



William Loren Flinn

November 22, 1938 - June 9, 2018

William “Bill” Flinn passed away peacefully at his home in Columbus, Ohio on the morning of June 9th surrounded by family. He was born on November 22, 1938 in Piqua, OH to Margorie Marie Flinn and Charles E. Flinn of Houston, OH. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, brother-in-law, William Barber and nephew Charles Barber.

After graduating from Houston High School, he went on to earn a B.S. in Agricultural Economics (1960), an M.S. in Rural Sociology (1961) and a PhD in Rural Sociology (1966) all from The Ohio State University. He had a long and distinguished career as a Professor at The University of Wisconsin and The Ohio State University where he received numerous teaching and research awards among other distinctions and honorary positions including a Fulbright Lectureship at the National University in Bogota, Columbia, President of the Rural Sociological Society, Distinguished Rural Sociologist by the Rural Sociological Society, Alpha Gamma Rho Brother of the Century Award and Sigma Delta’s Outstanding International Award and Outstanding Research Award. He became the President and Executive Director of the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities in 1980 and remained in that position for over 20 years even though it was initially only supposed to be a short-term appointment. Under his leadership MUCIA enjoyed unprecedented international growth and success. Later in his career he returned to academics and his passion for teaching.

He had a full and well lived life traveling the globe and making many friends

along the way. He was dedicated to teaching and serving others with love and compassion and was an amazing story teller, the life of the party and a loyal friend and colleague.

Bill is survived by his wife of 52 years, Susan; two brothers Dick (Marla) and Gary (Susan) Flinn; sister Kathleen Barber; brother-in-law Glen Heller (Sandy); daughter Anne Clark and her husband Jim; son Jim Flinn and his wife Sara; five grandchildren Danny, Thomas, Johnny, William and Oliver along with nieces and nephews: Holly Flinn, Heidi McCabe (Tim), Victoria (Brian) McCurdy and Nick Flinn and their families; best friend Bob Caldwell and his family and honorary son Morgan Clark.

Per his wishes, no formal services will be held but a celebration of his life at The Varsity Club will be announced at a later date. One last Bill Flinn party.

Tribute Wall



“ *William Loren Flinn*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Dear Susan and Family*

I only learned of Bills passing. I can not tell you how sad I am. He was a kind and good man and friend to me. I learned a lot from Bill. I saw the mention of the Varsity Club and thought how it was exactly what I would have expected him to say. I am very sorry I did not know of this sooner. With my deepest condolences to you all. Forever in my memory. He was a wonderful guy! Herb Davis

Herbert Davis - August 31, 2019 at 10:14 PM



“ *Very sad. We have so many wonderful memories of Bill, Susan, Anne and Jim. Every memory brings a smile to our faces. Warm thoughts are with all of you. Dan & Diane Hill Matt Hill & Tonya Young.*

Diane Hill - June 12, 2018 at 08:17 PM

BT

“ Susan and family,

I am sorry to hear of Bill's passing. I knew Bill as an "AGR" and even though he was a bit older than me...I have great memories and AGR will greatly miss Bill. He was from a time at the AGR house when it was truly a great fraternity and he was part of making it the terrific place that it is today. Bridget and I send our prayers to the family and his "brothers" at AGR. Bill Tom

Bill Tom - June 12, 2018 at 07:24 AM

DS

“ *Bill was a most unforgettable friend and brother. He and Susan were such great story tellers that even if you had heard the story before, they could still hold your attention and make you laugh. I will never forget our times together in Colombia, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic (there are a bunch of stories there). So many people were impacted by the work Bill did and his infectious personality made it possible. I know he also made a huge difference in the lives and careers of his students.*

I want to share some photos, but unfortunately I don't have them with me in Scotland. Maybe later. I hope to celebrate Bill at the Varsity Club. The last time I was there I was with my wife, son, his wife and three grandkids and we shared Bill stories.

Dwight Steen - June 12, 2018 at 02:21 AM