



William F. Leek

June 7, 1943 - July 25, 2020

Bill was born to William and Rose Leek on June 7, 1943 in Birmingham, England. Bill often talked about his childhood and the wonderful memories he had growing up surrounded by a loving and supportive family. As a child Bill enjoyed sports and loved to ride his bicycle. As he got older he joined a bicycle club where he would participate in road riding and track racing. Bill's love for cycling continued throughout his life and he was a member of local cycling club Canyon Velo for more than 35 years.

By the time he was 15 Bill's life-long love of all things with 2 wheels became apparent and his dad, Uncle Chuck, cousins Don and Eddy encouraged his curiosity in motorcycles and gave him hands on lessons on how to build and repair them. At the age of 16 Bill made his first trip to the Isle of Man for the TT races. The TT races would become an annual pilgrimage and the time spent with friends was the highlight of each year.

With his easy-going nature, quick humor and friendly smile Bill made a lasting impression on all those he came into contact with. Bill has always had many friends but two were lifelong friends and he considered them his brothers. Bill met Freddy Shaylor when they were 5 years old and remained friends until Fred's passing about 7 years ago. Ray Willis and Bill met when Bill was 15. Their shared love of motorcycles and friendship lasted until Ray passed away in May 2020.

Bill's professional career began when he left school at the age of 15 to begin his tool and die apprenticeship. Completing his apprenticeship at age 21 Bill was determined to try and learn all different aspects of tool and die work and worked for many tool rooms around his hometown of Birmingham. In 1982 Bill followed a dream and moved with his family to California to continue his work as a tool and die maker.

In 1983 he was offered a position in the tool room at Simpson Strong Tie in Brea, California. Bill retired after 20 years at Simpson Manufacturing headquartered in Pleasanton, CA. During his tenure at Simpson Strong-Tie Bill was actively encouraged to ride his bicycle at any time because he always came back with ideas for new products. Bill is listed as the inventor of over 50 patents held by Simpson Strong-Tie and always insisted that anyone who offered a suggestion or worked on the patent also be named as co-inventor. In a male dominated industry Bill worked side by side at Simpson with two women he had much respect for, Karen Colonias, and Jacinta Pister. When notified of his death both reached out to Carol to offer their personal condolences for a 'truly special man' who was 'always such a happy presence' and a 'creative genius.'

Bill was the most loving, kind, caring, and compassionate man you could ever meet. His family was the most important thing to him. Bill leaves the love of his life and wife of 39 years, Carol. Their strong bond, love, and friendship is a true testament to their relationship and their close relationship with their family. Bill is survived by his sister Norma (John), sons Karl (Helen), Paul (Alice), Matt (Denise) and Will (Marijke). Bill was a loving and greatly loved 'Papa' to 6 grandchildren Mackensie, Rosie, Landon, Mason, Katelyn and Brayden. He leaves 3 fur grandchildren big kitty, engie, and Gladys. In lieu of sending flowers please consider donating to help others. Bill was a very caring individual that always wanted to help others and had a soft spot for animals.

With that in mind we would like for you to consider donating to either Habitat for Humanity or Irvine Animal Care Center on behalf of Bill Leek.

<https://www.habitat.org/donate/?keyword=header>

<https://www.cityofirvine.org/irvine-animal-care-center/donate-support>

Tribute Wall

JR

“ We were very saddened to hear of Billy's passing. He was a genuine person and always had time to say hello. Billy was always interested in what you had to say and he always had a smile on his face. Our thoughts and best wishes are with Carol and family at this difficult time.



Jeff & Dawn Railton - August 09, 2020 at 08:08 PM

MB

“ Sending our condolences to Carol & family, Bill was a loving husband, father and friend. He will be greatly missed by all. Our thoughts are with you,
Keith & Mary Burton

Mary Burton - August 09, 2020 at 01:56 PM

JC

“ Have only met Bill and Carol couple years ago and during that time I realize how genuine they and friendly they were. Bill was always willing to help me with my cycling questions and worked on my bike. Got to see some of the art pieces that he painted and they are beautiful. Our deepest condolences to Carol and family. Jesse and Chris.

