



Bill E. Copeland

July 15, 1930 - March 11, 2020

Billy Eugene Copeland, born July 16, 1930 to Willis Allen and Essie Mae Yarbrough Copeland, passed away in his sleep March 11, 2020, in McKinney, Texas. Bill grew up in Lindale, Texas, where he joined the United Methodist Church at age 10 along with his parents. He graduated from Lindale High School in 1948. After attending Tyler Junior College for two years, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he served in intelligence for three years. He then enrolled in East Texas State College (now Texas A&M-Commerce), where he earned a bachelor's degree in business and a master's degree in history and accounting. He later did additional graduate work at the University of Houston and the University of North Texas. He married Barbara Sue Mayfield in 1954. They moved to Houston, where he taught at Smiley High School for three years, later serving as an assistant principal and then as transportation director for the district. In 1964, he and his family moved to Irving, where he was an assistant principal at Irving High School, founding principal of Lamar Middle School and Director of Secondary Instruction and Operations for the Irving Independent School District. He and his wife, Barbara, who also taught in the district, retired in 1989 and moved back to his hometown of Lindale, where they joined First United Methodist Church in December 1989. In addition to becoming a full-time rancher, Bill became involved in all aspects of the church and, with a group of friends, established the first We Care Pantry. He also was involved in Meals on Wheels, Emmaus and the Kairos prison ministry. In addition to Barbara, his wife of 64 years, he is survived by daughter Carolyn Atkerson and her husband, Dan, of Allen, TX; son John Copeland his wife Julia of Plano, TX; and son David Copeland his wife, Tracy, of San Jose, CA. He also is survived by grandchildren Lara Mercer and her husband Brad of Allen; Andy Chilton and his wife Brandi of Allen; Sarah Rowan and her husband, Jason, of Wylie, TX; Morgan Atkerson of Allen; Kathryn Copeland of San Francisco, CA; William Alexander "Alex" Copeland of Marble Falls, TX; Sam Copeland and Tim Copeland of Grapevine, TX; and Taylor Copeland of Boston, MA. Bill also was devoted to his great-grandchildren, Jack and Cate Mercer, Knox and Elodie Rowan, and Griffin Chilton. A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at the Lindale City Cemetery under the direction of Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home in Lindale.

Events

MAR **Graveside Service** 10:30AM - 11:30AM

18

Lindale City Cemetery

702 West South Street, Lindale, TX, US, 75771

Comments



“ When bill was the director of Secondary Education in Irving I was the Director of Foreign Languages. during spring break one year, my husband and I ran into him and Barbara in San Francisco! What a surprise!

Patricia Benner - March 17, 2020 at 08:35 AM



“ This gentleman gave me my first chance in administration in Irving ISD, and I will never forget his gentle, yet strong leadership. It was a Good Friday afternoon when we would sit in his office and “review” the week. He taught me a great deal about compassionate guidance. Wish I had seen more of him in these past years. Jan Hair Morgan

Jan Morgan - March 16, 2020 at 05:49 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Julia E Copeland - March 16, 2020 at 03:16 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Family photos



Julia E Copeland - March 16, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“ I wish to offer my condolences to the Copeland family. Bill was an outstanding gentleman and led a life of service to his faith, government and family. It was an honor to attend church with Bill and Barbara and to serve on committees together for the church and city of Lindale. His vision and service are unmatched. God bless.

Jeff Baker - March 13, 2020 at 10:34 AM



“ With deepest sympathy... Love and prayers to sweet, Barbara and Copeland family... what a privilege to have known Bill !

Karen Gott - March 13, 2020 at 04:00 PM



“ Mr. Copeland gave me my first job in Irving ISD at Lamar MS. I became pregnant my first year there and told him I would resign at the end of the year. He urged me to not resign and to wait until after my son was born in June. I took his advice and kept on teaching history. He was such a wise, kind principal. I went on to become a principal and director of professional development and now I'm on the School Board. Thank you, Mr. Copeland for your astute advice and for caring about me.

Dr. Rosemary Robbins

rosemary_robbins - March 16, 2020 at 10:38 AM



“ I have thought of Mr. Copeland often during the past few weeks. I am ever indebted to him for giving me opportunities and guidance in my career as an employee of Irving ISD. We shared many good days at Lamar JHS where I learned the practical side of campus administration. He was a great teacher and mentor for many young educators. My thoughts and prayers are with your family as you celebrate the life of one of my heroes.

Jerry Christian - March 16, 2020 at 09:43 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Not only was Mr. Copeland an outstanding educator, but he was also a wonderful person who will be missed greatly. May it bring you peace to know what a difference he made in so many lives. Hugs and prayers to the family.

Gina Peddy - March 18, 2020 at 09:14 PM



“ We will all miss Bill Copeland. He was a decent man and a fine educator. He was as practical and caring as he was kind. It was a pleasure to work with him.

Irene Norman - March 27, 2020 at 04:39 PM