



William 'Bill' Whitaker

APR 14, 1956 - OCT 11, 2016



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5
Media	Page 16



William 'Bill' Whitaker

APR 14, 1956 - OCT 11, 2016

William "Bill" Whitaker, age 60 of Centerville, Iowa passed away Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at his home.

William R. Whitaker, the son of LaVern and Donna (Harris) Whitaker, was born April 14, 1956 in Centerville, Iowa. He was raised in Centerville and graduated from Centerville High School in 1974. He attended Indian Hills Community College, the University of Iowa, and Northeast Missouri State University, graduating with a Masters degree in Psychology in 1982.

On April 15, 1978, Bill was united in marriage with Rhonda Downing in Moulton, Iowa. From this union, two children were born, January and Channing.

Bill taught Psychology at Indian Hills Community College for 30 years and was Assistant Baseball Coach there for 18 years. He was also a psychological therapist at Rathbun Area Mental Health Center for 27 years.

Bill enjoyed spending time with the love of his life Rhonda, his two children, and three grandchildren. He was known for his great sense of humor. He touched the lives of many through both his work and friendships. He enjoyed sports especially baseball and Hawkeye football, hunting and being in the outdoors.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Rhonda Whitaker; his children, January (Brett) Cooney of Solon, and Channing (Kristy) Whitaker of Houston, Texas; grandchildren, Clayton and Brianna Cooney and Hutton Whitaker; a brother Larry (Winona) Whitaker of Centerville; two sisters, Marilyn Whitaker of Albia, and Barbara Whitaker of Geneva, Switzerland; Father-in-law and Mother-in-law, Gene and Freda Downing of Moulton; Sister-in-laws, Tracy (Randy) Welch of Moulton, and Kim Duszynski of Boone; and nieces and nephews. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 2:00PM on Sunday, October 16, 2016 at Lange Funeral Home and Crematory in Centerville. A visitation will take place on Sunday, October 16, 2016, from 12:00 to 2:00pm at Lange Funeral Home in



Obituary

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Centerville. Memorials have been established to the Family of William R. Whitaker, and may be mailed to Lange Funeral Home, 1900 South 18th St. Centerville, Iowa 52544. Condolences may be shared online at www.langefh.com

Celebration of Life

2016-10-16 14:00:00

Lange Funeral Home & Crematory

1900 South 18th St

Centerville

IA

52544

Visitation

2016-10-16 12:00:00

14:00:00

Lange Funeral Home & Crematory

1900 South 18th St

Centerville

IA

52544



Tribute Wall

William 'Bill' Whitaker

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Thomas Funeral Home posted:

October 21 at 3:26 PM



Thomas Funeral Home shared an album called **Obituary Wall.**



October 13 at 4:03 PM



Kathy Burns posted:

I was working in California when Whit passed away, and was deeply saddened to just recently learn of his death. He was my psych instructor at IHCC for three years and my therapist at Rathbun Mental Health for as many. He carried me through some of the most difficult times in my life, and somehow managed to help me put back together the many pieces of a broken me. There were times I walked into his office in tears, but later, came out with a smile on my face and a sense of hope in my heart. Although I never met his family, I felt I knew the three most important people in his life His wife Rhonda, and two children, Channing and January. Few times have I known a man who took his role as husband and father so seriously and with such modest pride. He enjoyed talking about his son's ambition in the film industry, and his daughter's love for jewelry and gemstones, yet he never bragged; he humbly shared. Bill said good parenting was simply taking every possible opportunity to let a child know he is loved. I'm sure he did. Bill spoke so highly of Rhonda and with so much affection, it was easy to see she was clearly the love of his life. He was a master at diversion and oftentimes a 50 minute therapy session would become an hour long conversation about politics, religion, children, or baseball. It wasn't until later in the day, I would realize he had purposely changed the subject to drive a point home that I would have otherwise missed. I know Bill was loved by many who will often enjoy memories collected in one of his classes or during time spent with him. It was an absolute pleasure to have known Mr. Whittaker. Much Peace to you, Whit .. Kathy Burns.

September 26 at 7:00 PM



Earl Fenton lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker



January 11 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

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David Dillon posted:

Having lived away from home for some time, I was late to hear this sad news. I worked with Bill at the mental health center for several years and always enjoyed his company and stories of growing up in the hometown. He especially lit up when discussing January and Channing and spoke with them so lovingly, I felt that I knew them. Much sympathy to the family.

October 20 at 7:00 PM



Steve & Tobi Gresback posted:

Our son, Zane , played baseball for Indian Hills and thought the world of and loved Coach Whitaker. We pray that God grant you peace and comfort . We are so sorry for your loss. Steve & Tobi Gresback, Riverton, WY

October 20 at 7:00 PM



Kelly Ellingson posted:

My life, along with countless others, was enriched, inspired, influenced, encouraged and forever changed by Whit. His dedication to IHCC was nothing short of exemplary. He had a knack of making you smile and laugh even when you didn't want to and thought you couldn't. My thoughts and prayers go out to Whit's family in this time and the future. Take peace in knowing that he meant a tremendous amount to a vast number of people.

