



William P. Kaldis

June 15, 1923 - May 26, 2021

William Peter Kaldis, Professor Emeritus of History at Ohio University, died in Columbus, Ohio on May 26, 2021, at 8:57PM.

Bill was born June 15, 1923 in Lowell, Massachusetts, the son of Panagiotis and Panagiota Kaldis. Bill was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Cynthia Anne, brothers

Peter and Nicholas, and sisters Jenny, Joyce, Alice, and Frieda; a sister, Helen, survives. He

leaves behind children Peter (Julie), Nicholas (Shu-Min), and Maria Arend (Todd). He has six

adored grandchildren, Nicholas, Kristina (Adam), Alexander, Katherine, Alexandra, and Arden.

In 1943, Bill enlisted in the military and served from August, 1943 through January, 1946. He served in the 19th

Infantry Regiment (24th Infantry Division) as an Antitank Gun

Specialist and completed his service as Technical Sergeant. He saw combat in New Guinea and

the Philippines, and was part of the Occupational Forces on Shikoku Island, Japan. He was

awarded the Purple Heart, Asiatic Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon with Bronze Service Arrowhead, and a Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Service Stars.

After the war, Bill became the first in his family to attend college on the GI Bill. He earned his BA degree from Ohio State and, later, his MA and PhD degrees from the University

of Wisconsin. He then began a long career as a history professor, holding positions at the University of Wisconsin, University of Cincinnati, University of Kentucky, and Ohio University,

from where he retired, in 1997, after three decades of service.

During his three decades at Ohio University, Bill taught courses in Western Civilization, Balkan and Byzantine History, Early Christianity and introduced a course on the Ancient

Greek

Olympics. He was twice elected University Professor of the year by the student body. For many

years, he led a popular study-abroad program to Greece for students and local residents.

Bill also

served as advisor to the Phi Alpha Theta academic honor society in history and the

Barbell Club

at Grover Center. He was a member of the American Historical Society and The Modern

Greek

Studies Association.

Bill was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship on three separate occasions. On his final

Fulbright, Bill was accompanied by Cynthia and their three young children. The children

attended

Greek elementary school, where they learned the language and customs. Bill

and

Cynthia also took the kids to explore many archeological sites. Bill's Fulbright research led

to

the publication of his book, John Capodistrias and the Modern Greek State (1963).

In his 40s, Bill completed over a dozen marathons, including the Boston Marathon and

many Athens (Ohio) Marathons. He was a proud runner and supporter of the Athens

Marathon

and arranged

to have laurel wreaths flown in from Greece to crown the winners. He was a

passionate

fan of the Red Sox, Celtics, and Patriots, and an ardent OSU Buckeyes fan.

Bill was a

life-long member of the Greek Orthodox Church; he and Cynthia were also members of

the

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Athens, where Bill served as an usher. For decades,

Bill

arranged the monthly Greek Orthodox community services held at the Good Shepherd.

The family will attend a burial with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

"The unexamined life is not worth living" - Socrates

Comments



“ In 1971, I went for 9 weeks to Greece with Dr. Kaldis , Mrs. Kaldis, and their 3 children through the Study Abroad Program at Ohio University. I was the older student at 23, as well as retired Judge and Mrs. Grey. The trip was unbelievable and I still view it as my fondest and most memorable experience. So much knowledge he possessed and tried to impart as much of it to us as he could. We were all over Greece. I've been back to Greece a couple more times recently, but no experience can surpass that one.

Hope Mills Diggle

Hope Mills Diggle - June 07 at 01:36 PM



“ My deepest. Sympathies for your loss.

Ken Seeley

ken Seeley - June 05 at 02:41 PM



“ My sympathies to the family of Bill and Cynthia. Yours were wonderful parents!

Gary Seeley - June 04 at 02:31 PM



“ Pete, Maria and Nick (and all of your families) - Sending you sincere sympathy on the loss of your father. My best memory of your father is him running up and down the median of Route 33. I was always so impressed by that - even in the hottest weather. His life was impressive, and that is a memory I will always have. Thinking of all of you at this very difficult time.

Fondly,
Tracy Smith

Tracy Smith - June 01 at 08:41 AM



“ Cynthia was my high school Latin teacher and coach of my quiz bowl team. Bill taught courses on western civ and Balkan history. I travelled with him twice to Greece. They are two of my favorite people and will be missed.

Charles Smith

Charles Smith - June 01 at 08:31 PM



“ Bill and I were colleagues in the history department for many years. He was a very kind man.

Katherine Jellison - June 03 at 10:43 AM



“ Pete and family,

Your father was such a positive man, even when injuries kept him from running. It was always a pleasure to run unto him uptown and catch up. My father was a friend of his, and always told me what a kind man your dad was. How cool and special it was that he had laurel wreaths flown in from Greece for the winners of the Athens Marathon.

Jeff Schneider - June 03 at 09:02 PM



“ 14 files added to the album Memories Album



Maria Arend - June 01 at 08:01 AM



“ One of the best and most interesting professors I ever had at O.U.. He brought the subjects alive. Especially loved his Ancient Greek Games course. He stimulated a life long curiosity and passion for history in my life. RIP and O-H... !

Doc McGarey - May 31 at 06:53 AM



“ When I came to Ohio Universty in 1970, Bill was the first history department person to befriend me. Over time I came to regard him as one of the best friends I'd ever had. I greatly admired him for his war service, which he performed bravely, honorably, and with distinction. Always good company, he was a fine companion with whom I had many enjoyable moments. I genuinely loved the man. His passing leaves me deeply saddened.

Charles Alexander

charles alexander - May 30 at 11:10 AM



“ Phyllis and I are so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. We all shared offices in the basement of Bentley Hall and saw each other daily. Bill was such a wonderful colleague, full of enthusiasm and knowledge. We always regretted that we never went on one of his summer Greek tours. He was a good man who will be missed. — Doug Baxter and Phyllis Field Baxter.

Doug Baxter - May 29 at 02:44 PM



“ Caring Condolences Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of William P. Kaldis.



May 28 at 09:38 PM



“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Kristina - May 28 at 08:34 PM