



William Jabez Wright III

May 11, 1966 - January 24, 2023

William “Bill” Jabez Wright, III, passed away on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at the age of 56. He was a longtime resident of Easton, MD, and the Eastern Shore.

He is survived by his mother, Barbara Wright; his son, William “Billy” Jabez Wright, IV; sisters Kathy Reigel (Steve) and Sue Wiman (Michael); his girlfriend, Lettie Weldon; nieces, Megan Magnus (Ezra) and Heather Harpine (Joe); and nephew, Ryan Reigel (Candace).

Born in Washington, DC, to Barbara (Richter) and William “Bill” Jabez Wright, Jr., Bill’s childhood and adolescent years were spent in Bowie, MD, where he forged life-long friendships and created memories that he would often reminisce about later in life with a genuine fondness. It was while growing up in Bowie that Bill’s avid interest and intense passion for music first began to evolve – visiting the local record store, listening endlessly to his transistor radio, blasting his vinyl records on his record player, and attending countless concerts at the Capital Centre and other venues.

After graduating from Bowie High School, Bill went on to complete an Associate’s Degree from the Broadcasting Institute of Maryland that enabled him to leverage his love of music and unbelievable breadth of musical knowledge to create the foundation for what would become his life’s passion.

Bill found success as a Radio DJ for over 30 years on local Maryland stations including 103.1 WRNR, 90.5 WKHS, and 101.5 WHCP. Known for his radio show “RoadTrippin’ with Bill Wright” he prided himself on playing music that transcended all genres with a specific focus on spotlighting tunes outside of the typical set list. Bill developed an allegiant fan base that listened in with appreciation for his unique, laid-back style and the joy that was so evident as he shared his love of music.

In addition to his career on radio, Bill also owned multiple record stores over the years located in Easton, Centreville, and Chestertown, MD. Through these venues, Bill excelled in sharing his mental encyclopedia of musical knowledge and creating “an escape” of sorts for local residents where they could browse, listen and share a unique camaraderie with other music enthusiasts. So often his store served as the catalyst for his customers discovering new sounds and artists or for being the place to just hang out and make groovy friends.

Bill was a very caring and thoughtful person who cultivated many friendships, always impacting others in a positive way through his humor, joy and respect for everyone.

Bill loved life and treasured his relationships with his son, Billy, of whom he was so proud, his self-described soul mate, Lettie Weldon, his mom and sisters, his large, lively extended family and his many friends, old and new. He will be sorely missed by everyone who was lucky enough to have known him.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Bill’s memory may be directed to support MDS Research at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/kimmel_cancer_center/our_center/charitable_giving/in_lieu_of.html.

For friends and family who wish to pay their respects, a viewing/visitation is scheduled for Friday, February 3, 2023, 2 - 4 p.m. followed by a funeral service from 4 - 5 p.m. at the Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, 106 Shamrock Road, Chester, MD 21619, (410) 643 2226.

A reception will follow services from 5:15-7:15 p.m. at the Hyatt Place Hotel, 3028 Kent Narrows Way South, Grasonville, MD 21638, (443) 446 6000.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 3. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619

Funeral Service

FEB 3. 4:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William Jabez Wright III*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 10, 2023 at 12:38 PM



“ *William Jabez Wright III*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *My husband Jeff and I were so sorry to hear of Bill's untimely passing. He was a great guy and host and we have fond memories of the music festivals he used to put on. He was a light to many on the Eastern shore and will be sadly missed.*

Jennifer King - April 08, 2023 at 05:53 PM



“ *Bill, you gave the time that you had on this earth to bring happiness to so so many people, thank you for your devotion to great radio sessions that were unique in their power to communicate peace and love. I will miss your voice of gratitude in that, "thank you brother," and there will be an empty space on the mighty KHS each Thursday. To your family and loved ones, I wish you good night, he loved you best*

John I Hanmer - February 02, 2023 at 08:38 PM

BF

“ I'd like to add another thought. This evening, the night before Bill's service, I thought I would tune in to his regular slot on KHS. The tunes were definitely Bill's type and I wondered if another such talented dj was paying tribute to Bill. Well, soon enough Bill's voice came on. It was one of his past shows. What a treat to hear his soothing voice with the incredible mix of music. Thank you WKHS. What finally jerked some tears from this Irishman was the New Riders song with the Celtic groove followed by Mick Jagger and the Chieftain's Long Black Veil . The whole show was incredible, and so nice to hear his voice one more time. RIP brother. Get that amazing band going in the great beyond (Heaven). Peace

Brian Fitzmaurice - February 02, 2023 at 08:19 PM

JM

“ *Bill Wright a remembrance*

I've listened to Bill for over 25 years. What talented man. Freeform radio is an art practiced by a few individuals who really love music. Bill was that in so many ways. WRNR in its freeform days, WKHS and WHCP were all stops of his that I enjoyed. I loved his thoughtful transitions and the variety of genres he explored. He spoke with knowledge, passion and warmth. His record shops were the coolest. He supported local and upcoming musicians, something that is very important.

I'll miss tuning into your show Bill and the occasional Saturday afternoon phone call.

Thanks for the inspiration and knowledge shared! Until further up the road my friend.

John

John Mathews - February 02, 2023 at 08:59 AM

RG

“ Some of us have known Bill since school and he has always been a good friend over the years. He enlightened many to a wide variety of music and had great parties. Bill, go be free among the radio waves of the universe. Be at peace.

Richard M Gonzalez - February 01, 2023 at 01:21 AM

BF

“ To the Wright family: I am so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. I caught his show on WKHS just a couple weeks ago. Thursday nights were something to look forward to as I cleaned dinner dishes to Bill's eclectic tunes. I will sorely miss his always upbeat “hey gang” greeting. He brought a lot of joy to many many people. May he rest in peace and God grant you all the peace of his loving hands. 🙌🎵



Brian Fitzmaurice - January 29, 2023 at 02:56 PM

MM

My deepest condolences to the Wright family ! I had the privilege of knowing Bill as I lived on the same property at Alderbranch farm and then for a short time I shared a store space we called Retrospective. He was so knowledgeable about music 🎵, was a funny guy and very supportive of his friends , family and significant others over the years ! What a tremendous loss to our community . I am glad we have so many recordings of his shows , he will not be forgotten.

Merry aka Merv - January 30, 2023 at 07:29 PM

RD

“ Sue & Kathy,

I read with great interest about your brother Bill, who clearly touched many lives. I know you will all miss him. Please know that I will keep Bill, both of you and your entire family in my thoughts and prayers as you grieve his loss but also celebrate his life, the impact he had on so many, and all of your fond memories.

Rich

Richard Durand - January 28, 2023 at 01:20 PM



“ William Jabez Wright III

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ William Jabez Wright III

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

MG

“ *I was a Bill Wright fan. I only met him once, in his record store last year. But I introduced myself and thanked/complimented him. His show has been an invaluable source of entertainment and comfort to me for so many years. He is truly missed.*

-Mark Grutkowski, Baltimore, MD/DeweyBeach, DE

Mark Grutkowski - January 27, 2023 at 02:47 PM