October 18 at 7:00 PM



Kelly Ellingson lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 18 at 7:00 PM



Tonya And Kenny Clemens lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 16 at 7:00 PM





Tribute Wall

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TF

The Fuller Family lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 15 at 7:00 PM



BN

Becky Njeru lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 14 at 7:00 PM



M9

Martin Beyer 98-99 posted:

Such a kind man and a source of encouragement to so many students. Such sad news.

October 14 at 7:00 PM

JB

Jane Berg posted:

Channing and family~I am truly sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. It's so hard to lose a special person in your life. My thoughts are with all of you.

October 14 at 7:00 PM

BN

Becky Njeru posted:

Whit was one of my favorite teachers during my time at IHCC nursing school. Such a delight and a realist. He was a remarkable soul. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

October 14 at 7:00 PM

MV

Michelle Vlieger posted:

Rhonda,. I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

October 13 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

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ES

Expression Of Sympathy posted:

A Spathiphyllum was sent on October 14, 2016 Our sympathies in this time of loss go out to you and yours. Aaron and Asa

October 13 at 7:00 PM

MD

Margery Davison posted:

My condolences go out to his family. He is going to be greatly missed. Bill & I were classmates.

October 13 at 7:00 PM

ES

Expression Of Sympathy posted:

A Spathiphyllum was ordered on October 14, 2016

October 13 at 7:00 PM

SS

Santiago Family (Arnold Santiago) posted:

Hola I played baseball at IHCC (1992-94) and I was one of the luckiest person to be coached and teach by Bill who I used to call Amigo Grande (Big Friend). Very sad to hear about his passing the world lost a very nice person. Our prayers are with his entire family and friends..... RIP Bill Dios Te Bendiga Amigo Grande (God Bless You Big Friend)

October 13 at 7:00 PM

BK

Bill Kooiman lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 13 at 7:00 PM



MD

Margery (Ewing) Davison lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 13 at 7:00 PM





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LE

Lance Ellingson lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 12 at 7:00 PM



RS

Richie Sales lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 12 at 7:00 PM



TM

Tammy Michael lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 12 at 7:00 PM



JT

Jacque Tosspon lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 12 at 7:00 PM



KH

Kathy Hanley lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 12 at 7:00 PM



DM

Donald Morrell lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 12 at 7:00 PM





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MO

Michelle Ocker lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 12 at 7:00 PM



NT

Nellie Thomas lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 12 at 7:00 PM



JB

Julie Buban lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 12 at 7:00 PM



NH

Norm & Sally Houser lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 12 at 7:00 PM



MO

Michelle Ocker posted:

My prayers for you and your family

October 12 at 7:00 PM

ES

Expression Of Sympathy posted:

An A Garden Path was ordered on October 13, 2016

October 12 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

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KM

Kathy Hanley And Don Morrell posted:

Sending our prayers and condolences to the family. We were so sorry to hear about Bill.

October 12 at 7:00 PM

ES

Expression Of Sympathy posted:

A Garden Path Vase was ordered on October 13, 2016

October 12 at 7:00 PM

ES

Expression Of Sympathy posted:

A Traditional Funeral Basket was ordered on October 13, 2016

October 12 at 7:00 PM

JP

Jack And Paula Dal Ponte posted:

As a nontraditional student, Mr. Bill helped to make a tough situation much brighter by his sense of humor and easy-going nature. We looked forward to his classes! Later as an IHCC baseball fan, we enjoyed a different side of Bill. He will surely be missed!

October 12 at 7:00 PM

JV

Jacquie Tosspon Volk posted:

Bill was larger than life! Anyone who had the great fortune of knowing him knew this. His smile was contagious, his stories always humorous and entertaining, and his friendship true and unwavering. Bill was one who never met a stranger. He had an uncanny ability to get even the most private to open up to him; perhaps that's what made him such a great psychologist. Bill judged people by their character, not by what they had or who they (thought they) were. He treated everyone the same, even if you disagreed with him during one of his long rants (for he was a man of many words.) If Bill was talking, you were forced to stop and listen. His intelligence and wit rarely matched, Bill Whitaker truly was a unique individual, the likes of whom will not be seen again.

October 12 at 7:00 PM



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M8

Matt Meade - '88-89 posted:

My sincere condolences to your family for the loss of such a great man. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Whit was a phenomenal coach and person, and awesome in classroom. He made our time at IHCC unforgettable. It has been almost 30 years but his memories shine like they were yesterday. He's probably listening to some Steely Dan chords and smiling upon as we speak. You will never be forgotten my friend. WD and HT (Whit knows what they stand for ;)

October 12 at 7:00 PM

LT

Leggett Texas posted:

Sad to hear about Sweet Lou's passing the other day. Coach Mathews and Wild Bill always gave me a hard time about my choice of clothing I wore at IHCC....They always asked me if I was headed to Britt, Iowa...Great guy..he will be missed.

