



William Hickman

March 8, 1943 - October 19, 2025

William Hickman, 82, passed away peacefully October 19, 2025, in Sarasota, FL surrounded by his loving family. A captain of industry and a devoted family man, William leaves behind a legacy of innovation, generosity, and unwavering commitment to his family and community.

William was born March 8, 1943, in St. Louis, MO, the son of William and Ann (Keaton) Hickman. William earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry from St. Louis University in 1965 and began his long career with Anheuser-Busch as a research chemist in the St. Louis brewery. His responsibilities shifted to operations and quality control beginning in 1968 working in the St. Louis, MO, Newark, NJ and Jacksonville, FL breweries before being named Plant Manager of the Columbus, OH brewery in 1980. William also served as Plant Manager of the Williamsburg VA brewery in 1989. He was ultimately appointed as an officer of Anheuser-Busch in 1992 and promoted to the role of Vice President of Plant Operations. A firm believer in education and personal development, he completed his master's degree in human resources and management at Webster University in 1997.

William was active in many civic and charitable organizations to include the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the Columbus Urban league, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the National Society to Prevent Blindness, the Industrial Association of Central Ohio, the Boy Scouts of America, the March of Dimes

Birth Defects Foundation, Goodwill, Ohio Dominican College and the United Way.

In 1965 William married his sweetheart Patricia Hickman who passed in 2023. He often said that his favorite memory was his wedding day. They would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in November of this year. William was a devoted husband, father and grandfather that enjoyed family time. He also was an avid golfer and was a member of Double Eagle Golf Club, Brookside Country Club, The Golf Club and Palm-Aire Country Club.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was predeceased by a son, William Charles Hickman. Surviving are his daughters Kimberly Hickman and her partner Wendy Blosser of Queen Creek, AZ; Lisa (Hickman) Kanney and her husband David of Indian Land, SC; three grandchildren, Bradley Kanney, Matthew Kanney and Andrew Kanney.

A private service of remembrance will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in William's memory to: The Tidewell Hospice House: www.tidewellfoundation.org

Tribute Wall

EM

“ I began to work with Bill in the 1970's when i was an electrician in Newark, let him convince me to apply for a supervisors position in Columbus Oh and then to St Louis brewery. I retired as full time in 2008 then as a consultant/ contractor till 2025. I have never in my 50 soome years in operations to have known such a trustworthy, honest and real person as Bill. It has been an honour to have known him and Pat these many years. Sadly I just learned of their passing this Feb 2026. Proud and honoured to have know you both.

ed moran - March 01 at 01:05 PM

SM

“ Bill was a strong leader and agreed to take the position of VP of Management Systems at the time we were preparing for the Year 2000, just when we needed a strong leader. I wish I could have worked with him longer to soak up more of his management wisdom. Two of his "teachings" that helped me the most were "People do what you INSPECT, not what you EXPECT," and "Don't let the bastards get you down!" You are already missed by so many, Bill. Prayers of comfort for your daughters and extended family.

Sharon Moeckel - November 11, 2025 at 12:03 PM

AP

Bill was a very effective leader. He left a lasting impression on me that still lives on. I regularly quote him in the classes I teach. He frequently stressed that “ You cannot manage what you do not measure”. Bill, I will never forget the leadership skills you passed along to us.

Alan Paradise - November 11, 2025 at 12:25 PM

GS

Bill made a deep and lasting impression on so many people during his time at AB. His memory was astounding and he knew when to be smooth and congenial and when to be tough. I wish I could have worked more closely with Bill. We are sad for his passing and celebrate a lasting legacy that will echo through the years. Sleep well, Bill.

Glen Smith - November 12, 2025 at 08:35 AM

WP

He Was A Great Friend.

William Palmer - November 19, 2025 at 06:04 PM

WB

Worked with Bill at COB in BP&S maintenance. Like the previous comments, People do what you inspect not what you expect, carried me through my 34 years with AB. RIP! Thanks for all the good memories!

William Bouchane - November 19, 2025 at 07:34 PM

BW

It is with sadness to learn of Bill's passing, yet I am greatfull to have known him. He was a true leader and a great individual. May he rest peacefully.

Barry Wallis - December 09, 2025 at 11:46 AM