Jesse and Chris - August 09, 2020 at 12:03 PM

RW

“ Carol and family, again we want to pass on our deepest sympathies to all of you at this time. It has always a pleasure to be in yours and Billy's company, and we and everyone will miss him dearly. My memories of Billy go back a long time. I remember you both from the Garden Gate pub, where I used to drink with Pat Conway. I can still picture Billy in the bar at the pub and Carol I can remember you working behind the bar. I think you know Lynne also worked at the Garden Gate, she must be posh as she work in the lounge. One occasion I particularly remember is walking back from the Garden gate with Billy towards Hampstead, and Billy telling me he was off on his American adventure. Not sure on the year, maybe 1980. I do remember being so envious of Bill going to the US, I have sometimes thought since, that conversation maybe helped push me to come over here.

Well Carol you and Bill have had that 40 years American adventure together, and even though he is no longer with us in person, he will always be in our hearts.

God bless to you and the family, lots of love Lynne and Ray xx

Ray Waterson - August 08, 2020 at 02:53 PM

RP

“ Our thoughts and sympathy are with you and your family Carol at this sad time.
Rest in peace Bill.
Ray and Sandy Pilling

Ray Pilling - August 08, 2020 at 11:12 AM

GT

“ We have happy memories of Billy, always a smile. We’ve enjoyed hanging out on Sunday “funday”, and will miss him, his sense of humor, and smile. We are devastated for Carol and his family, a beautiful couple never apart. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carol and family, Billy will always be in our hearts. Gareth and Tracey xxx

Gareth and Tracey - August 07, 2020 at 09:44 PM

JP

“ Many happy memories of Bill from colleagues at Simpson Strong-Tie:

I am just heart-broken. I saw him maybe a year ago, visited him in Carmel many times. Loved him. He would come to me all the time with new ideas to patent... and obviously one of our most prolific inventors ever. Motorcycles races on the Isle Man and of course his love for the two wheeled transports; bikes and motorcycles.

I have many stories – his invention of the steel wall came from the triangular tongue on a trailer he was hauling a bike on. His love for old motorcycles was epic. He used to go to Daytona and the Isle Man for motorcycle races. He loved Simpson dearly. --Steve

Many years ago Bill and I happened to be in Maui at the same time. We both had brought our bikes. We met one morning and rode UP Haleakala which tops out at 10,000'. One of Bill's great joys was riding. So sad to hear this news. And yes... he went out doing what he loved.--Todd

Bill was definitely that creative guy but he was also a genuinely good guy. We all knew him as the innovator and designer but he was a fun guy to have a beer with too. The man could spin a tale! He would come over to the Hopyard sometimes after we (the Simpson team) played softball and hang around and lift a few. Gail got to meet him that way. She didn't know anything about who he was at Simpson, she just really enjoyed his company because of how he was...as did I. --Tom

I remember when he was developing the steel strongwall. I remember when he traveled to Colorado with us when we bought our very first automation project for San Leandro, he was a great resource and full of knowledge. He was truly a class act! --Tony

I was thinking about Bill Leek last weekend when I went to the beach and trail near Bill's old house in Carmel. I visited him a few times after he retired. Seems not very long ago we discussed how

to design the take-up device in an unique restaurant, again the napkin was his design board.

I learn from Bill how to simplify the ITT die design to accommodate about 140 different sizes. I learned from him how to draw steel and prepare for in-die tapping to make EPB44T. I learn from him how to pierce multiple layers of steel to make HTT. I always can learn something from him when I talk to him, absorb his tooling and product design experiences or listen to his funny stories.

Bill is the person can marry the art and technology together. I will miss him deeply. --JIn Jie

Jacinta Pister - August 07, 2020 at 11:54 AM

JP

“ *I first met Bill in 1989 at our Brea plant. His dedication and determination to improve our company made an incredible difference to me and the company. His endless creativity made him legendary, and his influence continues in many of our products today.*

But most important was his warmth, positive attitude, willingness to help anyone who wanted help, and genuinely happy approach to everyone and everything.

