



## Joel William "Bill" Greenbaum

November 9, 1946 - November 5, 2022

Joel William "Bill" Greenbaum, 75, of Bloomington, Indiana, went home to be with God at 1:36 PM on November 5, 2022 at his home.

Born in the Bronx on November 9, 1946 to Jerome Greenbaum and Edna (Pines) Greenbaum and growing up in the Mount Hope neighborhood, Bill was imbued with a strong sense of right and wrong by his father. Initially hoping to embark on a military career, he joined City College of New York's ROTC program and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the US Army Reserve in 1967. However, questions about Bill's health were confirmed when he was discovered to have colitis, ending his hopes of being a career Army officer. Still committed to serve and protect, he briefly worked for several public service jobs before attending University of Michigan Law School, graduating in 1970. Per the recollections of his friends at the time, he never had any interest in private practice.

In 1972 and 1973, Bill interned for and applied for a job with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, though noted that the District Attorney at the time, Frank S. Hogan, had been losing employees who had just gotten married, reneging on their promises to stay the DA's Office. With Bill engaged and Frank Hogan having been burned one too many times, Bill was turned down. He nevertheless got a job as a Corporation Counsel for the Brooklyn Family Court, prosecuting juvenile offenders through 1976.

With Robert M. Morgenthau's election to the position of Manhattan District Attorney, however, Bill felt that he should apply again. This time, his application was accepted and beginning in 1977, Bill became an Assistant District Attorney for the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. Initially specializing in burglary cases, he began taking homicide calls on Christmas and Easter, desiring his Christian coworkers to be with their families. After a number of successful prosecutions, Bill's specialty quickly became homicide cases in the 1980s. It was during this time that he refused at least two promotions in order to keep trying said homicide cases. He tried a number of high-profile cases, and, viewing it as doing his job, refused to comment publicly on any of them, though would regularly note cases in which certain commentators, writers, and press outlets had gotten things wrong—he would always keep not merely trial transcripts, but obtain copies of trial minutes and would debunk things held as gospel in mere moments with these to his family and close friends. A much less controversial and much-better-known legal precedent Bill set during this time was that a moving vehicle of any kind could be used as a murder weapon, up to and including a subway car, noting that in one particular case, a purse snatcher riding between cars had been aware of the momentum the cars created when dragging a victim behind him to her death as she tried fighting back.

Although derogatorily given the nickname "Blue on the Bench" by a certain defense attorney who had a dislike of him and noted his friendship with a number of NYPD officers, Bill took it in stride, always valued these friendships, and it would even be later noted by District Attorney Morgenthau that it "couldn't be completely accurate", since at the time of his retirement in 2005, he was the only active Assistant District Attorney who had prosecuted both a cop killer and a corrupt police officer. He loved his job dearly, and continued on as a Consultant to the Manhattan DA's Office from the time of his retirement as an Assistant District Attorney into 2008. He retired with his wife

and son to Bloomington, Indiana in August of 2009.

He had many hobbies, including but certainly not limited to model railroading with O Gauge trains, constructing and painting 1/48 scale and 1/72 scale model airplanes and 1/35 scale and 1/48 scale model military vehicles, painting military figures, collecting 1/43 scale model cars, trucks, and buses, collecting Dinky Toys and Corgi Toys toy cars, collecting W. Britains Ltd. toy soldiers, following and analyzing the results of political elections, linguistics, studying baseball history with his son, attending New York Mets games with his son, the shooting sports with his son, collecting pocket knives with his son, and attending museums with his son.

Bill had eventually gotten married on February 5, 1983 to Patricia Mary Hart, his first engagement progressing not far beyond what Frank Hogan had seen. He had a son, John-William Hart Greenbaum, on November 1, 1988. He loved his wife and son dearly, and was remembered as both an excellent husband and exemplary father. He was also deeply committed to the causes of a strong national defense; particularly against Islamic Extremist terrorism, the People's Republic of China, and Russia; and the ability of a citizen to defend themselves. He was in the process of informally moving away from Judaism and toward Catholicism when he passed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lt. Colonel Jerome "Jerry" Greenbaum, USAFR (Ret.), and Edna Greenbaum. He is survived by his loving wife of thirty-nine years Patricia; son, John-William; sister Sylvia Goldmann; nephew, Noah Goldmann; niece, Kate Boling; and many good friends and acquaintances.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to the Wounded Warrior Project, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Train Collectors' Association of America, National

Rifle Association, Gun Owners of America, Knife Rights, Revived Soldiers Ukraine, or the Republican National Committee, or “any police charity, particularly those providing to widows and orphans of fallen officers”.

