



## William "Bill" Durham

September 20, 1949 - September 18, 2023

William "Bill" Howard Durham, formerly of Tyler, passed away peacefully on September 18, 2023. Bill was born on September 20, 1949 in Tyler, Texas, to T.C. and Dorothy Durham both of whom preceded Bill in death along with his brother, Thomas Durham Jr.

Bill "Smooth" was a jokester with a heart of gold and was loved by all who had the opportunity of knowing him. Bill could make friends anywhere, whether it be college, work, or a stranger on the street. He grew up and was known as a part of the "Three Amigos" which consisted of himself, cousin Butch, and cousin David: the best of friends. He proudly served in the United States Army. Bill was an avid softball player and enjoyed the Quik Gas softball team where many memories were made and shared; he was also very close to his frat brothers. One of Bill's joys in life was how he was able to befriend Mickey Mantle and all the Mantle boys. When he was home, he could be found swing sitting, or cooking up some of his famous swamp fox chili.

Those left to cherish Bill's memory are his brothers, Jim Durham and wife Mary Lou, and John Durham and wife Sandy; nieces, Tonya Ridenour, Laura Clawson and husband Mark, Sarah Anderson, Amy Berkemeyer and husband Drew, Molly Waxler and husband Jon, Lindsay Mitchell; nephews, Jim Bryant Durham and wife Liz, Bo Durham and wife Glynis, and Tyler Durham and wife Page; cousins, AB, Sally, Butch, David, Velletta, and Jake; along with countless friends and extended family. Bill will be greatly missed.



# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP **29**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Max Slayton Funeral Chapel  
642 N. Rockwall Ave.  
Terrell, TX 75160

## Graveside Service

SEP **29**. 3:00 PM (CT)

Liberty Hill Cemetery  
4042 E Erwin St,  
Tyler, TX 75708

# Tribute Wall



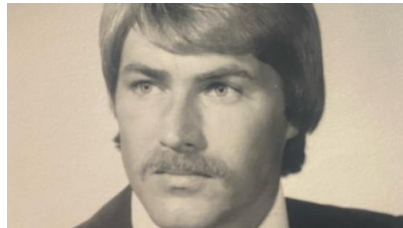
“ *Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Bill" Durham*



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**Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations** - October 03, 2023 at 10:26 AM



“ *Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations created a Webcast in memory of William "Bill" Durham*



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**Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations** - September 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *William "Bill" Durham*

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October 08, 2023 at 07:43 PM

AB

“ What I learned from my uncle bill...

*From the earliest age I can remember interactions with my Uncle Bill. He was very special to me as a little girl. I saw him as if he was a movie star! One of my earliest and sweetest memories of him was when he sang “Raindrops keep falling in my head” to me. It will always be a special song to me.*

*I remember laughter and good times. I know his life wasn't perfect and it was probably very hard and lonely at times. But as a child all I remember is that he was always having fun and always so funny.*

*One of my first memories as a young girl was when we were at a family reunion at a golf course/ campground thing. I was told to go to bed while the old people carried on downstairs - laughing and telling stories. When all of a sudden there was a loud noise and a loud yell and then so much laughter! Apparently Bill had come down the stairs (or fallen) and landed in a styrofoam cooler that busted to pieces. And everyone was laughing - including him! When I asked my cousin later what happened - she said something about drinking beer and styrofoam cooler lol!*

*I remember his kindness and he was always happy to see me. He always made me laugh. He made me feel special.*

*As an adult it was the same.. whenever I saw him I was once again reminded of his kindness and love for me, and yes, his great humor! He made me laugh and made me feel special. He loved me and my husband Drew and each one of my children.*

*Not only did he like having fun and being funny, he had a unique character trait - - he was influenced by whoever he was around and wanted to please them. He would tell you whatever you wanted to hear - like saying - “yes I will be there next Sunday, you can count on me!” and he then didn't show up. We laughed about it often as it was just something that he did..*

*But thinking back on it today, makes my realize that he wanted to be*

*with us and everyone else around him and he just couldn't say no. He wanted to say what we wanted to hear because he loved us and didn't want to disappoint us.*

