



William E. Ferry Jr.

November 12, 1940 - January 12, 2020

Gilford - William Eaton Ferry Jr., 79 Dies Leaving a Lasting Legacy in the Apparel, Retail, and Outdoor Industry.

Bill, as he was known, spent a lifetime doing what he so passionately loved to do, helping lead well-known apparel and retail companies over six decades. He passed away on January 12, 2020, in Rye, NH, surrounded by his loving and supportive family.

Bill was born on November 12, 1940, in Boston, MA, to William Eaton Ferry Sr., and Marjorie Smith Ferry Chadbourne. While living in Chicago, the family, which included Bill's sister, Martha Ferry Goodwin was born, and where Mr. Ferry Sr. worked at Dupont. The Ferry family would then move to Wilmington, DE, where Bill attended high school at Mount Pleasant High School, and where he captured the Delaware Wrestling State Championship. Bill graduated from Mount Pleasant High School in 1959.

Following high school, Bill attended Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. He enjoyed acting and being involved in school plays, and was a member of the national fraternal organization Chi Phi. Bill also participated on the wrestling team. It was during this time that he met his soon to be bride, Julia Scott Kurtz Ferry (Scottie) in her hometown of Lancaster. Scottie and Bill met when she was a senior at the Lancaster Country Day School. Her senior year was when Bill asked her on their first date. Bill graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics in 1963 and would complete his advanced education in 1964 at New York University Leonard N. Stern School of Business with a Masters in Retail.

In 1964, Bill started his professional career at DuPont in Wilmington, DE. He moved onto The Merchandising Group in NYC until 1967, then landed at Hooker Chemical, where he was based in Toledo, Ohio until 1974. These various experiences helped to catapult Bill into the area of the "rags" and garment industry, his true passion, and in 1974 he became Vice President of his wife's family business, Woolrich Inc.

Bill moved his family numerous times throughout his career, settling in the Northeast and the Midwest. With each new employment opportunity brought new and exciting personal achievements as well. In 1972 the eldest of his two children, Charles Chadbourne Ferry, was born in Trenton, NJ. Two years later, in 1974, his daughter Taylor Anderson Ferry Hindle was born in Toledo, OH. Bill would become a proud grandparent to five beautiful grandkids, Tripp, Will, Gar, Piper, and Kaitlyn, who all reside in New England.

Following his time at Woolrich, an opportunity to work for Lands' End, the Dodgeville based catalog company, came calling. On two different occasions Bill worked for Lands' End. From 1982 to 1986, Bill was Executive VP of Merchandising and helped take the company public. Bill was also Vice Chairman from 1995 to 2000. In between his Lands' End experiences, Bill moved his family to Amherst, NH, where he was President of Eastern Mountain Sports, a Peterborough, NH based company. Bill worked for EMS from 1986 to 1995. During this time, he led the company growth from 24 to 86 stores covering most of the US and sparked an exploratory international expansion. EMS was viewed as one of the leading outdoor companies.

Throughout his distinguished career, Bill served on many company and non-profit boards: Gemplers in Madison, WI, Riverview School in East Sandwich MA, Marmot in Santa Rosa, CA, Marker LTD in Salt Lake City, UT, Eagle Creek in Vista, CA, Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA, Woolrich, Inc in Woolrich, PA, Outdoor Research in Seattle, WA, Duluth Trading Company in Madison, WI, and Youngone Corporation, in Seoul South Korea.

Bill is survived by his wife Scottie (Kurtz), son Chad Ferry - his wife Sandi and their daughter Kaitlyn, daughter Taylor (Ferry) Hindle - her husband Ray, and their four children Tripp, Will, Gar, and Piper. In addition, many nieces and nephews. Bill was predeceased by his sister Martha.