A funeral service will be held at 1:00pm Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at the Allen Funeral Home 4155 S. Old St Rd 37 Bloomington. With Father Simon Officiating. Burial will follow at Clear Creek Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 12:00pm to service time Tuesday, November 15, 2022 also at the funeral home.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Clear Creek Cemetery

W Church Lane  
Bloomington, IN 47403

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 15. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory  
4155 S. Old State Road 37  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
(812) 824-5905  
<http://www.allencares.com>

## Service

NOV 15. 1:00 PM (ET)

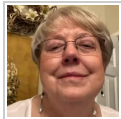
Allen Funeral Home and Crematory  
4155 S. Old State Road 37  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
(812) 824-5905  
<http://www.allencares.com>

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ Dear Patty and Johnny, We are so sad to learn about Billy. Please accept our sympathy and all our condolences. We have such good memories of being with you and Billy, including the time we (a long time ago - -pre Johnny) went to see the Mets and Red Sox play the 5th game in the championship. Love, Mannya and Douglas Bellizzi  
xox

Marianna Bellizzi - January 11, 2023 at 01:50 PM



Dear Mannya and Doug, Life has been so very difficult without Bill. He was so wonderful to both John-William and me. He is rreally missed and I just saw this entry now! Life is hectic and stressful. I wish we could talk! I still carry that beautiful black purse you bought me and love it and no signs of wear! So much to catch up on! Miss you and send my love to both of you!

Patricia Greenbaum - March 09, 2023 at 05:38 PM

JW

“ I was very sad to hear about the passing of Bill. I When I started at the DA's Office in 2000, toward the end of his legendary career, he was my Trial Advocacy Group Leader. He was a fabulous teacher and I learned so much from his wisdom, intelligence, and experience. He was also extremely generous with his time; after Trial Advocacy, he would spend hours talking to me about my cases and bantering with me about politics. He was a terrific person, a fantastic prosecutor, and a generous friend and colleague. He will be missed dearly.

Jared Wolkowitz - November 16, 2022 at 08:47 PM



*Jared, John-William and I are so grateful for your very generous words about Bill. We miss him so much; there's an emptiness in both our lives. As excellent as an ADA, he was he was a wonderful father and husband.*

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**Patricia Greenbaum** - November 22, 2022 at 07:36 PM

MK

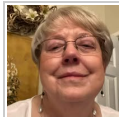
“ *I am deeply grieved by the passing of a man who was not only a valued colleague but a man whom I was privileged to call a friend. Bill was the rare breed of man who treated all with grace and respect, recognizing that we are all created in the image of God.*

*Heartfelt condolences. May you both be comforted in the knowledge that Bill now rests in the loving embrace of our Creator.*

*Morrie Kleinbart*

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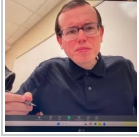
**Morrie Kleinbart** - November 15, 2022 at 08:27 AM



*MORRIE, Johnny and I are truly grateful for your very kind words about Bill. We had hopes that he had much more time and then it came as a shock to us when his health went much faster than expected. We are aware of who you are, MORRIE. We knew you were with Bill when the World Trade Center towers came down. I regret not having the time we needed to arrange a funeral, which Bill wanted small and simple anyway. Your name was familiar to us. Your words are truly comforting and grateful that you were a good friend of his. GOD BLESS you too, MORRIE, AND WE TREASURE YOUR BEAUTIFUL WORDS. PATTY AND JOHNNY*

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**Patricia Greenbaum** - November 16, 2022 at 12:47 AM



“ 6 files added to the album *Bill Greenbaum with his Family*



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**John-William Greenbaum** - November 14, 2022 at 08:29 PM

SH

“ Always the best memories of Bill as we visited the Big Apple to he and Patty's Manhattan apartment. Bill knew Manhattan like the back of his hand ... its history, buildings, streets, parks, theatre, shopping, historical markers, exclusive access ... a tour of New York like none other in the city he loved so much. The next day our legs ached from all the walking we did. Shared in stories of all their travels, his job, family history and his passion in his hobbies. One Christmas he gave us small metal soilders he handmade and painted himself, as well as a train set he stenciled our city name (Farmington Hills Railroad) on the side of the locomotive. We knew Bill as a brilliant man, caring and dedicated husband to Patty and supportive father to John-William. We will always remember his hush puppies, khakis, Oxford shirt and sport coat. Love and Rest in Peace Bill. Phil and Sandy Hart (Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law).