October 12 at 7:00 PM

LE

Lance Ellingson posted:

So sorry for your loss. My sincere condolences to your family for the loss of such a great man. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Whit was a phenomenal person to have on your side and made my time at IHCC baseball a great experience! He has passed along a lot of life and baseball knowledge to myself and others and for that I say thanks WHIT!

October 12 at 7:00 PM

DP

Donna Porter posted:

So sorry to hear of the passing of Mr Bill. I had him for several classes when I attended IHCC and he was a particular favorite of mine. My condolences to all of his family.

October 11 at 7:00 PM

PR

Patti Slavin Richmond posted:

Rhonda and family, My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I didn't know Bill personally but heard many good things about him over the years. May God give you strength, comfort, and peace during this difficult time.

October 11 at 7:00 PM



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CK

C Kelley posted:

To Bill's family, my heart is broken for all of you, It has been many years since I last saw Bill and i have not forgotten what a cool and special man he was. He was a Centerville legend.Fly high with the angels Bill.Carol

October 11 at 7:00 PM

T1

Tom Sullivan; Coached By Whit 1994 posted:

So sorry for your loss. Coach Whit was the best motivator, caring, and loving man I have ever known. His positive vibes and outgoing behavior made everyone new to the program feel right at home!! He will be missed and in my prayers!!

October 11 at 7:00 PM

T9

Tyson Martinez 97,98 posted:

I am sorry for your loss. When I think back about IH I always think of Whit. He had a way to make you laugh. Worked hard on the fungo too. I will always remember him.

October 11 at 7:00 PM

JL

Joann Laurson posted:

Rhoda and family--I'm so sorry to hear of Bills death--may God wrap his loving arms around you and give you strength at this most difficult time

October 11 at 7:00 PM

RR

Randy & Stacie Rogan posted:

You will be missed Whit (You made learning so funny. We, to this day, talk about you, your class and the things we learned there. It's always such a great loss to lose those who are so real '(

October 11 at 7:00 PM

MM

Megan Moore posted:

I loved Whit not only as a teacher and counselor but a true friend! He will be greatly missed!

October 11 at 7:00 PM



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BT

Betty Thomas lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 11 at 7:00 PM



PR

Patti Slavin Richmond lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 11 at 7:00 PM



RR

Randy & Stacie Rogan lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 11 at 7:00 PM



ML

Melissa Lawson lit a candle in honor of William.

Lit a candle in memory of William 'Bill' Whitaker

October 11 at 7:00 PM



R8

Ray Boggess 88-89 posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. My sincere condolences to the entire family. Whit was a great mentor, coach, and friend. I will always remember our talks in his office after practice. He taught me everything I needed to know in my two years at IHCC to be a successful and good person. Will never forget you!

October 11 at 7:00 PM

JL

Joye Lore-Lawson posted:

So very sorry to hear this about our beloved Coach Whit-O, for several years the heart and soul of the Falcons, a man who did many good things for hundreds, if not thousands, of students and student-athletes. Rest in peace, Sir.

October 11 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

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SO

Shannon Cornett, Class Of '98 posted:

Whit was a gem. Such a funny, intelligent, caring soul. The time spent in his classes make up some of my favorite memories of IHCC. He did so much good for so many people. My prayers and condolences to your family.

October 11 at 7:00 PM

ES

Expression Of Sympathy posted:

A Garden Path Vase was sent on October 12, 2016 Cross, Martinez, Pacholke & Mears

October 11 at 7:00 PM

GN

Gordon, Ne posted:

Whit...a classic...a legend...a friend. So sad to hear of his passing. My deepest condolences. Ride the magic bus, Whit. (He knows what I mean).

October 11 at 7:00 PM

CE

Centerville posted:

One day that will stay with me the rest of my life just so happens to be a day that sticks with everyone. The only time I've ever seen this man speechless in class was on September 11, 2001. An entire classroom full of people and he had absolutely nothing to say. Cold hard silence. I felt that same feeling when I heard of his passing. Fly high Whit. PHUCK'N A

October 11 at 7:00 PM

AK

Amy Kroeger posted:

One day that will stay with me the rest of my life just so happens to be a day that sticks with everyone. The only time I've ever seen this man speechless in class was on September 11, 2001. An entire classroom full of people and he had absolutely nothing to say. Cold hard silence. I felt that same feeling when I heard of his passing. Fly high Whit. PHUCK'N A

October 11 at 7:00 PM



Media

William 'Bill' Whitaker

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Thomas Funeral Home shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 4:03 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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