



## William S. Gibbons Jr.

October 9, 2015

William S. Gibbons, Jr. 45, passed away on Friday, October 9, 2015. He was born in Goldsboro, NC and was Vice President of Engineering at Cook Medical in Bloomington, IN. Bill was married to Emily Bell Gibbons, also born in Goldsboro, NC and had two children, 15-year-old twins Will and Abbey. His family was his life and everything he did was in support of them.

Bill was the consummate professional as he moved through the ranks at Cook Medical, starting as a Development Engineer and President of Endoscopy in the Winston-Salem office. In 2009 Cook moved Bill and his family to the Bloomington headquarters, where he was named to his current role of VP of Engineering. Bill was a quiet executive, leading by example. His group included over 350 employees in eight locations around the world.

Bill also led by example in his academic life, graduating Magna Cum Laude from North Carolina State University with a degree in aerospace engineering which he used to launch his career. Never satisfied with his learning, Bill received his PhD in Biomedical Engineering from the University of North Carolina and

has been party to multiple patents.

It has been said that Bill never saw his work as the tools and devices, but as the people for whom the devices were created. No matter the topic or the question, it always came back to the patient. His colleagues and employees felt this in his every-day life and he leaves enormous shoes to fill at Cook.

In addition to his family, which was always his greatest joy, and his work, which allowed him to use his knowledge to make this world a better place, Bill loved to fly. He traveled the world for his work and it was through this, and his early interest in aerospace engineering, that led him to get his private pilot's license. He loved being in the sky over southern Indiana on a beautiful Saturday afternoon, he loved being able to jump down to North Carolina to see friends and family at a moment's notice, and he loved taking his family on little get-aways or to watch their beloved NC State Wolfpack play ball.

Bill will be greatly missed by his many friends and co-workers and is survived by his wife, Emily and his son Will, both of Bloomington, his mother, Mary Jane Holtner of Goldsboro, NC, his father, Stewart Gibbons (Jane) of Tampa, FL, his parents-in-law, Sandra and Robert Bell of Goldsboro, his brother-in-law, Jeffery Bell (Reagan), and nephews, Finnegan and Teague. Bill was proceeded in death by his grandparents, Colonel William and Paula Gibbons of Macon, GA, and General Stanley and Mary Jane Holtner of New York, NY.

Bill was on a father-daughter trip with his daughter, Abbey,

doing what they loved - riding roller coasters and flying - and he will be laid to rest alongside her in North Carolina at a later date. Services will be held in Bloomington, IN at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, with visitation from 1:00-3:00. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Middle Way House ([www.middlewayhouse.org](http://www.middlewayhouse.org)), Community Kitchen of Monroe County ([www.monroecommunitykitchen.com](http://www.monroecommunitykitchen.com)), or Water for Children Africa ([www.waterforchildrenafrica.org](http://www.waterforchildrenafrica.org)).

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.allenfuneralhome.org](http://www.allenfuneralhome.org)

# Tribute Wall

MA

“ Oh, Emily. I know you as such a wonderful, kind person from our time at Meredith. I can't tell you how sorry I am to hear of this terribly sad loss. There really are no words. Please know that I will be thinking of you and Will and sending you prayers and hopes for some moments of peace . Love to you and all of your family.

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**Martha Danek** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

LI

“ I am deeply saddened by the news of Bill and Abbey. I enjoyed my time working for Bill at Cook in Winston-Salem. He was a very kind and respectful individual that was a leader by example. My daughter, Ashley, enjoyed sitting for Abbey and Will and felt that you all were a wonderful family unit. My thoughts and prayers remain with you and pray that your many memories will give you comfort. May God bless you all!

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**Linda Hardy** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

AN

“ Please accept my genuine and heart-felt condolences for the family and friends of a true gentleman.

*Bill loved visiting Europe and we loved Meetings with him. He understood our work ethic and our ironic humour, respected our contribution and commitment, shared our joy and fun at work and socially, and always joined in, asking for nothing in return but our mutual understanding and his inclusion.*

*His smile is memorable still, and we will all miss his agile and creative mind, touch of phrase and encouraging helpfulness.*

*We will all miss him dearly.*

*To all of his family my thoughts are with you.*

*Ann x*

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**Ann Liddell** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

RA

“ *Emily,*  
*Please accept my deepest sympathies for the loss of Bill and Abbey. May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ comfort both you and Will in the days, weeks, and months to come. Nothing will ever fill the place that each of them held in your hearts and world. He will give you both the strength you need carry on. My prayers are for you and my heart is with you.*

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**Rana Welch-Jones** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

TE

“ My prayers go out to Emily and Will. I flew this family for many years, and have so much respect for Bill. I enjoyed Emily and Bill so much, they were a joy to be around. This is devastating for the family and I just hope that Emily and Will can find peace in the coming days and get through it all. Words cannot express the sadness. Much love to you Emily. From your pilot back in Winston-Salem.