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**Sandra Hart** - November 14, 2022 at 08:27 PM



*Thank you both so much Phil and Sandy. Chip Calhoun's wife had hosted a baby shower for me, and Chip mentioned Sandy's gift of the miniature khaki's, blue shirt and shoes that was Bill's constant, casual "uniform" when your gift was opened and how he had never heard me laugh so hard; but everyone there was laughing just as hard. Somehow the talks are on the internet but haven't had the time or energy to figure out access to the talks yet. The tributes to Bill by colleagues were approximately 7 and so moving; it is something I would love to keep. Because Bill went much faster than expected, we didn't have time to let people know but 2 special people he mentioned and to keep it small and simple. He has lost the power to speak except between 1 and 4 am. for limited days. Johnny spent that time with him taking notes on what he wanted regarding the funeral. I am truly sorry to friends and colleagues I had no time to contact, but he was adamant about small and simple. I will treasure those incredible descriptions of Bill but just need to find them; no time yet. LOVE YOU BOTH DEARLY.*

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**Patricia Greenbaum** - November 16, 2022 at 02:31 PM

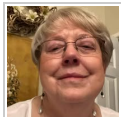
LU

*“ Bill, what a guy! He will be missed by many and certainly played a role in my career as a prosecutor at the DA's Office. He was always willing to give out advice, both work and life. I never turned down a chance to chat with Bill and listen to his stories. He was sharp as a tack, witty, and so passionate about his career and life. I feel very privileged to have been a part of his life at DANY. Rest In Peace my friend.*

*Luke.*

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**luke** - November 14, 2022 at 09:57 AM



*Thank you Luke. While I'd not met you, John-William said there was more than one LUKE in the DA's office so while he wasn't sure which one wrote these kind words, john-William and I are grateful just as I know Bill is.*

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**Patricia Greenbaum** - November 22, 2022 at 08:27 PM

AF

“ *Patty and Johnny,*

*My condolences to you.*

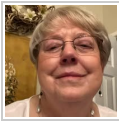
*Bill was a dedicated and distinguished Assistant District Attorney in the Major Offense Career Criminal Program and a loyal friend to Martha and me.*

*May fond memories of him be a source of comfort to you during this difficult period.*

*Allen Frazer*

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**Allen J Frazer** - November 12, 2022 at 03:34 PM



*Dear Allen and Martha, Johnny and I are very grateful for your kind words about Bill. He had wonderful qualities as a father and a husband and yes, we do miss him.*

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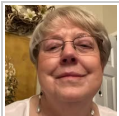
**Patricia Greenbaum** - November 13, 2022 at 05:52 PM

CC

“ *Bill was one of the senior prosecutors in DA's office when I joined it in the early 80's. He handled some of the biggest cases, was wicked smart, and knew NYC like it was his backyard, which I guess it was. He was very generous with his time and no one helped me settle in to the DA's office and to New York more than Bill. I was always grateful to him for showing me the ropes. I know everyone who knew him, me included, will miss him. -Chip Calhoun*

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**Chip Calhoun** - November 12, 2022 at 09:56 AM



*Dear Chip, Thanks so much for your kind words and anecdotes; yes, he did indeed regard the entirety of NYC as his backyard. He could never be too generous with people he respected.*

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**Patricia Greenbaum** - November 13, 2022 at 06:00 PM



“ Thank you so much to Malcolm & Emily Reid and the Rohlman family for the donations of beautiful flowers. We truly appreciate it.

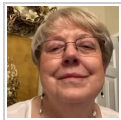
Patricia Greenbaum - November 11, 2022 at 09:18 PM



“ Bill was one of the most decent people I ever knew. I was a colleague of his for decades at the Manhattan District Attorney's office. He cared solely for justice. He enjoyed genealogical research into his family and his model trains and his many other avocations. He loved his family and was so proud that John-William adopted many of his interests. And, he gave me the greatest gift anyone could give when he introduced me to his cousin Ann and brought me into his extended family when I married Ann. I will miss him dearly and my condolences to his family.

