



# William D. Guthrie

AUG 5, 1934 - JUN 27, 2021



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## **William D. Guthrie**

AUG 5, 1934 - JUN 27, 2021

**W**illiam Davenport “Bill” Guthrie, age 86, went home to be with the Lord on June 27, 2021. Bill was an Ohioan, born and raised in Cleveland, then Brook Park. His parents were William and Helene Guthrie. Bill graduated from Berea High School, then worked as a mechanic for NACA in Brook Park, where his father was employed. Taking the advice of a coworker, Bill decided to go to college. He studied at Fenn College, worked at NACA during his co-op quarters, and graduated in 1958 with a bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering. Bill worked for five years as an automatic systems and controls design engineer for Honeywell Corporation, then was hired back into the renamed NASA-Lewis Research Center, where he worked 32 years, from 1963 to 1995. Bill’s highlight project as a NASA engineer was his contribution to the design of a 100 ft diameter vacuum chamber (a.k.a. Space Power Facility) at the Plum Brook station in Sandusky. Bill then entered the management ranks at NASA, eventually becoming branch chief of the facilities division. After retiring from civil service, Bill worked as safety consultant to a Hopkins Airport runway expansion project that required moving several large test facilities on the NASA property.

Bill was married to Mary Lou Herrmann for 28 years, until she passed away in May of 2021. Their residences were in Strongsville, Vermilion, and Huron in Ohio; The Villages in Florida for 12 years; then Beavercreek, Ohio. Bill is survived by his three stepchildren Tony (Anne) Herrmann of Cleveland, Rick (Julie Heenan) Herrmann of Cincinnati, and Heather (Thomas) Bridgman of Beavercreek. Bill was earlier married to Mary Davidson for 33 years, living in Brook Park, then Middleburg Heights. He is survived by Mary; his three children Bill (Kristin) of Essex Junction, Vermont, Laura (Robert) Mizisin of Brunswick, and David (Sue Adler) of Strongsville; and six grandchildren Will (Maggie) Guthrie, Jay (Emily) Guthrie, Anna (Will) Craig, Amy Guthrie, Becky (Bill Keaton) Herman, and Molly Mizisin. Bill was predeceased by granddaughter Marcy Herman. He is also survived by six great-grandsons.



## Obituary

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Bill had a lifelong interest in cars, and he kept abreast of NASA rocket launches, viewing them whenever he could from near or far while living in Florida. He also travelled to many parts of the world on ship cruises with Mary Lou. Bill will be remembered by many as a kind man, a loyal and hard worker, and a good friend. He was a Christian believer, someone who was quiet about his faith but whose life and actions towards others were influenced by it.

Bill's remains have been interred at Sunset Memorial Park in North Olmsted. A memorial service will be held at 11:30 am on Friday, July 30th, at Grace Church, 7393 Pearl Road, Middleburg Heights, Ohio. Reception to follow at the church.





# Events

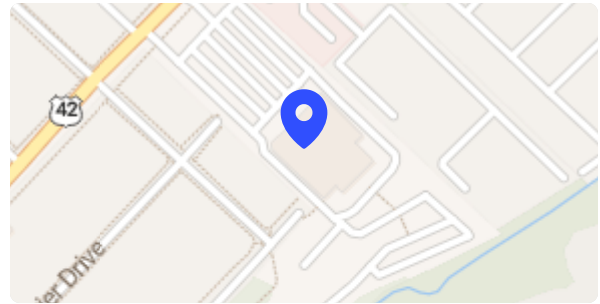
**William D. Guthrie**  
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## Memorial Service

 **Friday**, July 30, 2021


 11:30 AM ET

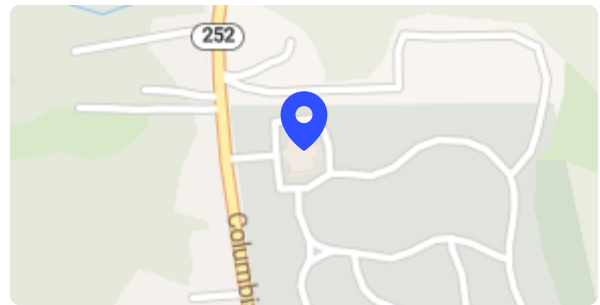
 **Grace Church**  
7393 Pearl Rd., Middleburg Heights OH 44130



## Cemetery Details

 **Sunset Cemetery**  
6265 Columbia Road, North Olmsted OH 44070

 **(440) 249-6256**





## Tribute Wall

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**Julie** posted:

"Drive it like you stole it " Rick Herrmann

July 30 at 6:00 AM



**Ron Molosky** posted:

Bill was a friend of mine from NASA and I always enjoyed visiting with him at our monthly lunches . He will be remembered for his kindness and one of the nicest guys I know. My thoughts are with his family at this sad time.Ron Molosky

July 30 at 5:32 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Guthrie family.



July 28 at 3:03 PM



**Colman Zsiros** posted:

By far the nicest guy at NASA and a pleasure to work with! A quote I once read and remembered from Bear Bryant often reminded me of Bill, "It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice". My condolences to his wife and family! He will certainly be missed!Colman Zsiros

July 23 at 5:34 AM



**Paul B. Starner** posted:

When I came to NASA Bill was the Chief of the Mechanical Engineering Branch in the Facilities Division. I knew him only on a casual basis. Later, after he retired, he came back as a contractor to investigate safety issues around the Lab and I worked with him very closely for a couple of years. He impressed me as a man who truly wanted to do the right thing, had little interest in ego, and was a caring individual. I am sorry to hear of his passing and send my deepest condolences to his family.Paul B. Starner

July 17 at 6:11 AM



## Tribute Wall

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JL

**Jim Liebel** posted:

Bill was one of the best branch chiefs I ever had. I got to know Bill on our many trips to California in the 70s. He made working at NASA enjoyable. My condolences to Mary Lou. Jim Liebel

July 16 at 7:34 PM

AS

**Andrew Schaeffer** posted:

Deepest sympathy to the Guthrie family. You our all in our thoughts and prayers. with love, Andrew & Esther Schaeffer

July 15 at 1:39 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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