



William D Purifoy

November 15, 1959 - October 14, 2013

William Dewitt Purifoy, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on November 15, 1959. He was the third of four children from the union of Donald and Frances Penelton Purifoy. Bill and his siblings grew up in the close knit community of Homestead, PA. He attended Clark Memorial Baptist Church under the pastorate of the late Rev. Donald Tunie and was educated in the Steel Valley School District. He was a 1977 graduate of Steel Valley High School where he excelled in both football and basketball. After high school Bill attended the New Mexico Military Academy and the University of Tulsa. In 1983 he was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys and played two years with the USFL. Bill united in marriage to Denise Williams and this union produced three children. He and his family lived in Tulsa for a time where he worked for the Tulsa Oklahoma Sheriff's Department in the Gang Task Force before they relocated back to his beloved hometown of Homestead. With his background in law enforcement, Bill found employment with the Allegheny County D.A's office and remained in their employ as a dedicated public servant until the time of his passing. Bill's twenty years with the department made him a valuable asset. He was a detective, member of the Drug Task Force, sharpshooter, hostage negotiator . . . and a formidable presence.

Upon his return to Homestead he also resumed his involvement with the Homestead Volunteer Fire Department; the organization that he first joined at the age of sixteen. He was totally committed to that organization and upon his retirement "Chief Purifoy" has logged over 38 years of volunteer service to the

department. In his spare time he liked to build battle ships and sing karaoke. On October 14, 2013, the Lord called William Dewitt Purifoy, Sr. home. He is preceded in death by his father, Donald Purifoy, Sr.

He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved mother, Frances Purifoy; devoted children: William (Kristen Domonski) Purifoy, Jr.; Sherisse Purifoy, and Courtney Purifoy; siblings: Cheryl (Albert) Bowe, Donald (Karen) Purifoy, Jr. and Christina (Tim Shipman) Purifoy grandchildren: Imani Walker, Isaiah Walker, and Desirae Purifoy; nieces, nephews, cousins, his fire fighting family, and other good friends too numerous to mention.

Cemetery Details

Homestead Cemetery

Homestead, PA

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **18**. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Tunie Funeral Home, Inc.
218 E. 11th Avenue
Homestead, PA 15120
(412) 462-6466
lisajohnson@tuniefuneralhome.com
<http://www.tuniefuneralhome.com/Default.aspx>

Service

OCT **19**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Clark Memorial Baptist Church
1301 Glenn Street
Homestead, PA

Interment

OCT **19**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Homewood Cemetery
1599 S.Dallas
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Tribute Wall



“ *William D Purifoy*

January 29, 2023 at 12:45 PM



“ *William D Purifoy*

January 29, 2023 at 10:10 AM



“ *Played against Bill in 1976-77 basketball, from Clairton. Great ball player geat person. RIP big man*

Terry Coleman - March 29, 2019 at 08:56 PM

AF

“ Please accept my sincere condolences for your loss. Death is the enemy of all mankind, yet when it touches us personally, few find the comfort they search for. The doctrines that are taught concerning death find their origins from men and not the Bible. As a result, they fail to leave those who are grieving with comfort or a hope. They do however, leave many with unanswered questions. The response that "God works in mysterious ways" or that "God needed another angel", does not satisfy the spiritual needs of those who are grieving. However, many have found comfort in the pages of God's word the Bible (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4). In God's word we find the promise that we can be reunited with our loved ones (John 5:28,29; Acts 24:15). The Bible tells us where this happy reunion will take place (Psalm 37: 11, 29; Matthew 5:5). We are told why we die (Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 5:12), and that the God of the Bible will end death forever (Isaiah 25:8; Revelation 21:3,4). Learning the truth about Jehovah, the God of the Bible (Psalm 83:18), God's Kingdom (Daniel 2:44), and the state of those who have died (Ecclesiastes 9:5), is the start to finding true comfort concerning loved ones who are sleeping in death (John 11:11-14; John 8:32. It is of vital importance to learn what the Bible really teaches concerning death. For more information please visit the website jw.org.

A Friend - March 03, 2014 at 01:13 AM

MW

“ God knrw whats best. He put the best fireman to rest. Our gratitude was extended to bill during the lost of our family home.Much love to the purifoy family. Amen!

maureen waller - January 23, 2014 at 04:33 PM

BV

“ During a squad meeting at the Sheriffs Office I was rubbing Bill's head and telling him how pretty he was. He picked me up by my neck. I never did that again. Bill was truly loved by everyone and was truly a gentle giant. Prayers to the family.

Bob Vail - October 23, 2013 at 02:46 PM

RC

“ Bill was a great guy, and good fire chief. He was my very good friend when I would visit the firehouse and have good talks about the fire service. He will be sadly missed by me and all my colleagues in the volunteer fire service. Thanks for all the good memories at fire school, and parades
Sincerely, a very good friend
Former first assistant fire chief
Robert L. Conroy Turtle Creek Fire Dept #1
RIP Bill

Robert Conroy - October 19, 2013 at 12:57 PM

RO

“ Bill I will never forget the first time I ever met you. I was new in homestead EMS when I seen you I will always remember you for you smile and the greeting any time I would see you I would pull up one fire scen and the first tray out with the drinks would always have a pack or two of the Lorna doons that would go straight to you and when you would see me coming you would smile the laugh when I would hand them to you and then say thank you you are a great friend I will miss you



roberta - October 17, 2013 at 08:27 PM

RJ

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



ron jenkins - October 17, 2013 at 09:16 AM

RJ

“ 5 files added to the album New Album Name



Ron Jenkins - October 17, 2013 at 07:49 AM

TT

I LOVE this picture of me and Billy. He was a perfect gentlemen and the best prom date a girl could have! He will be so missed by his family, of course, but also by the community! God bless you "Buck"!