Marc Frazier Scholl

Marc Scholl - November 11, 2022 at 05:58 PM



Thank you for your kind, caring words to both you, Marc. and Ann's lovely call.

Patricia Greenbaum - November 12, 2022 at 10:05 PM

BE

“ *Patty and Johnny,*

*I am so very sorry for your loss. My deepest sympathies to you both and sending my thoughts and prayers. We will be here if you ever need anything at all.*

*Sincerely,*

*Blake Egbert*

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**Blake Egbert** - November 11, 2022 at 02:58 PM

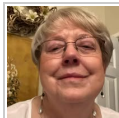
KH

“ *Bill was a wonderful colleague in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. Because of his talent, he handled some of the office's most high-profile and serious cases. At the same time he was always generous to share his experience and wisdom with those of us in the Career Criminal Unit. He was fun and a good friend. My deep condolences to Patti and John William.*

*Kristine Hamann*

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**Kristine Hamann** - November 11, 2022 at 12:32 PM



*Your kind words mean so much, Kris. John-William and I knew we had a father and husband with extraordinary principles.*

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**Patricia Greenbaum** - November 12, 2022 at 09:25 PM

BR

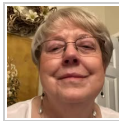
“ *Patty and Johnny,*

*My mom told me about Bill. I'm so sorry. I hope it provides you all with comfort knowing that he is with our Lord. I'm praying for you all during this time and always.*

*Brittany*

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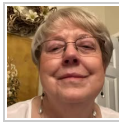
**Brittany** - November 11, 2022 at 11:34 AM



*Brittany, I'm afraid I don't know who you are. My memory isn't the greatest right now for obvious reasons. How does your mother know Bill? Please feel free to email us at [Joelgreenbaum@msn.com](mailto:Joelgreenbaum@msn.com).*

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**Patricia Greenbaum** - November 11, 2022 at 09:21 PM



*Brittany, the three of us had several friends named Brittany, several were quite young. My son saw your post before I did, but I first saw Blake's and knew who he was. Brittany, your dear mother is truly one of my very closest and dearest friends and we always turned to each other for the many years we had known each other. I often wish your mom lived closer and we both talked about how ideal that would be. She is so kind and loving and speaks so often of you and Blake with great love. Your family is always in my prayers.*

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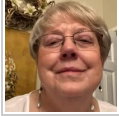
**Patricia Greenbaum** - November 13, 2022 at 11:02 AM

DH

“ *We were always so thrilled to listen to Bill and his thoughts on different topics. He was a very informed individual. One of the most decent men we knew, who loved his family and his work. Patty and Johnny were so lucky to have him. RIP*

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**David and kathy Hart** - November 11, 2022 at 11:28 AM



*Dear Dave and Kathy, thank you for your lovely words of comfort; John-William and I are deeply touched. Know that we love and miss you and while he had an excellent neurologist; he was optimistic about the time he had and so we didn't feel it would turn out to be a much shorter time. Since you moved, have your home address but not sure of phone number or email address. Our landline is the same!*

**Patricia Greenbaum** - November 13, 2022 at 12:04 PM

TR

*“Patty and John William, with deepest sympathy over the loss of Bill. He was such a wonderful husband and father to my dear friend and son. He will be deeply missed. You know I'm here for you anytime, and prayers for comfort and strength in the days ahead.*

*Trish*

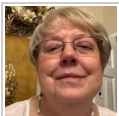
**Trish** - November 11, 2022 at 11:15 AM



PF

*“One of the truest people I have known and a good friend. His genuine lack of pretense still humbles me. God bless him.  
Peter Fleming*

**Peter Fleming** - November 10, 2022 at 11:49 PM



*Thank you Peter for the beautiful and comforting words about Bill. He spoke of you as a friend he truly enjoyed. He was a husband and father possessing wonderful qualities. Thank you for your friendship.*

**Patricia Greenbaum** - November 11, 2022 at 09:17 PM

-R

“ - Joshua, Maria, Rick & Joan Rohlman purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Joel William "Bill" Greenbaum.



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- Joshua, Maria, Rick & Joan Rohlman - November 10, 2022 at 07:10 PM

FR

“ From Malcolm & Emily Reid purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Joel William "Bill" Greenbaum.



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From Malcolm & Emily Reid - November 10, 2022 at 06:26 PM