A celebration of Mr. Ferry's life will take place at the Gilford Community Church, 19 Potter Hill Road, Gilford, NH 03249 on February 1, 2020, at 11 a.m., followed by a reception at Governor's Island Club, 500 Edgewater Drive, Gilford, NH 03249. In memory of Bill sartorial splendor, please dress in colors. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Bill may be made to Beacon Hospice, 25 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 272, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

Events

FEB **Celebration of Life** 11:00AM
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Gilford Community Church
19 Potter Hill Road, Gilford, NH, US, 03249

Comments



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William E. Ferry Jr..



January 30, 2020 at 08:47 PM



“ Condolences to Bill's wonderful family. I feel so fortunate to have known him. Such a wonderful and lovely person.

Simone Maglio - January 25, 2020 at 11:10 AM



“ We will always remember the Summer evenings when we would sit by the lake and Bill cruised by in his beautiful boat. It made the evening special. We will miss him.

David & Gail

Gail Wesson - January 22, 2020 at 01:41 PM



“ I was very sorry to hear about the passing of Bill . We both attended Franklin & Marshall and were both involved with The Green Room Theater. We had a great group and were very proud of the various productions that we put on under the direction of Professor Darrel Larsen. We had many fun moments and I do remember Bill for being a fun person with a great sense of humor. My deepest condolences to his family. Tom Haas class of "62"--haaspitality@aol.com

Thomas J.Haas - January 21, 2020 at 02:22 PM



“ Deepest condolences to Scottie, Taylor, Chad, Ray and all the family.

Bill was an exceptional human being, on so many levels. I was blessed to have known him and, especially, to have met him so young and had him as a mentor to learn from.

He had a quick wit, an infectious laugh and a big heart. He always knew the right things to say and do at the right time.

He is already sorely missed and will be remembered by many for years to come.

Thoughts and prayers go out to his family and all touched by his presence.

Michael Smith

Michael Smith - January 21, 2020 at 12:38 PM



“ Our condolences to Scottie, Chad and Taylor and their families. Bill had a remarkable life with so many accomplishments, possibly the most important being his wonderful family.

Paul and Evie Dudley

Evelyn Dudley - January 20, 2020 at 04:34 PM



“ To say that Bill was instrumental in my professional growth is a laughable understatement.

To say that Bill's laugh was as infectious and unique as nearly everything about Bill's persona.

I am blessed, like so many others, to be able to call Bill friend and mentor.

Bill is already missed. I can only imagine the void left in his entire family's lives.

Godspeed, Bill.

Rick Rusch - January 20, 2020 at 10:38 AM



“ The Pietan family has so many wonderful memories of time spent with the Ferry family. Skiing weekends, fathers and daughters canoeing, enjoying Concerts on the Square, Badger football games, and the list goes on. Bill will be missed by our family and our thoughts are with Scottie, Chad and his family and Taylor and her family. With love and lots of good memories, Mary, Jody, Kelly, Scott & Mark Pietan.

Mary Pietan - January 16, 2020 at 02:42 PM



“ I will always remember Bill with his quick wit and infectious smile. I feel truly honored to have known Bill and his beautiful, loving family.

Sara Clark - January 16, 2020 at 11:17 AM



“ All of us at Wyndemere were fortunate to experience Bill's zest for life, his love of family and wonderful humor. Such a unique and honorable man will be missed yet we will long remember him with a smile on our face and admiration for a life well lived.

Patty and Pat Payne

Pat Payne - January 16, 2020 at 05:26 AM



“ Sending our condolences and prayers to Scottie, Chad, Taylor and families. We have wonderful memories of Bill in Madison on Sequoia Trail. Standing on the hill at Blackhawk Ski area, watching our kids learn to ski stands out as some of our fun neighborhood get togethers. Bill will be very missed.

Jeannie O'Neel VanMaasdam
Shad and Tyler O'Neel

Jeannie Van Maasdam - January 15, 2020 at 06:53 PM



“ Bill was one of the finest men I have ever known. He was a brilliant merchant, retailer and leader. Best of all, Bill was always a gentleman, a great mentor and friend.