*Tamara Tunie
NYC*

tamara tunie - October 17, 2013 at 03:18 PM

AM

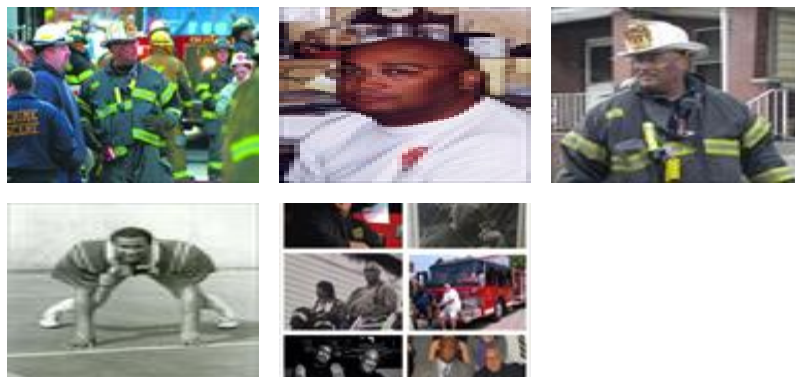
“ Dear Purifioy Family,

As a freshman at Tulsa University I remember Bill well. It was heart warming to read all the great words about Bill and his life over the years. Yes he was a big man and a intimidating man on the football field. Back in 1981, it was against the norm to meet a man that big on the field. In short, those were some great days and am glad I had the chance to meet him at that time. My best and prayers to the family. Albert Myres

albert myres - October 16, 2013 at 07:14 PM

RH

“ 6 files added to the album New Album Name



Ray Hyland - October 16, 2013 at 05:35 PM

RH

“ SORRY TO HEAR THAT HOMESTEAD LOSS A GREAT MAN AND FIRE FIGHTER. I REMEMBER BILL WHEN I FIRST JOINED DUQUESNE ANNEX WEST MIFFLIN 294 FIRE DEPARTMENT.HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED BY ALL. RIP BILL.

RICHARD JOHN HAGBLOM - October 16, 2013 at 03:48 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



J - October 16, 2013 at 11:24 AM



“ *It seems like yesterday that he attended the funeral of his friend, fellow firefighter, and my late husband (Patrick Kincaid). Bill always asked how I was doing every time I saw him after that. It was a great man and will be missed.*



Tracy DeCarlo - October 16, 2013 at 09:58 AM



Sorry "He" was a great man

Tracy DeCarlo - October 16, 2013 at 10:00 AM



“ *Bill. You were an inspiration to all who knew you, a mentor to those smart enough to listen, and a father figure to those humble enough to listen to you. There was never a scene that I worked in your district or ours where I felt endangered or unprotected by your decisions. I knew that if \$*%& hit the fan you'd be the first through the door. I learned from you, but never realized how important it was to emulate and be more like you until now. I have no doubt that you are and will forever be resting above, looking down upon us with that thunderous laugh.....Hehehe. Rest in peace my friend, we'll take it from here.*

J. Syska, W. Homestead VFD #292 - October 16, 2013 at 09:42 AM

JC

Well said, he was a great man!!!

Jamie Caterino - October 16, 2013 at 11:39 AM

MG

“ *R.I.P. Bill, you will be missed by you friends and fellow Officers from your T.P.D. days.*

Mike Gregory - October 15, 2013 at 10:31 PM

RK

“ *A true servant with a servants heart. Bill was a great mentor, friend and colleague. We miss him here in Tulsa. I have been fielding calls from all those who have been impacted by Bill while he played football, worked for the local PD and the Sheriff's office. He was a great friend to all those he met and worked with. You are missed brother, Godspeed. TPD and TCSO. Purifoy family, please know that Bill served with a big heart, and a great spirit. We pray for comfort and strength.....Peace.*

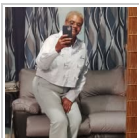
RK - October 15, 2013 at 09:40 PM

RH

“ *My Condolences to the Purifoy Family, I can remember working at Homestead EMS and hanging out at the fire station with Billy. He was a great Man, Mentor, and friend. The Valley will never be the same.*

Ray Hyland

Ray Hyland - October 15, 2013 at 08:34 PM



“ *Condolences to the Purifoy Family, Bill was a Great Man*

Lynda Bursey - October 15, 2013 at 07:59 PM



“ Thanks Billy for being a Friend to me. R.W.G Don't worry their is n

Lynda Bursey - October 15, 2013 at 07:56 PM



Theirs no fires in Heaven!!!! Just Rest With God

Lynda Bursey - October 15, 2013 at 07:57 PM



“ I grew up in Homestead Fire and Police stations. I knew Bill to a point where he was like family. My family history around those two buildings is very serene and gentle. Rip Big Guy.

Nicole Hammell - October 15, 2013 at 03:10 PM



such a loss for Steel Valley Community. he will be missed. prayers go out to his family.

Naomi - October 16, 2013 at 08:50 AM



“ I grew up in Homestead Fire and Police stations. I knew Bill to a point where he was like family. My family history around those two buildings is very serene and gentle. Rip Big Guy.

Nicole Hammell - October 15, 2013 at 03:10 PM