

William "Bill" Stephenson Hesterman

October 17, 1954 ~ August 30, 2024

William “Bill” Stephenson Hesterman passed away on August 30, 2024 due to his years long battle with pancreatic cancer. Bill was born on October 17, 1954 in Salt Lake City to William and Barbara Hesterman. He was the oldest of five children and loved his immediate family. He loved his childhood and could often be found alongside his dad at local radio station KNAK and at Lagoon to help put on concerts produced by the radio station. He then took the skills he learned with his dad to East High School to lead up the school’s stage crew.

Bill is most well known for his love for pipe organs. As a teenager he took organ lessons from Tabernacle Organist Roy M. Darley. As he learned how to play the instrument he gained an appreciation for how the instrument worked. He learned the skills of tuning and repairing the organ and following his mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Los Angeles, he started his own business building, tuning, and repairing pipe and electronic organs across the intermountain west. His favorite project was taking care of the organ in the Tabernacle on Temple Square during the building’s seismic restoration in 2005-2007.

His busiest time of year was always in December when many churches wanted their organ to sound its best for their annual Christmas programs. To unwind from his “busy season” he would put on his own Christmas organ recital at his neighborhood LDS ward house on Christmas Eve. It became a favorite tradition for his family and many neighbors and friends.

For years he participated in the men’s choir The Swanee Singers. He sang with the group, did stage crew, and eventually conducted the choir. Every spring he always looked forward to the choir’s annual concert. He also enjoyed participating in his stake’s annual production of the Messiah.

Bill met his wife, Jolene, as they attended the same ward as teenagers in Salt Lake City. They dated through high school and after his mission. A story is told that he was going to break up with Jolene but was stunned from speaking when he went to see her. He then had his speaking ability return when he decided he had the courage to ask her to marry him. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple and enjoyed being together for almost 48 years.

Bill and Jolene had three kids. Bill was always the planner for the fun in the family. He made sure his kids shared his love for the Beach Boys by making sure they attended many of the band’s concerts. He also shared his love of all things Disney with his family as he took them on many trips to Disneyland and a few to Disney World.

He also loved trains. He could often be found reading a railroading magazine or counting down the days until he could put his model train up around the family Christmas tree and then leave it up until Valentine’s Day.

Bill was called to various positions within the Church. Most notably, whether officially called or not, he was often found playing the organ in whatever ward he attended. He served as a stake clerk, high priest group leader, and counselor in his ward bishopric. He also served as an assistant to the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square giving

tours of the organs at Temple Square and assisting in maintenance work on the organs when extra help was needed by the full-time organ staff.

Bill is preceded in death by his father, William Hesterman. He is survived by his wife, Jolene, his children, Julie Smith (Bo), Jana Gledhill (TJ) and Billy Hesterman (Melissa) and his nine grandchildren. He is also survived by his mother Barbara and his siblings David Hesterman (Becky), Mark Hesterman (Ashley), Lori Smith, and Kristy Moffat (David).

Funeral services for Bill will be held on Friday, September 6th at 10:30 a.m., at the Big Cottonwood Stake Center, 1750 E. Spring Lane, Holladay. Viewings will be held at the same location on Thursday, September 5th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Friday.

Those wishing to view the service via Zoom can click "Watch Service" or follow the link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81960811757