



William "Bill" Herman Kroll

October 28, 1925 - April 27, 2012

William "Bill" Herman Kroll, 86

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Bill Kroll of Bloomington, passed away on Friday, April 27 at the IU Health Bloomington Hospice House.

He was born in Frostburg, Md. to Elsie (née Lynn) and Herman Kroll. After finishing high school, Bill joined the US Air Force and served his country for 2 1/2 years. Upon returning home, he attended Frostburg State Teacher's College and the University of Maryland. He did his graduate studies at Indiana University where he studied Audio-Visual Education.

Bill was employed for thirty-six years with IU beginning in 1955.

His hard work and good fortune took him from being a lecturer and film supervisor, to a technical supervisor of the broadcasting services, operations supervisor, a full professor in Telecommunications, deputy director and finally to the Executive Director position of the Indiana University Radio and Television Services and General Manager of WFIU and WTIU.

In the early 1960's, Bill coordinated the construction of a state-of-the-art facility, the Radio-TV Center on IU's Bloomington campus, that housed one of the largest television studios between the East and West coasts. In the late 70's, Bill shared his expertise with the international media community: he did film work in Tunisia, consulted in Chile, and co-directed the design of a national educational technology program in Saudi Arabia.

Later in his career, he was instrumental in developing a pioneering two-way audio and visual system between Indiana and Purdue universities.

Bill contributed to over 20 television series and individual programs which aired in Bloomington, state wide and nationally on public television. Among those was "Doc- The Oldest Man in the Sea," a documentary for which he was the Executive Producer about IU swim coach James (Doc) Counsilman's record breaking English Channel swim.

Throughout his life, Bill served on various campus and local committees. He was an active member of First Christian Church where he most recently served as chairman of the Property Committee. His numerous accolades include receiving a Sagamore of the Wabash and a Kentucky Colonel.

In his retirement, Bill enjoyed watching IU Basketball and Football, attending theatre events in Bloomington and in Nashville, IN, vacationing with his family along the east coast of North Carolina and playing pool with his "Monday Night Group".

He is survived by his wife of nearly 65 years, Mary Katherine

"Kate" (nee McClain) and three sons; Craig of West Lafayette, IN, Kim (Lena) of Laurel, Maryland and Chris (Lisa) of Bloomington, six grandchildren; Krista (Rob) Hunt & Brian (Nenya) Kroll, Kandace & Kyle Kroll, and Stephen & Michelle Kroll, five great-grandchildren; his sister, Helen Davis of Thonotosassa, Florida, and three nieces.

A church service and a Celebration of Life are being planned for later dates, to be announced.

Memorial contributions can be made to First Christian Church or to WTIU or WFIU.

Allen Funeral Home 4155 South Old Highway 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Tribute Wall

GE

“ Bill was a wonderful friend and colleague. For many years after his retirement he volunteered as a student advocate and in the role he helped many, many students solve their problems. I will always remember Bill for his quick wit, good humor, and common sense. He will be missed.

Gerald Marker - October 26, 2015 at 04:18 PM

AN

“ Dear Kate,
I send you my sympathy and thoughts at this time.
What a wonderful life you shared together -- both of you giving to the community in your different ways. Bill will be missed by many, as well as by you and your family.
sincerely,
Tonia

Antonia Matthew - October 26, 2015 at 04:18 PM

JE

“ In 1958, I became one of Bill's students at IURTS. His knowledge, his warm personality and his friendship steered me into a lifelong career. Bill always had time to answer any question and to offer any advice. Eva Mae and I express our sympathy in his passing.

Jerry Lloyd - October 26, 2015 at 04:18 PM

S(

“ I was deeply saddened to learn of Bill's passing. He was such a wonderful man. He will be greatly missed by those whose life he touched.

Susan Hieftje (Crum) - October 26, 2015 at 04:18 PM

SL

“ Stephen,
Mr. Scott and I would like to express our sympathy to you and your family.

Steve & Linda Scott - October 26, 2015 at 04:18 PM

JI

“ So sorry to hear of Bill's passing.
I enjoyed visiting with him at many of the
University Club events.
My thoughts and prayers go out to Kate and their family.

Jim Berbeco - October 26, 2015 at 04:18 PM

GS

“ Our prayers and love are with the entire family.

Glen and Susan Salmon - October 26, 2015 at 04:18 PM

KE

“ Bill was a professor/mentor of mine and was instrumental in the launch of my career. To Kate and family, I want you to know how much I admired Bill for his achievements and thank him for his impact on my life. May God give you comfort and support as you reflect on your fine man's many contributions to life.

Ken Beckley - October 26, 2015 at 04:18 PM

HE

“ *My deepest condolence's on Bill's passing and your loss. Bill was the third IU person I met when I interviewed back in 1974 -- Rolland Johnson and Don Agostino picked me up at the airport -- and always a kindred spirit given our interests in television and undergraduate teaching. I hope you all take comfort in fond memories, as I do.*

Herb Terry

Herb Terry - October 26, 2015 at 04:18 PM