The world lost an exceptional man, but his legacy will live on through the countless people he influenced for good.

His family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Brad Johnson

Bradley Johnson - January 15, 2020 at 03:56 PM



“ LCC Members and Staff purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of William E. Ferry Jr..



LCC Members and Staff - January 15, 2020 at 03:32 PM



“ Bill and Kass express their condolences and will remember the good times in Steamboat.
Bill was a memorable friend.

Bill and Kass - January 15, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ We remember attending the 1982 Brewers World Series game in Milwaukee with Bill and Scotty. We also remember the close friendship between our daughter Carrie and Taylor. Our prayers and thoughts are with the entire Ferry family.
Doug & Mary Lou Leslie

Doug & Mary Lou Leslie - January 16, 2020 at 12:23 PM



“ I will always remember Bill's infectious smile and true love for his family. I enjoyed hearing him tell stories of outdoor family activities and of his career in retail. We should all be so fortunate to be successful in what we love to do. All of us at Moorings Park send our thoughts and prayers to Scottie and family. You will both be missed in our new community.
Gina Paris of Moorings Park Grande Lake

Gina Paris - January 17, 2020 at 02:22 PM



“ Sending heartfelt condolences to Scottie and her family. Bill was a treasure.

Stefanie Valar - January 18, 2020 at 03:23 PM



“ had wonderful memories with bill and scottie watching the derryfield girls soccer team - taylor, angela my daughter, hillary hornor, lisa boucher, megan kenny, paulita isabelle etc. what great students and athletics. bill was fun to be around. a true gentleman.

nick calvetti - January 20, 2020 at 10:14 AM



“ What a privilege it was to work on an interior design project at EMS with Bill. His enthusiasm was infectious, his creative style unbeatable and most of all his warm smile to everyone he encountered will be remembered by all.

lynda johnson - January 20, 2020 at 02:24 PM



“ Bill and Scotty have been the heart and soul of the Governor's Island community for many years. We will miss Bill's thoughtful guidance and advice, enthusiasm and quiet smile.

Richard and Katherine Jonas

Richard Jonas - January 21, 2020 at 12:28 PM



“ A huge intellect. Deeply knowledgeable about his profession. Carefully weighed the human cost of any tough decisions to be made. All-American sense of humor. Great perspective on about any topic A superb teacher. If Bill had chosen education as a career, he would have been "Professor of the Year" about every year.

Tom Wenstrand

Thomas W Wenstrand - January 22, 2020 at 09:48 AM



“ I had the pleasure of meeting Bill, Scottie, Ray and Taylor during the renovation of their home in Steamboat Springs. During a tour of my cabinet shop Bill and I slipped off on our own. He was so interested, inquisitive and appreciative. I was so looking forward to seeing him @ Christmas so he could see the bed and desk we built. In the short time I knew him, he made a lasting impression.

Kevin Fedewa - January 23, 2020 at 12:44 PM



“ Sending heartfelt sympathy to Scottie, Chad and Taylor. My memories of Bill while Chad attended Riverview are filled with laughter and gratitude for all he did for our wonderful School. He certainly was one in a million. Thinking of you all.

Jeanne - February 01, 2020 at 08:32 AM



“ I was Bill's roommate from 1963-1964 at NYU. We both both at Brooks Brothers during the summer and on weekends. A great guy. I was blessed to have know Bill for that one year...I often times talk about our times while going to school. My best to Scottie and the rest of Bill's family. Terry Cressman

Terry Cressman - August 23, 2020 at 09:07 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear that Bill has passed away. I met him in the 60's when I was in elementary school and he worked with my father at DuPont. He came to watch my little league baseball games and gave us rides on his motorcycle. He also drove Karmann Ghia convertible. To me, as a kid, he was the coolest guy. I followed his successful career and wish that I had contacted him in recent years. Rest In Peace Bill.

Ridley Kinsey

Ridley Kinsey - September 17, 2020 at 11:25 AM