



William "Bill" Sobey

April 18, 1925 - October 15, 2016

William J. (Bill) Sobey 1925-2016

Bill frequently commented that he never thought he would get this old (91 years). He lived a life of quiet faith, strength of character and much humor. He enjoyed people, easily striking up conversations with strangers and friends in stores, on the street, at the local café.

Bill was born in Winthrop, MA on April 18, 1925. His parents were from Prince Edwards Island and Nova Scotia and Bill enjoyed summers with relatives there. Choosing to leave high school, he joined the US Navy during WWII and shipped out to the Mediterranean Sea as a corpsman on the USS Brooklyn. After the war he completed further Neuro Psychiatric coursework and was assigned to work with recovering soldiers and patients on the psychiatric floor of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington D.C. With great charm and persistence he convinced a pretty nurse (Carol) to marry him. After leaving the Navy, he trained and worked as a plumber-pipefitter and completed his GED. They moved their family to Carol's hometown of Hill City, MN. He continued as a plumber-steamfitter working mainly on commercial buildings throughout the region, even internationally. In an effort to focus on his family, he completely switched occupations and became the Standard Oil Station operator in Hill City. He learned a new skill set with the help of friends. Often he helped people with plumbing or transportation needs trusting in their goodness to repay. He was a conscientious parent, a church leader, active in the community-PTA, School Board, Masonic Lodge, and Justice of the Peace. In

1970, his highway patrol friends persuaded him to run for county sheriff. That election was a success as well as the next four, and Bill served as Aitkin County Sheriff for 20 years. Once again he developed another skill set, with the aid of the FBI, law enforcement classes and his experienced staff. Upon retiring, Bill and Carol travelled extensively in their RV through the US and Canada. In 1993 they surprised their children declaring their purchase of a home in Sunsites, AZ and said good-bye to the cold winters. He was a member of the Willcox UMC and active in the Lions Club, the Masonic Lodge, the Valley Telephone Nominating Committee, the Library Board and with the Senior Citizen Group. He assisted with building projects such as the Library Book Store, the Sr. Center in Sunsites, and the UMC Preschool in Willcox. He helped neighbors with plumbing and other needs. Even when walking became difficult, he drove his truck while another Lion's member placed and took down flags. He so enjoyed coffee time with friends. He loved the wide-open sky and the SE landscape, as well as the lakes and forests of MN.

Bill is survived by his 6 children and their spouses, Kathy and Dan O'Reilly of Huntsville, AL, Jim and Diane Sobey of Eden Prairie, MN, Peggy and Dave Stielow of Rio Rancho, NM Don and Barb Sobey of Pearce, Gail and Tim Petersen of Alpine, AZ, Meredith and Jon Bjorkquist of Crosslake, MN, 12 grandchildren and 12 1/3 great-grandchildren. Wife Carol preceded him in death 4 month ago. We will all miss his capacity to listen while offering his perspective, his humor, and his desire to make life better for others without judgement.

Memorial services will be at the Willcox United Methodist Church, Monday, Nov. 7 at 2:00. Memorials may be sent in his honor to the Honor Flight, Southern Arizona Chapter, PO Box 3249, Tucson AZ 85751

A joint memorial service for Bill and Carol will be held at the Hill City United Methodist Church with internment at the Hill City Township Cemetery, Saturday, November 12 at 2:00. Memorials may be sent to the MN Sheriffs' Association 100 Empire Drive, Suite 222, St. Paul, MN 55103-1885. These

funds will be used in the training of MN law enforcement officers.

Previous Events

Memorial

NOV 7. 2:00 PM (MT)

Willcox United Methodist Church
124 S. Curtis
Willcox, AZ 85643

Tribute Wall



“ *William "Bill" Sobey*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ *HI.MY DAD GEORGE POTKONJAK VISITIED WITH YOURE DAD QUITE A BIT.HE WAS A PERSON,THAT EVERYONE IN HILL CITY NEW. YOURE DAD MADE THE STANDARD STATION WHAT IT WAS. I WILL NEVER FRGET HIM OR SOME OF HIS KIDS. THANK YOU.*

GEORGE POTKONJAK JR. - July 09, 2018 at 03:30 PM



“ *Andrew Revering lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Sobey*



Andrew Revering - November 01, 2016 at 01:03 PM

AR

“ I first met Bill Sobey shortly after he was elected Sheriff in Aitkin County Minnesota. I was a young police dog handler in Anoka, Minnesota, and Bill called me to ask if I would help him train a police dog to work with him. He and I became good friends after that. Bill always had great stories about the adventures of he and that dog. When I retired and moved to Tucson, Arizona, Bill was already retired and living in Southern Arizona. The retired Sheriff of Anoka County, Ken Wilkinson, his wife Pat, were also in Arizona before me, and we would go down to visit Bill and Carol and they would come and spend time with us. He was just one of those great people that you wanted to be around and spend time with. I consider myself fortunate to have known him and Carol, and I will miss them both.

*Chief Andrew C. Revering, Ret.
Anoka Minnesota Police Department*

Andrew Revering - November 01, 2016 at 12:59 PM

CT

“ Carol Trudeau lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Sobey



carol trudeau - October 31, 2016 at 04:01 PM

CT

“ We had such good times and have great memories w/Bill and Carol in the MN Sheriffs' Assn. My husband, Jim Trudeau, passed away 3 yrs ago. Bill and Jim were both good sheriffs but also pranksters and enjoyed one another's humor, as did everyone else! Carol was such a sweetheart and would just shake her head at the pranks. Bill and Carol are loved by so many and will be missed a lot❤️ Hugs and prayers to the family.

carol trudeau - October 31, 2016 at 03:58 PM

AV

“ We remember Bill for his congenial manner and humor. A great loss.

Arven and Carol Vondy



Arven & Carol Vondy - October 29, 2016 at 05:28 PM



“ I remember Bill back in 1970 He was a great Sheriff .

Jo-Anne Ellis - October 27, 2016 at 03:09 PM

KR

“ Uncle Bill loved his woodwork shop. He made a necklace hanger for me. Both he and Aunt Carol were gracious hosts when I was able to visit with them. Karen Walker Ratcliffe, daughter of Chuck Walker, Carol's brother.

Karen Walker Ratcliffe - October 20, 2016 at 01:05 PM

SW

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of your Dad. He was such a nice man. Loved his sense of humor and the conversations we had when I would come to visit my parents in Arizona. My deepest sympathy.

Sheri Wieters

Sheri Wieters - October 19, 2016 at 09:12 PM

CJ

“ *Celesta Jacobsen lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Sobey*



Celesta Jacobsen - October 19, 2016 at 01:26 PM

CJ

“ *Your parents were both such wonderful people and helped the community doing so many different things. They both worked so hard when the Community Center was built. Loved talking to them both and seeing all of Bill's woodworking. They will be greatly missed.*

Celesta Jacobsen, Phoenix, AZ

Celesta Jacobsen - October 19, 2016 at 01:25 PM

NI

“ *NCCH Imaging lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Sobey*



NCCH Imaging - October 17, 2016 at 10:57 AM

LT

“ *LeRoy & Diane Tucker lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Sobey*



LeRoy & Diane Tucker - October 17, 2016 at 05:31 AM

BJ

This man was a positive influence on my life. In my lifetime I have have crossed paths with a number of people that cammand respect Bill Sobey was one of those people. Bob James

Bob James - October 27, 2016 at 03:49 PM