

William "Bill" Ervin Mathis

August 2, 1931 ~ March 8, 2023

William Ervin Mathis, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, passed away at his home on Wednesday, March 8th, 2023, at the age of 91. He was born in Price, Utah on August 2, 1931, to George and Anna (Stoker) Mathis. Bill was the fifth of eight children, growing up on a farm outside Price. He is well known by those close to him for his many childhood stories of Carbon County. He was married to Ann Bunnell of Price, UT on August 22, 1957 in the Salt Lake Temple.

Bill served four years in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and later earned both a Bachelor and Master of Music Education from Brigham Young University. A talented musician, he played clarinet and saxophone in orchestras and dance bands and loved to sing. He taught music in public schools in central Utah for 15 years before returning to graduate school at the University of Michigan, where he earned a PhD in Music Education. He was a Professor of Music at Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas for 27 years, where he served as the Director of the School of Music and Associate Dean of the College of Fine Arts. Throughout his career he taught thousands of students and mentored countless faculty. Upon retirement, Bill and Ann moved back to Utah to be close to family. They also served a family history records preservation mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Oklahoma Tulsa Mission.

Bill is best known for his gentleness and generosity, always assuming the best of everyone he met. He went above and beyond what was merely required as a teacher, academic, administrator, and carpenter. His sensitive focus to details allowed for subtle things to be noticed, whether counterpoint in quiet piece of music, a leopard resting in thick foliage, or the nuances of a game a grandchild is playing. Those boyhood days on the farm seem to have instilled a great reservoir of kindness, loyalty, industry, and gentility—a deep well from which generations are now drinking.

Above all, he loved and served his family, and they loved him. Bill is survived by his wife Ann of sixty-seven years, son Bill (Carol) of Bowling Green, OH, daughter Marcy Matheson (Hugh) of Salt Lake City, seven grandchildren, and twelve great grandchildren. His youngest brother Frank of St. George, UT is the sole survivor of his eight siblings.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 11:00 a.m. at the LDS Chapel on 2125 E. Evergreen Ave. in Millcreek, UT. A viewing and family reception will take place from 9:30-10:45. Bill will be laid to rest at Larkin Sunset Gardens in Sandy, UT.

To view the recorded service, please click on the blue Watch Services tab above.