



William Summerfield Gray Jr.

September 19, 1930 - May 26, 2020

William Summerfield Gray Jr. He was born on September 19, 1930 and passed away May 26, 2020 at the age of 89.

Bill Graduated from Haverford College after dabbling in Pre Med, then on to Pre Law at Penn and finally deciding on finishing with an Education degree at West Chester University . Bill met and married his wife of 60 years, Dottie Mawson Gray and they moved to Narberth where he taught English and History for 39 years in the Lower Merion School District. He started his career at Narberth School and when that closed moved onto Ardmore Junior High where he was the creator of multiple original musicals for Ardmore Junior High along with his co-writer the late Kenneth Trotter. When Ardmore closed, both Bill and Ken Trotter moved onto Bala Cynwyd to continue their theatre productions. Bill was also active in the community taking his directing talents to the Narberth Community theatre for many years, where he became an active charter member. Bill enjoyed family vacations and loved taking cross country trips with the family towing their pop up trailer. His summers were spent between Narberth and Ocean City NJ, where he spent his summers managing the Village Movie Theatre.

Bill was the loving husband of Dottie Mawson Gray of 60 years; son of the late William S. Gray and F. Ethel Gray; and brother of the late Joan E. Henry. He was the loving father of William S. Gray, Laurie G. Markle, (Craig) Kelley Anne

Sloss (Joe); and was a doting Grandfather "Poppy" to Scott, Brian,(Rebecca), Nicole, Kevin, Shannon, Carolyn, Will and Katie, and was very proud to see all of them graduate from college.

There will be a private family service and a memorial service will be scheduled at a future date. Please check www.chadwickmckinney.com for service updates.

In lieu of flowers contributions in William's name to Bryn Mawr Hospital, 130 S. Bryn Mawr Ave. Bryn Mawr PA 19010 or Ardmore Presbyterian Church, 5 Montgomery Ave. Ardmore, PA 19003.

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Summerfield Gray Jr..*



June 06, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ *Not only was Bill my teacher at AJHS it carried me into so many wonderful times at Narbeth Community theater . After learning some basics I moved on to professional theater doing wardrobe with the IATSE union in Florida. He really instilled theater in my soul*

Steve Weldon class of 69

steve weldon - June 01, 2020 at 06:55 PM

CS

“ Lucky for me, Bill Gray didn't give up easily! He was kind enough to include me in the plays at AJHS and to try to teach me to diagram sentences in 8th grade.

It was a frustrating time for teachers in the seventies. He was mostly gracious about our "snottiness" but one day he lost his temper after severe provocation from a particular student in my class. He was so pent up that he threw a piece of chalk across the room. There was a hush... and then he manfully apologized.

Grown-ups didn't apologize to kids in those days. I've never forgotten it. He knew it was wrong to lose his cool and he owned up to it. What a great guy!

I often think of him and know you will miss his humor and intelligence.

Cackie Scott. AJHS '70, LM '73

Cackie Scott - June 01, 2020 at 07:39 AM



Cackie.

he hit me with an eraser after he told me 4 times to stop drumming wipeout on my desk .I wasn't being rude it just kept happening. I was amazed how quickly he returned to his happy pleasant self . I really loved Mr Gray I enjoyed being in the school plays that he and Mr. Trotter helped us put on .

OLIVER FIDLER ON THE ROOF , and one that they wrote themselves with gangsters. Great man Great teacher Great role model for us

Ed Silverman Ardmore Jr High 1970 LM 1973

Ed Silverman - February 14, 2021 at 09:04 PM

HW

“ I have fond memories of Mr. Gray in so many Narberth Community Theatre productions. I can say that the shows he co-authored and produced with Ken Trotter not only were part of my life but truly shaped it. I recall “Deadwood Dick,” at Baka Cynwyd, circa ‘79, in particular. I was “Calamity Jane” and got to say “I got a feelin’ of forebodin’” about 20 times in the course of the show! And I still find myself sayin’ it, in exactly the same drawl he coached me to say it in. And what do ya know - I’m a theatre teacher now. My heart goes out to your family at this time. Mr. Gray passed on his love of theatre to me, as he did to so many others, and I am so grateful!

hilda beltran wagner - June 01, 2020 at 01:49 AM

LP

“ Dear Mrs. Gray, Bill, Laurie, Kelly -

My heart goes out to you all. I never had Mr. Gray for any classes! But I was lucky to have been directed by him at NCT in Sound of Music and at Ardmore Junior High in Caribbean Capers. Wonderful childhood highlights for me!

In the last several years I was happy to see him a few times a year at NCT productions as I attended with my parents, and then this last year with my mom. Ah, those were some golden years.

My condolences to everyone. I pray that your memories will bless you.

With love,

Laurie Penrose

Lauren Penrose - May 30, 2020 at 10:24 AM

BV

“ Mr. Gray was my homeroom, English and History teacher at Narberth Public School in 1958 and 1959. Like so many others in my class I looked up to him as he was so involved in teaching and the community. Life lessons taught and taken to heart. Thank you for all you taught me Mr. Gray, and thank you for being part of my life. Bill Voight

Bill Voight - May 29, 2020 at 08:08 AM



“ I had Mr Gray for 8th grade English(1961-1962) at AJHS. He was a great teacher and very nice guy. He contributed greatly to the school as did his dad who was a guidance counselor at Ardmore. My dad, Tom Fagan, who was assistant principal thought quite highly of him as well. I extend my condolences to his family.

Jim Fagan

James Fagan - May 28, 2020 at 06:46 PM

JT

“ Mr. Gray was not only a terrific teacher he was also a wonderful person! He will always live in the memories of thousands of student he educated and influenced. He was a great advocate for learning and the development of student talents - as diverse as they may be. He did so much for so many -he is truly a hero - I will always be grateful I was his student!

Jonathan Tafel - May 28, 2020 at 09:44 AM

JM

“ Dear Family of Bill Gray,

Bill Gray was one of the best teachers I ever had and a wonderful human being. I was pleased to be able to exchange correspondence with him last month. As I told him in my letter, it's hard for me to think of any teacher who influenced the trajectory of my life more than he did. He was a great influence on lives of many. He will be missed.

-- John Morse

John Morse - May 27, 2020 at 09:41 PM

RD

“ Dear Mrs Gray, my friend Bill, and dear Laurie and Kelly,

So sorry for the loss of your husband and father. I have many, many fond memories of Mr Gray from as far back as I can remember on Chestnut Ave. Perhaps the most indelible one is being involved in the theatre under his direction and his role in creating on of the great joys in my life that has endured to this day. I remember expressing that to him at one of your Orange bowl parties, I think that's what they were, and how humble he was about it. He was an exceedingly talented playwright and director and I learned so much from him. He truly was a wonderful man and I am only one of the many who had the privilege of being touched by his humanity.

Bob

Robert Doan - May 27, 2020 at 10:37 AM