



## William "Bill" Joseph Bauman Jr.

August 22, 1952 - January 9, 2021

William Joseph Bauman, Jr. (Bill) was born in Downey, CA, on August 22, 1952, and died on January 9, 2021. He was the son of William Joseph Bauman, Sr. and Nell Ananioni Kadunc Bauman, both of whom are deceased. He is survived by his wife Orlean Grizzard Bauman; his daughter Jessica Kathleen Bauman Wheeler and her husband John; two grandchildren, Kailea Pearl Wheeler and Lani Ruth Wheeler; and one sister, Kathleen Bauman Wickham.

Bill Bauman will be remembered as a man with a big heart and a big personality to go with it. He grew up in Kailua, Oahu, Hawaii, and that diverse society shaped his tolerance and acceptance of all kinds of people. He loved people and never met a stranger. Bill was one of the "helpers" that Mr. Rogers spoke of. If a person or an animal was in need, you could count on Bill to do his best, whether by helping search for a missing child or crawling under a building to rescue a stranded puppy.

Bill never finished college, but he had an insatiable curiosity and was truly a life-long learner. He was happiest being self-employed and was a whiz at anything electronic or technical. He loved troubleshooting and solving complex problems. If others had given up on a situation, Bill used his natural curiosity to find an answer. His customers often became his friends because he genuinely cared about them and got his greatest satisfaction from knowing

they were happy with his work.

Bill's love for water was deep and lasting. After moving from Hawaii to Tennessee to marry me, he had to adjust to living in a landlocked state. His solution was to buy a ski boat and fall in love with Cuba Landing and the Tennessee River. In addition, we discovered a little bit of paradise at Cape San Blas, Florida, where we spent all the summers of Jessica's childhood. For a few years in the early 2000s we had a house on Fort Morgan in Alabama which allowed Bill to reconnect with living at the beach. He planted oleanders and bougainvillea and rescued straggly roses from Lowes to create a small garden so lovely that people would stop and stare and sometimes help themselves to a few roses. Bill might watch from the house just to see them fall in love with the flowers. The porch at the Ft. Morgan house sat only a few feet from Bon Secour Bay, and Bill would spend time just looking at the water and the herons and dolphins that frequently visited at sunrise and sunset. He often told me that those quiet times with the water were deeply spiritual and connected him with God.

When Bill and I were blessed with our daughter Jessica, I have never seen a happier man. He told me that the most wonderful part of his life was raising Jessica and seeing her mature into a beautiful and loving wife to our son-in-law John and mother to their two precious children, Kailea Pearl and Lani Ruth. His only regret about leaving this world behind was not having any more time to be with his family. He loved being "Baba."

He loved his life, not because it was rich in material possessions or power, but because it was rich in the things that really matter – the love of family and friends, a home that he lovingly worked on for over three decades, and a connection with the natural world expressed in his love of the creek, the woods, and all creatures great and small. He tenderly and patiently cared for any animal that came into his world, wild or tame. We joked that there must

have been a neon sign over our house that said “Suckers for animals” because over the years, dozens of cats and dogs “found” us and were taken in. Bill loved them all, and they loved him back.

One of the things I loved most about Bill was his zest for life and his child-like enthusiasm and eagerness to learn new things. Our son-in-law John taught Bill to snowboard when Bill was 60, and one of his proudest moments was when John gave him his very own Burton board and boots. Kailea, who is not quite 3, is learning to snowboard this winter, and Bill said he would have given anything to have had the time to be with her as she learned.

He loved music and was a self-taught guitar player. He assembled himself a small “sound studio” and I would often come home to find him recording himself playing his guitar and singing. The Hawaiian slack-key guitar style was one that he loved, and our house was often filled with the beautiful music of his childhood in the islands.

I will see Bill each time I walk in our yard and remember all the hard work he put into making it beautiful. I will remember him each time I wade our creek or build a fire in our fire pit because those were the simple things that gave him pleasure. I thank God for the 36 years we had together and will miss him every day. I hope that if you knew and loved Bill, you will share your memories with us. Jessica and I hope to compile them so that Kailea and Lani will have a way to know their “Baba” better.

Bill asked us to take his ashes back to Hawaii and scatter them in Kaneohe Bay where the ashes of his parents were placed. Out of concern for the safety of others, we are not having a service for Bill. In late spring or early summer Jessica and I will host a yard party at our farm on Beaver Creek. We know that Bill would approve of a gathering that includes food, music and fun. We

will let you know details as they are decided.