*He loved us and wanted to please us. He had a heart of gold. He made everyone feel special.*

*I will never forget near the end of his life he would often text me and say "Amy, please pray for me."*

*It was incredibly special to me and I considered it an honor to go to the Lord in prayer for him.*

*Near the end of his battle, . when things didn't go well, he was still happy and kind to those who came to see whom. And still made us feel special. .. and he definitely made us laugh! I heard all kind of crazy stories. I don't know if they were true stories or not but they made me laugh!*

*So to wrap it up .. what I have learned from my sweet Uncle Bill is that he made people laugh, feel special and feel loved. We could all do well to follow his example.*

*I will never forget his unique froggy voice saying - A-M-Y!!!! Or Amy Lynnnnnn!*

*And his contagious body shaking laugh will forever be etched in my brain ...and in my heart*

*❤️— his grateful niece*

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**amy berkemeyer** - September 29, 2023 at 09:52 AM

RS

“*Bill Durham "Smooth" was a legend in his own time. What an incredible friend he has been since our days at UNT. He had the unique ability of making everyone who knew him love him. Smooth was truly one of a kind. He will be truly missed but never forgotten.*

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**Rick Schmitto** - September 28, 2023 at 10:27 AM

AH

*We join our bereaved cousins in entrusting Billy's soul and spirit to His Maker. May he now rest in eternal peace and bliss in the Presence of our Lord. May the many loving and warm memories you have of Billy comfort and sustain all of you during this very difficult time.*

*We just leaned of Billy's passing last night from Sally Lou.*

*Much love,  
AB and Veronica Harvey and family*

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**AB and Veronica. Harvey** - October 01, 2023 at 05:32 PM

AG

“ *I was first introduced to Bill Durham in the summer of 1981... Treehouse Lane and our lives were never the same again! Smooth has been my friend for 40 plus years. But my most vivid and memorable moments of my friend are the many days and nights playing 8's! His crib (his word, not mine!) was 8's Central! His legacy lives on in all the players he taught the game to. They are the gift that keeps on giving!*

*Rest easy Amigo, you've crossed the finish line and won your final 8's game. 🙏*

*HOSE TICKETS FROM DADDY!!*



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**Alvis Gross** - September 27, 2023 at 10:51 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" Durham.*

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September 27, 2023 at 10:20 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Durham.



September 27, 2023 at 10:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" Durham.

September 27, 2023 at 09:32 PM



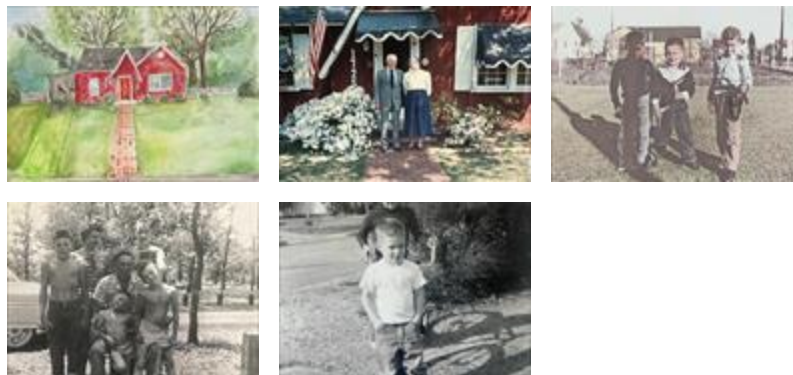
“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Durham.



September 27, 2023 at 09:32 PM



“ 96 files added to the album Memories Album



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - September 26, 2023 at 04:19 PM

MM

“ I’ve known Smooth for 49 years. We shared a lot of laughs, played softball together for Eagle Lincoln Mercury and the Filling Station for many years. The party started when Smooth showed up. Went to see him with my BIL, Larry Heggie about 5 months ago and texted with him often. So happy Bill was Saved and know he is with Jesus. Never will there be another “Smooth!” Mike McQueen.

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**Mike McQueen** - September 21, 2023 at 06:42 PM