



William Edward Hodges
12/01/1946 – 09/02/2021

William Edward Hodges, beloved brother and friend, passed away on Thursday, September 2nd, 2021. Bill was born December 1st, 1946 in San Antonio Texas to Marjorie Mae Gilliam and Douglas Charles Hodges. The firstborn after eight years of marriage, Bill was the darling of his parent's heart.

Born into a military family, Bill did his early schooling in Germany, Kansas, and Texas. He attended high school in San Antonio where he was an integral part of the 1960's scene. His first job was as a car-hop at The Pig-Stand, the nation's first drive-in restaurant and still a San Antonio treasure. An usher and film courier for the iconic Majestic Theater, he transported the large reels of film that entertained many a San Antonio resident. At Playland Park, a famous local attraction of the era, Bill buckled visitors into cars that carried them into the Haunted Castle. Transitioning into adulthood, Bill set out to expand his training and skills in the Job Corps where he maintained parks and federal lands.

In February of 1966 Bill was drafted into the army. He trained as a cook and did a tour of duty in Vietnam where he was awarded an Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal with a Bronze Service Star. Developing cancer due to chemical exposure, Bill was medically discharged. He put his GI bill to good use attending barber college and working towards a degree in accounting.

Bill was a favorite Uncle to his nephews, taking them on many adventures. Whisking them off for the weekend, they would end up at Schlitterbahn and other wonderful destinations, returning home both jubilant and exhausted. As teenagers, the nephews enjoyed pool-side parties at their Uncle Bill's. He even let them borrow his van (a privilege that was rescinded after the boys left it on the freeway gasless and Uncle Bill had to pick it up from the impound lot). His nephews still remember how, after a night on the town, their uncle Bill would give them a place to crash. Regardless of the hour, he would always open the door with a smile. Bill loved to cook, often delighting his family with his culinary skills. His Spaghetti Bolognese was a particular favorite.

An avid Civil War historian, Bill loved to regale friends with stories of battles and intrigues. He was an expert on Armstrong Custer and a veritable encyclopedia of facts and anecdotes on the famous general. A collector of guns and of war memorabilia, he especially

prized his Winchester Golden Boy and loved to show off the detail in his replica of General Custer's uniform.

The Texas Renaissance Festival was a favorite experience for Bill. He thoroughly enjoyed putting his costume together and hunting for accessories. Looking like nobility, Bill wore his garb gallantly. Catching the eye of numerous festival attendees, he was the focus of many a visitor's camera. It was at events like this that his love of life was evident to all.

Bill is survived by his sisters, Alice Adele Carr, Ginger Young, Madelyn Rogers, and brother Harold Hodges. He is being honored at Ft Sam Houston Cemetery on Monday, the 13th of September, at 1:45 pm. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served afterward at the Courtyard by Marriott Sea World/Westover Hills (11605 TX-151 San Antonio, TX 78251).