*With heartfelt condolences,
Jacinta Pister*

Jacinta Pister - August 06, 2020 at 06:12 PM

AC

“ I've known Bill for over 30 years and remember warm-heartedly our times out on a Friday night, having a few pints with Mitch in Brea. Every time I met up with Bill and Carol, Bill always had this lovely smile that made me feel welcome. I will miss his stories about his bike rides, motorcycles, and visits to see the TT races, but I will mostly miss his kind heart.
Love and miss you Bill.
Andy & Niki

andy cocks - August 06, 2020 at 03:21 PM

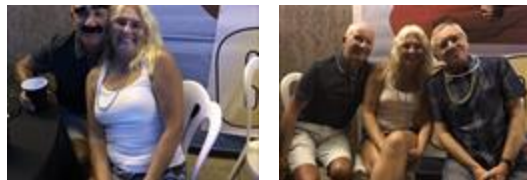
YW

“ We had only known Billy for a relatively short time compared to others but each time we saw him it was as if we had known him all our lives , he was always delighted to see us and the feeling was mutual. He will be missed!
Our deepest condolences to Carol and the family , if there's anything we can do for you please don't hesitate to reach out.
Yolande and Ron Walton

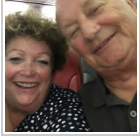
yolande walton - August 06, 2020 at 10:44 AM

YW

“ 2 files added to the album In Memory



yolande walton - August 06, 2020 at 10:34 AM



“ *Met Bill 40 years ago. He was good friend through the years. Never changed. Always down to earth. So very sad to hear this news. Carole you are in our thoughts. Love Pete and Sharon Tout*

Sharon Tout - August 06, 2020 at 03:50 AM



“ *We were so saddened to learn of Billy's passing. Sending you lots of love and comfort, we are so sorry for your loss.*

Andy and Cristi Weedall

Cristi Weedall - August 06, 2020 at 03:39 AM



“ *We are so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. We shared many great adventures and many good times. His memory will live on in our hearts. Our love and condolences to Carol and his family.*

Keith & Mireya



Keith Vandevere - August 05, 2020 at 10:46 PM

DY

“ Derek & Yvonne

Met Bill 40 years ago on the plane to California. So friendly with a great smile. Watching him pedal up Maui's Haleakala volcano to the crater is just one of the fond memories we have of Bill, Carol and family. We know he will always be in their hearts. Will miss you Bill.

Derek & Yvonne - August 05, 2020 at 09:12 PM

RS

“ *I only knew Bill from the seat of my bicycle where I found him to be modest and cheerful under all circumstances. The charities his family identified for people wanting to honor his memory provide additional insight to his heart and humanity, an inspiring view I had not been privy to before. May his memory be for a blessing.*

Richard Savitt - August 05, 2020 at 04:35 PM

SM

“ *Bill had the kindest soul. He rode with our cycling group in Monterey and we will miss him so much. I called him " English Bill" and he was an exceptional cyclist and friend. Thank you for the memories, Bill.*

Cycle on!

Sue and Gordon martine

sue martine - August 05, 2020 at 12:06 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of William F. Leek.*



August 05, 2020 at 12:05 PM

TM

“ I knew Bill from work. He was definitely a creative person and innovative thinker but what I remember him for is the way he could spin a tale. He was a genuinely good guy and will be missed! Condolences to the family.

tom mcclain - August 05, 2020 at 11:11 AM

DT

“ Such an amazing man. He shared his gift of art, with our preschool and kindergarten classes, and the children couldn't stop talking about Mr. Bill and his beautiful artwork. His infectious smile, generous heart and laughter will be missed by all. ♡♡♡

Donna Thomas - August 04, 2020 at 02:14 PM

WL

“ 2 files added to the album *In Memory*



william leek - August 04, 2020 at 01:25 PM