



Mr. William Edward "Bill" Sheppard Jr.

December 20, 1949 - November 5, 2023

William E. "Bill" Sheppard Jr. died at his home November 5, 2023, at age 73. Born in Camden, New Jersey, he grew up in Maple Shade.

Throughout his life he was filled with happiness, kindness, and a great sense of humor. He had an aura about him that people were drawn to in friendship and love. He saw the goodness in people, and was always positive and joyful. He loved to laugh, so much so that he would bring himself to tears telling jokes. He was hilarious. And to many people he was an inspiration as he persevered with optimism throughout his long illness. He was as humble as he was talented: a master musician, artist, chef, masseur, and sweetheart of a human being.

Bill received a BFA in graphic design at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). As a gifted and prolific creative person he played at least 5 instruments. Early in life he played trombone in a funk band. In another band, 50 Foot Woman, he played guitar, bass, and vocals. Known as

Dr. Rock in a nearly lifelong rhythm and blues band, The St. James Street Boys, he played lead guitar and vocals. He also studied jazz guitar and later in life played in the jazz trio, Stream.

As talented in visual arts as he was in music, Bill moved to New York City to establish and lead a digital design studio for the world's largest global ad agency, J. Walter Thompson. He worked across a portfolio of some of the world's most famous blue-chip brands. He was quickly promoted to Vice President. His contributions ranged from traditional and brand design — where he was one of the last commercial artists to still do his own hand lettered typography — to his true passion of motion graphics where he was an early pioneer. His unique gifts and genius enabled him to be one of the last to do flawless hand lettering and one of the first to do CGI motion graphics.

After 30 years in New York City he moved back to Maryland to live on the Chesapeake Bay and teach at MICA. It was an extremely happy time in his life; an exceptional teacher whose students loved him and the place where he met and married his love, Esther. After his devastating injury he worked tirelessly for years to regain his abilities. In the midst of it all he exclaimed he had to do something creative so he took up ceramics, exhibiting his sculptures at MICA. He also took up sailing at the Downtown Sailing Center Accessibility

Sailing program,
winning two Ya Gotta Regattas and new friends.

He was the beloved husband of Esther J. Sheppard. He was predeceased by his father, William Edward Sheppard Sr, who died when Bill was 5, his mother Clara Holtz and his stepfather Richard Holtz. He is survived by his brother Robert A. Sheppard and his wife, Betty Sheppard, his sister Bonnie B. Sheppard, his brother Bryan D. Holtz and his wife, Amy Holtz, his sister Barbara A. Lotierzo and her husband, Michael Lotierzo; his brother-in-law Aaron D. Schooler and his sister-in-law Marianne Schooler. Also survived by loving nieces and nephews, and his band brothers.

Instead of flowers Bill would want you to express your love to those you hold dear or that any memorial tributes be made in the form of a charitable donation to his cherished accessible sailing program at the Downtown Sailing Center <https://connect.clickandpledge.com/Organization/downtownsailing> (They ask that his name in memory be placed in the comment.) or the Maryland Food Bank <https://mdfoodbank.org/donate/>.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 9. 1:00 PM (ET)

Island View Waterfront Restaurant
2542 Island View Road
Essex, MD 21221

Outside, weather permitting. Pre-testing for COVID encouraged.

Tribute Wall

BH

“*Brother Bill, someone who was a mentor when I graduated highschool, Bill and I had a great relationship especially during a time of uncertainty leaving high school and uncertain future ahead of me*

Bill had a a great sense of humor.

A memory we always shared with each other was a time when Bill was into eating healthier (questionable lol), I was around 17 or 18 years old.

Bill had been home for the weekend but had left a pitcher of what he called "rejuvellac" juice. Soy beans that had been fermented. Now normally they only need a couple days, however Bill had let them sit for like 10 days. And for whatever possessed me I decided to get this "juice" down from the roost it was fermented at. I took the lid off and took in the biggest whiff.... BIG mistake I literally dropped the pitcher on the table gasping at this putrid, disgusting order that had me fall backwards on my keister.

Bill watched in amazement at what I had just did broke out in a roar of laughter, that embedded that memory in our hearts, laughing was and is a type of medicine very healthy a lot more healthy than Bills ungodly concoction of soy sprouts fermenting on top of the fridge, it was something we would bring up many times a long with other amazing silly things from the 3 stooges to Gallagher to discussing flatulence jokes. I LOVE you Bill always will be in my heart you helped me when I sought help❤️

Bryan Holtz - November 30, 2023 at 08:45 PM