



Willis "Bill" Leroy Armstrong Jr.

February 2, 1936 - February 12, 2020

Willis "Bill" Leroy Armstrong, Jr., age 84 of Chanute, KS passed away on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 in the comfort of his rural home outside of Chanute, KS. Bill was born on February 2, 1936 in Effingham, KS, to Willis and Vera (Hawk) Armstrong. He graduated from Atchison High School in 1954 and then again four years later from the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Music Education. While working as a band instructor in Russell, KS, he was introduced to Jean Anne Converse, a music teacher working in nearby Wilson, KS. After a whirlwind courtship, the two married on March 17, 1962 at the First United Methodist Church in Great Bend, KS.

Bill is survived by

Wife:

Jean Anne Armstrong

Daughter:

Lisa Jo Armstrong

Son:

Craig Allen Armstrong

Grandchildren:

Jessica Armstrong and Juan Armstrong

He is preceded in death by his parents and sister, Helen Leah Waser.

Bill Armstrong was a good man who was fiercely dedicated to the pursuit of a deep and meaningful relationship with Christ and the fulfillment of his role as faithful husband, dedicated father and loving grandfather. Bill made many personal sacrifices over the years to ensure every member of his family had everything they needed. He shared his incredible work ethic with his children while encouraging them to find their paths to achieve their personal best. His family's security and happiness always came first. Bill took his responsibilities of head of household and provider seriously, always searching for ways to give his family all he felt they deserved.

Bill was a gifted musician. He played many instruments, but above all loved the violin. He bought his first violin in a pawn shop, learning to play the "fiddle" with the help of an older gentleman who lived just down the road from his boyhood home, a farm located in rural Atchison, KS. From the moment his fingers touched the strings, his love for music became a lifelong passion. Bill shared his love for music with many students over a long career as a band teacher including countless students of USD 413 in Chanute, KS.

Bill discovered the joy and challenge of aviation when he was in his thirties. First, he earned his private pilot's license and instrument rating which allowed him to share the wonder of flight with his family. His wife and children often joked they would never again drive to any destination beyond thirty miles and that in truth, Bill was far better suited to sit behind the yoke of an aircraft than the steering wheel of a car. Bill went on to earn multiple pilot's certificates and ratings, turning his fascination with aviation into a career which culminated in the position of Flight Instructor at FlightSafety International in Wichita, KS. Bill loved working with pilots from all over the world to provide the encouragement and personalized training they needed to keep their passengers safe.

Bill was also an avid outdoorsman. Each season of the year was reserved for a special outdoor activity. Whether it was looking for morel mushrooms, hunting upland game with his favorite Brittany spaniel or fishing with good friends, Bill loved being outdoors. In fact, he chose Southeast Kansas as his

permanent home in part because he loved the “good fishing” afforded by the area’s abundance of rivers and lakes.

It brings Bill’s family great comfort to know he can now be laid to rest in this place he loved so much and chose to call home.

A visitation will be held on Monday, February 17, 2020 from 5-7 p.m. at Countryside Funeral Home Johnson Chapel in Chanute, KS. Funeral service will be on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 10 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Chanute, KS. Burial will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery in Chanute. Online condolences may be left at: www.countrysidefh.com. The family suggests memorials to be made to Fellow Man International Foundation and may be mailed to P.O. box 2993, Salina, KS 67402. Arrangements have been entrusted to Countryside Funeral Home, 101 N. Highland, Chanute, KS 66720.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

E.. 14th St.
Chanute, KS 66720

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Countryside Funeral Home - Johnson Chapel
101 N. Highland
Chanute, KS 66720
(620) 431-1220
<https://www.countrysidefh.com>

Service

FEB 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church-Chanute
202 S. Lincoln
Chanute, KS 66720

Tribute Wall

FS

“ FMI Board with our love and support. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Willis "Bill" Leroy Armstrong Jr..



FMI Board with our love and support. - February 18, 2020 at 11:52 AM

LK

“ As my flight instructor for a twin-engine rating, Bill and I flew a lot of hours together. He also gave me countless biannual flight reviews. I remember Bill as being a gentle soul who loved people. The family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Lyle Kee - February 17, 2020 at 11:52 AM



Thank you for your words. He absolutely loved his time with pilots. I remember him mentioning you often and how much he enjoyed flying with you.

Lisa Armstrong - February 21, 2020 at 12:58 PM

LB

“ I lost contact with Bill after he went to flight safety but I often thought about him and the hours together getting my ratings. So sorry to hear of his passing.
Larry Bell

larry bell - February 17, 2020 at 08:54 AM

MC

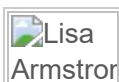
“ It just seems like yesterday that Willis and I were at the farm where he was born and raised. We were trying to discover some fun to pass the time. We discovered that if we pushed the lever on his Dad's grease gun real fast it would squirt grease a long way. The chickens made good targets.

The evening his dad wondered how the chickens got grease on them.

Very sorry to hear Willis had passed, Our thoughts and Prayers are with Jean and the family. We are in Florida unable to attend the service, very sorry.

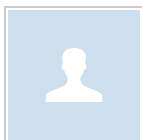
Jim and Marjorie Needham. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Marjorie James A Needham, Cousin - February 16, 2020 at 12:09 PM



I seem to remember a few stories about the two of you floating around our house when I was a kid. Dad loved and valued his family and was proud of his heritage. Thank you so much for your kind words!

Lisa Armstrong - February 21, 2020 at 01:00 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Willis "Bill" Leroy Armstrong Jr..



February 16, 2020 at 11:48 AM

DN

“ I had the privilege of being trained by Bill to teach in the simulators at FlightSafety International. He was truly a master simulator instructor and one of the very best ever in the business.

David Norris - February 15, 2020 at 12:03 PM

PF

“ Pat & Bob Kuster & the entire Converse family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Willis "Bill" Leroy Armstrong Jr..



Pat & Bob Kuster & the entire Converse family - February 15, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ Bill was my band teacher. He was a great teacher. He will be missed. So sorry to hear about your loss. Debbie (bright) Jones. I am Otto and Betty Bright's daughter.

Debbie Jones - February 14, 2020 at 10:45 PM

LA

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lisa Armstrong - February 14, 2020 at 04:35 PM

LA

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lisa Armstrong - February 14, 2020 at 04:34 PM