfort. No longer are they sick, heartbroken, lonely and sad. They are together in the comforts of the spirit and free. What a celebration!

Survived by:

Son and fiancé: John William "Bill" Bell, IV and Tonya Dingler of Sherwood, AR

Grandson: John William "Jay" Bell, V of Hot Springs, AR

Brother: Richard Bell of Baton Rouge

Step-siblings and Spouses: Ginny and Bill Burris,
Barry and Monica Pierce,
Robert Pierce

Also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, other family members and many dear friends.

He was preceded in death recently by his beloved wife of 55 years Kay Evelyn Stephenson Bell, a son Michael Stephenson Bell and parents John William

Bell, Jr. and Lynetta Pierce Bell.

Visitation will be at Crain Funeral Home Saturday April 20th from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. A funeral service will be held in the funeral home chapel at 2:00 pm Saturday with Dr. Gene Richards and Rev. Tommy Smith officiating. Burial will follow in the Morris Cemetery.

Pallbearers: Barry Pierce, Reid Pierce, Bill Burris, Daryl Dunigan, Wayne Patterson, Roy Stevens

Tribute Wall

CJ

“ I was saddened to learn of John William’s passing. He was one of my very best friends during our upbringing in Franklinton, from our adolescent years through high school. My prayers are certainly with his family during this time.

Charles Jones - April 26, 2019 at 03:45 PM

KB

“ A beloved man and friend is now in the arms of his Savior. Prayers for John's family and friends. RIP John William you will be missed.
Erin Mike and Kaye Byrd



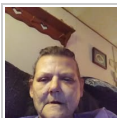
Kaye and Mike Byrd - April 18, 2019 at 04:34 PM

MV

“ Mike & Debbie Varnado lit a candle in memory of John William Bell, III



Mike & Debbie Varnado - April 18, 2019 at 08:58 AM



I did not know Mr. Bell when I read this he sounds like a trooper that the high heavens has received ...
God Bless all his family , and comfort each one of them
God Bless you all!!!!

Cynthia Williams - April 18, 2019 at 03:54 PM

BP

I am comforted by the belief that he is now with family. I admired his fight to recover from cancer and remember him as my older cousin growing up. Comfort to his son and grandson.

becky punzo - April 18, 2019 at 10:39 PM

DG

No man had a more loyal and true friend than John William. But then, John was there for everyone, friend or not. He was a devoted husband, father, and citizen of the world. RIP, my old friend. I'm sure you are on that gold-plated Bach up there in Heaven's Big Band, along with Don and all the rest of the fine musicians who have preceded you. Save a place in the trombone section for me.

Dave Golden - April 20, 2019 at 09:10 AM

TE

You were a great blessing and encourager, John w. Bell, you will be missed..

tedmcelveen - June 12, 2019 at 10:54 PM