



## **William Patrick Fredrickson**

October 1, 1956 – July 18, 2025

William “Bill” Patrick Fredrickson, affectionately known as Bill, Billy, Chumley, Mr. Bill, Dad, and Grandpa, passed away peacefully on July 18, 2025, in Overland Park, Kansas.

Born in Michigan, Bill was the fourth of five children born to James and Catherine “Kae” (Blake) Fredrickson. Growing up, his family moved often for his father’s work at General Electric (GE), calling 13 different states home.

Bill graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he began studying engineering before realizing that sales—and people—were his true calling. He was an alumnus of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity. Following in his father’s footsteps, he began his business career with GE. Promotions led him to Virginia, where he earned his MBA from Duke University. Bill spent most of his career in marketing and sales of communication equipment for public safety, transportation, and utilities.

In 2002, Bill moved to Kansas, where he met Rita. He found Kansas offered all he wanted: love, community, stability, and more. Residing in Kansas for 23 years, it became the longest he had lived in one place. Bill and Rita had many common interests, including their home, yellow labs, and Catholic faith. In 2008, they married and honeymooned on a Greek Isles Cruise, which included Italy, Croatia, and Ephesus in Turkey, where they visited the House of the Virgin Mary. Over the course of their 17-year marriage, they explored the world together through trips, including a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Father Tom and Father Gary. Recently, they island hopped in Hawaii and experienced nature on an African safari.

Bill embraced fatherhood wholeheartedly – volunteering at schools, lending a hand with projects and hobbies, and coaching team sports. He filled their home with laughter, music, and love. Bill believed in living by example. His legacy lives on in his children, who embody his values in their work ethic, perseverance, respect, gratitude, compassion, and many other moral qualities. He was a faithful husband and follower of Christ.

Church of the Ascension was a strong pillar for Bill’s faith. He was honored to be a Lector and lead the congregation in scripture readings during Mass. His flame was ignited for community outreach by his

beloved brothers in the Fraternal Knights of Columbus (KOC) for which he was appointed Grand Knight for two years and Culinary Event Manager for many years (known for the famous Lenten Fish Fries). Bill was a member of the 4th Degree, an additional branch of the KOC that promotes Catholic citizenship, supports Veterans Affairs, and priests who serve as military chaplains.

Bill's favorite way to spend time was with family. He believed that meals brought the family together, and hence he became a fantastic cook. He welcomed feedback on every new recipe and never left a restaurant without believing he could improve it (and do so for less money). His yearning to connect with family stimulated an interest in genealogy. To cherish memories, he organized photo albums for everyone.

Bill was a history buff with a deep love for military history, presidential history, and steam engine trains. He planned many of his travels around visits to presidential libraries – determined to see them all. Music was ever-present in his life. In Bill's presence, you could hear Chicago, James Taylor, Jimmy Buffett, the Doobie Brothers, or the Beach Boys playing in the background or live in concert. Strumming his guitar and singing, music brought joy to him and others.

Bill was an avid athlete and lifelong sports enthusiast. After graduating from college, he took up rugby and, years later, transitioned to refereeing. He also enjoyed golf, tennis, and, more recently, took up pickleball. Though he started out as a die-hard 49ers fan, after living in Kansas, he became one of the Chiefs' most passionate supporters.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, James (1991) and Kae (1989). He is survived by his wife, Rita (Sterrett). He was a devoted father to four children: Emily Reynolds (Kaleb), Brianna Fredrickson, Morgan Sterrett–Roate (Layne), and Micheal Sterrett (Alyssa). He was a proud grandfather of Parker and Preston Reynolds. Bill is further survived by his beloved siblings: Joan (Pat), Jim (Beth), Carol (Joe), and John, as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and countless friends.

To know Bill was to laugh, to learn, and to feel deeply loved. There was never a dull moment in his presence – just stories to be shared, music to be played, games to be won, and love to be given. He was a boss to many, a mentor to most, and a friend to all.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to Knights of Columbus, c/o Tom Gartland, 13300 W 172 Nd St, Overland Park, KS 66221. Write Bill Fredrickson on the memo line so donations can be made to his favorite charities. Final services to honor his life will be held on October 1st at the Church of the Ascension in Overland Park, KS. A rosary will be recited at 9:30am, Mass at 10:00am, and a lunch and social will be held in the parish hall to follow.