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**Terri Crowder** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

JO

“ The photo on his obituary exemplifies the kind soul that he was. Even in the brief times I encountered Bill, he left me with with a sense of sincerity. The aura he left carried through since the first time we met at IU. He was carrying his attach'e of blue prints accompanied by Kem Hawkins. The gentle aura he left has been and will continue to be a treasured reflection. My Sincere and heartfelt condolences are extended, especially to his wife and son who also lost their daughter and sister.

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**Joyce Eggleston** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

KA

“ I am still not able to believe that it is an irreversible fact. I do not have words to express how sorry I feel for Bill's departure, as he was an extraordinary person and kind friend. Our most sincere condolences to the family in these moments of sorrows. I know that it's not easy, but we pray that you may find peace and solace in the promises of God. In the same way, may the love of your family members, the company of friends, and the many wonderful memories of Bill and Abbey may comfort you in these difficult days. I will truly miss Bill and fond memories of him will remain in our hearts forever. Heartfelt sympathies from Karel Volenec and ELLA-CS staff!

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**Karel Volenec** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

JA

“ *Emily*  
*My heartfelt condolences to you for the loss of Bill and Abbey. I pray God's peace and strength for you and Will and your families during this difficult season. Blessings.*

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**Jacque Gellman** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

MA

“ *Dear Emily, I want you to know that we can,t tell you how sorry we are that you have lost so much. We feel that Bill was a special guy and knew him when he was in high school ,( maybe even earlier), courage to get through this he spent a lot of time at our home with our children, Mark & Michelle. He was a very special part of their lives .May God give you , your son and the rest of the family the courage and Faith to get through these terrible times.*

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**Margaret Kleinschmidt** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

AN

“ *I am so saddened by the news of Bill's passing. I knew him as an engineer and then our president at Cook Medical in Winston Salem. No matter how busy he was he always took the time to say hello to you no matter what your position was in the company. And that hello was always accompanied by his friendly smile. May God wrap his loving arms around his family at this difficult time.*

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**Anita Paige** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

AS

“ Our family reaches out to Emily and son, Will along side his family members with our faith, love, and support to comfort in some small way for the journey ahead.

*The twins and his wife were his greatest love and accomplishment in life each and every time our paths crossed!*

*Bill's wonderful leadership and character footprints will survive him throughout the Cook Medical Family! Our deepest sympathy,  
Your NCSU and Cook Friends! Angie & Steve Levy*

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**Angie and Steve Levy** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

DO

“ With the deepest sorrow, I send my condolences to Emily and family members on Bill's passing. In the nearly eighteen years of my involvement with Bill, I have never met a finer, harder-working, more devoted or ethical friend. Bill was one of the very best of the best. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him and certainly by myself. I owed him much. Doug Howell

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**Douglas Howell** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

DO

“ Emily,  
I am so sorry for the loss of such great people. I knew Bill for many years and always enjoyed our time together. As much as I hurt I can only imagine how you and your son feel. Thank you for allowing me to morn Abby and Bills passing. I really regret not talking with you guys more. Take care friend. And call me anytime. 252-410-1536

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**Douglas Miller** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

CH

“ *Very saddened to hear of this tragic accident. My deepest sympathy goes out to the Gibbons family and entire Cook Medical team. The world lost one of it's great quiet leaders.*

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**Chris Bingham** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

JO

“ *I wish I knew the words that would bring Emily and Will and all of the loved ones Bill and Abby some comfort in this time of grief. All I can offer is my thoughts and prayers. I pray that each day that it becomes a little easier than the day before and that the good times of the past stay ever clear in your memories. God be with you.*

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**Joe Myers** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

MA

“ *My heart goes out to Emily and Will. You will be in my thoughts and prayers. May you be comforted by many great memories of two very special people.*

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**Maryann Atkins** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

MI

“ *There are just no words to express my heartfelt sorrow by loss of Bill and Abbey. For you Emily, it is a loss of a husband and daughter, and for you Will, the loss of a father and sister. The pain of your loss is unimaginable. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Minda Eadie-Wilson** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

DO

“ Stew, I'm so, so sorry to hear about this. Please know that our hearts are with you and your family and that our prayers are asking God for his blessings and comfort for your family in this difficult time. You are not alone and the Big Guy does answer all our petitions and requests. Take care, Doug

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**Doug Goff** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

PA

“ My heart goes out to Bill's wife, son and parents. It's such a loss here at Cook Medical, I know even more so for them. Thoughts and prayers are with you all.

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**Pam Gregory** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

JM

“ I'm so very sorry to hear of the tragic loss of Bill and Abbey. Sending love and prayers to the entire Gibbons family and hoping that you'll find strength in the days ahead in the wonderful memories you shared.

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**Jean MacKenzie** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

RE

“ I had the pleasure of working with Bill at Cook Medical in Winston-Salem, NC. He was such a kind, caring man who truly cared about people. He will be greatly missed. We have lost one heck of a man but Heaven gained one awesome angel. May God comfort you all during this very difficult time.

