



William W. Oliver

October 6, 1921 - March 13, 2011

William (Bill) W. Oliver died Sunday, March 13 at Bell Trace in Bloomington, Indiana. Born in the coal mining town of Hazard, Kentucky, Bill Oliver was the youngest of five children.

As a child, he was active in Boy Scouts and loved hiking and camping in the eastern Kentucky mountains. During World War II, Oliver served in the Army Air Corps. Bill graduated from University of Kentucky in 1946 and earned his JD cum laude from Northwestern University where he was elected to the Order of the Coif.

After graduation, Bill worked as a trial lawyer for the Bureau of Internal Revenue before becoming a law clerk for Supreme Court Chief Justice Fred Vinson and subsequently for Chief Justice Earl Warren. Under Warren, Oliver was instrumental in the writing of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision. In 1954 he joined the law faculty of the Indiana University School of Law. Bill taught for 41 years, earning the school's gavel award as well as the Herman F Lieber award for distinguished teaching. In 2003 he was honored with an endowed chair, the William W. Oliver Chair in Taxation.

In 1972, he and his wife Mary founded Oliver Winery. This was a natural extension of his hobbies of winemaking and grape growing and sparked a revival of winemaking in Indiana. Bill also had a passion for travel. He and Mary traveled around the world, including the Arctic Circle and Antarctica. He loved playing bridge, gardening, and participating in hot air balloon races with his son, Bill

Bill Oliver was named Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Robert Orr and twice named a Kentucky Colonel. He had participated in many civic organizations including the Kiwanis Club and the Chamber of Commerce. He was preceded in death by his wife Mary in 2007. He is survived by his son Bill M. Oliver (Kathleen) of Bloomington, daughter Barbara Oliver (Eric) of Clearwater, Florida, and four grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Mary and William Oliver Dementia Care Education Award Fund c/o Bloomington Hospital Foundation, P.O. Box 1149, Bloomington, IN 47402.

A private service will be held this summer.

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

AL

“ Bill,

Your Father introduced us once, years ago, but I've never gotten to really know you or other family members.

Your Father was a highly talented and capable lawyer, but he had a breadth and depth of other interests that made him outstanding.

Sir Edward Coke liked to say that "the knowledge of diletantes is ignorance diluted," to which I'd respond that "the knowledge of specialists is ignorance distilled."

Bill Oliver was neither of these; he was a man for all seasons.

All the best to you & yours, and may the happy memories always prevail,

Alan Hyde

Alan Hyde - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

LI

“ *Dear Bill. I just saw the link regarding your Dad's passing. I know this is a tough time for you with both your mom and your dad now gone--but you are so blessed to have had such great parents. Your Father was truly a remarkable man. And the legacy he left behind is quite something. Like Father; like Son--you both have given so much to this world.*

Lisa Hays - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

AL

“ Dear Bill and Kathleen:

I was very sad to hear of your father's passing and send my condolences. He was a profound influence on me as a young law professor with his commitment to law practice and to his principles. We were friends, and I doubt I would be involved in the wine shipping litigation but for him. I am proud to occupy what used to be his office, and I have a bottle of Camelot Mead on permanent display.

Alex Tanford

Alex Tanford - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

BR

“ Bill,

Sorry to hear about the passing of your father. He was a kind and generous man. I will always fondly remember the time that your family invited me along for a ski trip to Sugar Loaf Mountain in Traverse City, Michigan when we were teenagers. That was a great time. I'm sure you must have many special memories of your dad. My prayers are with you.

Brad

Brad Post - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

SH

“ We were so sorry to hear about your Dad. He was a very special person. We will miss him.

Sheila Arthur-Robertson - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

TJ

“ I met Bill while Chaplain at Bell Trace last year. When he found out I had served at Buckhorn near Hazard in Perry County, Kentucky, we formed a strong relationship. We often talked about the Kentucky hills and the wonderful people there. He was modest about his achievements here in Indiana, but talked with pride about Oliver Winery and his time at the Law School. He enjoyed singing the old hymns which I knew he would remember from the Kentucky mountains. I loved having him in the Church service, as he was always interested and involved. May he rest in peace--a wonderful gentleman!

Timothy Jessen - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

LA

“ Dear Bill and Kathleen,

Ken and I send our sincere condolences on the passing of Bill's father. Our love and best wishes to your family.

Laura Bickers - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

DT

“ Bill & Kathleen:

*Our sincere condolences on the passing of your father. He is a man that will always be remembered in many ways and was the cornerstone of the start of the Indiana wine industry.
The Huber family*

Dana & Ted Huber - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

MA

“ Dear Bill, Bobbie and family, I am so sorry to hear of Bills passing. What a long and wonderful life he had. Having Mary at his side and sharing his life with you and Bobbie. Even as a child, living beside your Mom and Dad, I knew they where special. So loving and kind, so concerned about everyone! Always, always a smile for me! I share and feel your grife of loss as I also am in grife. I lost my husband Terry of 28 years Sunday also. Bet there are drinking some pretty good wine! Love Margaret Farkas Radke

Margaret Farkas-Radke - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

WA

“ Bill;

I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your Father. He was a great man and will be will be sadley missed.

You have done him very proud!

Warren

Warren Smith - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM

SU

“ *Sincere condolences on the loss of your father.*

Susan Atkinson - October 26, 2015 at 04:26 PM