



William "Bill" Xermo Culpepper

May 5, 1939 - January 2, 2023

WILLIAM XERMO CULPEPPER OBITUARY

William "Bill" Culpepper, 83, of Lampasas passed away January 2, 2023, at St. David's Round Rock Medical Center from cancer. Bill was the son of Xermo and Alice (Adcock) Culpepper. He grew up in Meridian, Mississippi, graduated from the University of Mississippi, and received a master's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas. He worked as an engineer at NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, for 30 years.

Early in his career, Bill was employed by Lockheed Aerospace, a NASA contractor. Later he became a civil servant at NASA JSC. Bill worked on many projects related to America's space programs including the first human outpost design and space station redesign. One of his more critical projects was organizing and leading a team of engineers in building and purchasing spacecraft electronics which could withstand single-event effects caused by cosmic rays found in space. A single nuclear particle can destroy a flight computer instantaneously. Bill's team traveled to cyclotrons all over the US, exposing new spacecraft computing systems to particles like the ones in space. Due to Bill's leadership, JSC has procedures to test all high-priority spacecraft electronics and certify them routinely, thus saving the lives of astronauts in space. Members of his team and others on this project

remember him as a friendly, experienced, straight forward guy. Bill was also known for supporting young, inexperienced engineers as they made their place in a new environment at NASA.

Bill appreciated music through various genres, including ragtime, show tunes and ballads. He loved playing his Gibson guitar, upright bass, clarinet, organ, mandolin and grand piano. His passion for history, genealogy and literature led him to complete numerous courses offered by "The Great Courses," which resulted in him becoming an official course reviewer.

After retirement from NASA, Bill moved to 70 acres overlooking Lampasas. He built an energy efficient house and set about improving the wildlife habitat on his place. He removed a dense canopy of Ashe Juniper (cedar), leaving scattered mottes for cover, and planted a mix of native grasses and flowers. A variety of native trees, a wildlife water guzzler and numerous nesting boxes for birds were all reverently installed by Bill. His land is an excellent example of native prairie restoration.

Bill is survived by daughter Keliagh Culpepper, her three children of Tuscon, Arizona, and sister, Betty Kinsey of Saltillo, Mississippi. He was preceded in death by his parents, his daughter, Kimberly Culpepper, and one grandchild. There will be no service.

Cemetery Details

Heritage Crematory

401 North Key
Lampasas, TX 76550

Tribute Wall

BC

“ *I would have liked to have known him better. He was in high school when I was just in elementary school. I remember that he played clarinet in the Meridian High Wildcat band. It's extra sad to lose a first cousin. His dad and my mom were siblings. - Barry Camp, Jackson, MS.*

Barry Camp - May 11, 2024 at 07:01 PM