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**Renee Davis** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

VI

“ *I wanted to say how very sorry I am for your loss. I have followed their story since the night of the accident. I live in the Town of Unicoi. Prayers for you and your son.*

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**Vicki McCurry** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

SM

“ *Dear Emily,  
I have known Bill professionally for the last 10 years and was always struck by his gentle kind disposition. He was a wonderful man to work with...I can just imagine what he must have been like as husband and father. May you find peace by the grace of God. Our prayers are with you!*

*Schalk van der Merwe  
Associate professor of Medicine  
University of Leuven, Belgium*

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**schalk van der merwe** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

NA

“ I was very shocked and upset to hear this extremely tragic news about our dear colleague and friend Bill, and also for the untimely loss of his daughter Abbey.

I've known Bill since I joined the Endoscopy SBU in 2000. I have always felt very positive after any of my meetings with Bill. He made me feel that my contributions were valuable and I felt that he really listened and understood everything. I never sensed any feeling of superiority or hierarchy from him in any of our meetings or talks. He kept in touch over the years and we always exchanged Christmas and holiday good wishes.

I truly feel that from a human side I have lost a very dear friend as well as Cook losing a very valuable leader and colleague.

I will keep the Gibbons family in my thoughts and prayers.

Nicola

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**Nicola D'Ambra Attenuo** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

LI

“ I started in Cook Ireland a year and a half ago, and had the pleasure of meeting Bill during this time.

I have heard nothing but good things about him from my colleagues that have worked here a bit longer than me.

Truly a sad loss for his family and friends,

Liam.

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**Liam Breen** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

LE

“ Emily and Will,  
I am so sorry for the loss and cant find the words that would even come close to make a difference for you. My thoughts and prayers are with you and always will be. Peace be with you during this difficult time. Bill was such a great man and loved you all so much. You were always the topic of our conversationss first when we crossed paths.

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**Leslie Vitelli** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

AN

“ My deepest, heartfelt sympathy to all of the family. Reading Bill's obituary makes me think he is a carbon copy of his dad. I was fortunate to get to visit with Bill in April at his dad and Jane's anniversary celebration in Las Vegas. Jane (and Stew) are my special cousins. Bill had such a great time celebrating with them and his four brothers and sisters. It makes my tears turn to smiles thinking of that weekend. Sending loving thoughts and prayers.....  
Ann

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**Ann Tassos** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

BA

“ All my thoughts are with Emily and Will at this time, Bill was a wonderful colleague, a great confidant and best of all I consider him to be a mate, a friend who always had time for me, and time for everyone will miss you so much my friend

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**Barry Thomas** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

DO

“ I knew Bill for all his years with Cook. He was a respected leader and a good friend. I enjoyed my time with him at our meetings. We always sent text messages back and forth during basketball season during NC State and Kansas games. I will miss that fun banter. God Bless you Bill and Abbey.

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**Doug Boucher** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

PE

“ Dear Emily and Will, I cannot imagine your devastation or find suitable words.  
I had the privilege of knowing and working professionally with Bill for at least 20 years. He was always cheerful and positive, with a warm smile and a firm handshake. He has a permanent place in my heart.  
Peter Cotton  
Professor of Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina

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**Peter Cotton** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

DC

“ Thoughts and Prayers to the Gibbons family. I knew Bill as an engineer and our President here at Cook Medical Winston Salem. A soft spoken man who always had the time to smile and say hi, no matter how busy he was. You will be dearly missed, may you and your daughter fly high forever!! God Bless

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**Donnie Crouse** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

KE

“ I just learned of Bill's death and I am so saddened. Although, I haven't seen Bill or Emily in many, many years. I always consider him a significant and meaningful friend. His mother headed up a trip to Europe back in 1985, this was the summer between our 9th and 10th grade years in high school. Bill and I roomed together for those two weeks and shared alot of fun times that will always be etched in my mind. He was a brilliant person with a brilliant mathematical mind but he never acted like he thought he was brilliant. His obituary describing his incredible life is not a surprise to me. I only wish I had been able to see him as a business man, because I only remember him as a 10-15 year old kid. It sounds like, he just kept getting to be a better and better person. God Bless you friend and your wonderful daughter! May you rest together peacefully in heaven!

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**Kevin Jones** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

GA

“ We were so fortunate to have Bill and his family in Winston-Salem, NC for a number of years. I admired his quiet leadership and his commitment to his community, his company, and his family. On behalf of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, we extend our deepest sympathy to the Cook Medical family and to Bill's family.

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**Gayle Anderson** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

BE

“ We were in the car when we heard the news. We live in the next county over from where the accident occurred. Our prayers and sincerest condolences to your family.

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**Betty Barnes** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

AN

“ *Bill, easy-going Bill. We are so heartbroken. Such great memories of family get-togethers. We will never forget Bill's smile and his kind ways. Such a nice guy.*

*We are sorry for your loss, our loss.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**anita clark-anderson** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

LY

“ *I am so sorry for the loss of Bill and Abbey. I live in the next county to where the plane crash occurred. Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Lynne Taylor** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM

JA

“ *so sorry for your loss my heart goes out to you and your son that you lost both of them . I worked at Winston he was a very nice man it didn't matter what your job title was he would say hello as he passed threw the hall. may god be with you threw the hard times and give you strength . god bless you both.*

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**jannie hensley** - October 26, 2015 at 03:57 PM