



## Ralph William "Bill" Chapman

February 19, 1945 - September 21, 2021

Ralph William "Bill" Chapman, age 76, of Springfield, MO passed away on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at National Health Care in Joplin, MO. Bill, or "Billy" if you knew him in his youth, was born in Pierce City, MO on Monday, February 19, 1945; son of William Harold and Nadene (Robinson) Chapman.

Mr. Chapman graduated from Pierce City High School in 1963, where he was in track, football, played the Tuba in band, and was in the glee club. A talented musician, he went on to play Tuba for the SMS band, sang in the SMS Choir and played in the National FFA Band. He was a Vietnam War Navy Veteran and was stationed at the Naval Base Coronado in San Diego. He served aboard two ships while in his service, the USS Bexar and USS Thomaston. Mr. Chapman obtained a Bachelor's Degree from SMS in Springfield, MO and also received a Master's Degree in Computer Science from Mizzou. He was a social studies teacher at Jefferson Junior High in Columbia, MO for many years before endeavoring into his second career by attending Nursing School. Mr. Chapman enjoyed helping people and worked as a nurse's aide for over a decade at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, MO.

Mr. Chapman was a devoted father and family member, who is remembered for always having a story for anyone who knew him. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, cook, and lover of dogs who was happy to tell stories about trips to Canada, deer hunting with his friends, fishing at Roaring River or rabbit

hunting with his beloved dogs Star, Bullet, Sally, and Elmer. Known for his versatility, he was a hard worker who was equally at home on a wheat harvest, on a roofing job, a hospital floor, or in a classroom. He loved to travel, but deeply appreciated the beauty of the Ozarks. He was a past Master of the Strafford Masonic Lodge and enjoyed spending time and socializing with his lodge brothers. He learned to love video games just to spend more time with his son, and was known to play a mean game of Ms. Pac-man. He was especially a proud Grandpa to his granddaughter Orrin.

Rather than sending flowers, he would have wanted everyone to do something nice for someone else in his name to remember him...along with relating a story or two he might have been involved in to someone else!

Surviving him are his son and daughter-in-law, Justin and Valerie Chapman of Williamsburg, VA; and one granddaughter, Orrin Elise Chapman of Williamsburg, VA, along with his niece, Regina Tebow of Mt. Vernon, MO; and his nephew, Wade Carlin of Fargo, ND. He will be missed by many other extended family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willie and Nadene Chapman; and his sister, Patricia Hayes.

Mr. Chapman has been cremated at his request. Graveside memorial services, with Military Honors, will be at Schooling Cemetery (near Pierce City, MO) on Monday, June 20, 2022, beginning at 10:30 AM.

Arrangements are under the personal care and direction of Lakin Funeral Home in Pierce City, MO.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Memorial Service

JUN **20**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Schooling Cemetery  
2114 County Road Lawrence 2165  
Wentworth, MO 64873

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ralph William "Bill" Chapman*

---

October 09, 2023 at 08:34 AM



“ *I'm so sorry to just find this. I delivered Meals on Wheels to Bill up through August 2021 and never heard anything more after that. I always saved him for last on my route because I thoroughly enjoyed talking to him. He always had a story for me. I'll never forget when he brought me into his house excited about a new knife that he had and insisted on showing me how well it cut his avocado. He would tell me stories about his time in service. He had so many hilarious stories to share! We also talked about music and shared different songs that we knew (I was a trombonist). He also enjoyed telling me of his time growing up. I've really missed talking to him and hearing his stories. He was a kind man that the world is a little bit darker without. My condolences to his family.*

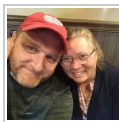
---

**Sarah Dunn** - July 09, 2022 at 02:02 AM

RH

“ I met Bill Chapman in January, 1968 at the US Navy Station Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA. Bill hailed me as I was leaving the barracks building and asked if I was Rick. We caught up later and I discovered he recognized me as a trumpet player from SMS band where he played tuba. We wished each other well and I was shipped out to Okinawa and then Da Nang. About two weeks later at Camp Tien Sha, Da Nang, Vietnam I looked up and Bill was walking through the front door. We discovered we were both assigned to the same ship, USS Bexar APA237. We served together on the Bexar until Bill was transferred in August 1969. Two country boys had lots of interesting and fun times seeing the world together. Bill and I stayed friends for many years after we got off active duty, he in Columbia while I moved to Kansas City and then Springfield. We lost touch when I moved to New Jersey in 1981 but reconnected in January of this year, sadly we did not have another opportunity to meet in person. Rest in Peace my friend and my sincere condolences to Justin and the rest of Bill's family and friends.

Rick Haymes - December 10, 2021 at 03:46 PM



Thanks for posting Rick. That was nice to hear from your perspective. :) Even after '81, dad always talked about you, and was sooo excited when you two reconnected after all that time.

Justin Chapman - June 26, 2022 at 01:05 PM

JC

“ 3 files added to the album Bill Chapman



Justin Chapman - September 24, 2021 at 11:18 PM

NJ

“ Nice family. His Dad was my bus driver for many years and his mom was the first person I knew that shared my name.

---

**Nadine (Crawford) Jones** - September 24, 2021 at 12:22 AM

DJ

“ Fun high school days in the music department at school.

---

**Dorothy (Bowman) Jones** - September 22, 2021 at 10:20 PM