If you wish to honor Bill's memory in some way, we are requesting that you support Walden's Puddle, a wildlife rehab center in Joelton, TN, (Go to [waldenspuddle.org](http://waldenspuddle.org) for details); Hickman Humane Society (Go to [hickmanhumanesociety.tripod.com](http://hickmanhumanesociety.tripod.com) for details), or Shelter Friends of Hickman County (Information at the Shelter Friends Facebook page).

# Tribute Wall

RM

“ Roy And Sharon McCoy lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Joseph Bauman Jr.



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**Roy and Sharon McCoy** - January 15, 2021 at 05:32 PM

DJ

“ Debbie Gray Jones lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Joseph Bauman Jr.



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**Debbie Gray Jones** - January 14, 2021 at 02:22 AM

JE

“ Johnnie Ruth Elrod lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Joseph Bauman Jr.



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**Johnnie Ruth Elrod** - January 13, 2021 at 01:30 PM

“*Mr. Bauman, Mr. Bill, Kathie’s Dad...the father of my dear kindred spirit (Kathie to me) Jessica to most of you, and husband to my teacher and a true inspirational beacon through my journey of high school and into adulthood, Mrs. Orlean Bauman. This man, is someone I am so blessed and forever thankful for the opportunity to know. I have many fond memories, of teenage slumber parties at Kathie’s, summer vacation at their beach house, and chatting in passing to “Kathie’s Dad”, who was always warm, welcoming, and in my teenage anxious mind, a somewhat solemn and quiet man. As we grew up together, my visits to Kathie’s parent’s house became a different environment. One of open conversation, welcoming community, warmth, and familial love. Bill was wise, he had that peaceful Hawaiian vibe and “coolness” about him that made me feel at ease. Their home on the creek will always be an inviting nostalgic place for me, and that is partly thanks to the energy and personality of Bill just being himself. Whether it was a rushed visit during holidays back home, or dinner, conversation and “visiting”; I am equally grateful.*

*While I sit here writing this and reflecting on which story to share. Which memory should I tell? I am replaying almost 20 years of interactions through my mind. And of course, as we often do when someone passes on, I return to the last conversation I had with Bill. It was over the phone, and I called to ask Bill for his opinion on something simple, and rather surface level. Nothing monumental. Someone I love had recently traveled to Hawaii for a ministry program and was graduating soon. I wanted Bill’s advice on the island of Oahu, and suggestions for rental ideas. Turns out, Bill was from the little town that my loved one was living in. Next, was a lengthy (and if I’m honest, at times, rambling) heart felt, and even emotional for both of us, utterly enlightening conversation. He shared some personal sentiments with me and his own relationship with this island of Oahu, and the healing “magic” that he has experienced there. The way he spoke, took me there instantly. While I have never had the opportunity to visit Hawaii myself, that phone call was the closest I have ever been. I remember cherishing that phone call even while it was happening (something we often*

*don't appreciate until moments of reflection). I thought to myself, "Wow. What a genuine, honest, and beautiful discussion." I never thought it would be the last time I would talk to him. I guess we never do. But of all the memories, that last phone call is something I will hold onto.*

*One thing that I am certain Kailea and Lani will hear repeatedly when stories of their "Baba" come up in conversation, is that he embodied so many wonderful qualities, it's hard to list them all. But the most important thing I can share about knowing Bill, is that he made me feel at home. Welcome. Loved. This is something that I will treasure forever. Whether I was sitting at the kitchen table on Beaver Creek with Kathie or Orlean preparing dinner and snacks (they always made sure I left full), enjoying the yard or a walk down to the creek with Kathie, any time with Bill around (and the whole Bauman family) felt special. This dear family has shown me a lifetime of love that has spanned 2 decades, months and years in between visits. But I know it's a bond that will continue through every stage of our lives. My deepest sympathy to Orlean, my sweet Kathie, John, the girls, and every family member and friend who is grieving his loss.*

*Thank you for always making us feel welcome "Mr. Bill", and like part of your Ohana.*

*-Lauren & Harper McCrory*



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**Lauren McCrory** - January 12, 2021 at 07:58 PM

JG

“ *Judy Gordon lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Joseph Bauman Jr.*



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**Judy Gordon** - January 12, 2021 at 03:16 PM