



William "Bill" Jay Jackson

Obituary

William "Bill" Jay Jackson, 55, of Oxford, NJ, passed away at home on Friday, December 3, 2021.

Born in New Brunswick and raised in Monroe Twp., NJ, Bill had resided in Oxford since 2006. Bill was a loving husband, father, brother, uncle and friend who will be deeply missed but remembered for his infectious laugh and fun attitude toward life.

Bill served as an EMT and Captain for Emergency Services at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. He worked at the university for 23 years. He was a Free and Accepted Mason having belonged to the Mansfield F & AM Lodge #36. He was a past member of the Monroe Township First Aid Squad and Applegarth Volunteer Fire Co., and a Monroe Township paid firefighter. Following in his father and brothers' footsteps, Bill also was a member of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Local #9.

Bill established Rolling Hill Farm in East Windsor in the 1990s and, with the help of his family, sold perennial flowers and plants in Englishtown and Collingswood. When he moved to Oxford he continued his work as a gentleman's farmer, growing vegetables and raising chickens and ducks for their eggs. Bill kept Rolling Hill Farm going in Oxford and started selling the eggs and vegetables at a roadside stand.

Bill was a hard worker and didn't want any of his home-grown veggies going to waste, so he often hosted canning parties where his family would get together to preserve the vegetables from his garden. While he loved to see the fruits of his labor preserved in tasty salsas and sauces, at the end of the day it was the good company and fun memories made that filled him with joy. That's what made Bill so special.

In 2014, Bill and his wife Lisa started a new venture together. They took over Lorraine's, an embroidery and print screen shop in Franklin Township. In 2016, they moved the shop to its current location on Hamilton Street in Somerset.

Over the years, he mastered the balance of working hard while playing hard. More often than not, if you spent time with Bill at his home, it was to help him on a project. But no time spent with Bill seemed like work. As soon as you'd jump into the given task(s) for the day, he'd have you laughing, joking, and sharing stories. He had an unparalleled way of connecting with others, and making people feel special and seen.

Bill enjoyed listening to country music and being outside. You'd often find him working around his house, yard, or farm. In his spare time, he liked to hunt and train his dogs. They say a dog is man's best friend, well, Bill was a dog's best friend. Bill loved dogs, and dogs loved Bill. Anywhere he went his dogs (and probably yours, too) would dutifully and happily follow. All animals were at ease in Bill's company. They could sense his kind, confident and loving nature.

Having experience as a firefighter, first responder, plumber, hunter and farmer, Bill was often sought out for advice. He was a go-to guy for lots of family and friends. And everyone knew they could count on Bill. He always answered the call. Above all else Bill treasured his family.

Predeceased by his parents, Oliver Holmes Jackson and Joan Audrey (Perkins) Jackson, Bill is survived by his wife, Lisa B. (Taskowitz) Jackson; his step-daughters, Emily and Carlee Fisco; his siblings and their spouses, John J. "Bud" and Laura D. Jackson of Cranbury, NJ, and George P. and Melissa A. Jackson of Chesterfield, NJ, and Jennifer J. and Jonathan J Schmidt of Hightstown, NJ; his nieces and nephews, Lindsay E. Jackson, Courtney L. Jackson, William J. Jackson, George J. Jackson, John P. Jackson, Olivia L. Jackson, Brian C. Abrahams, Tiffany J. Schmidt, Melissa J. Schmidt and Rebecca E. Schmidt; his grandnieces and grandnephews, Kaylee Jackson, Noah Jackson, Nicholas Jackson and Jace Jackson; his aunt and uncle, Anthony Carasoni and Patricia (Perkins) Carasoni; and many cousins and friends who were dear to him from all over the country; and, of course, his dogs, Milo, Dutchess, Hazel, Piper and Honey.

Funeral services will be held 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 11, 2021, at A.S. Cole Son & Co., 22 North Main Street, Cranbury, NJ.

Private cremation will follow.

Visitation for family and friends will be held on Friday, December 10, 2021, from 1:00 until 3:30 p.m. and from 6:30 until 9:00 p.m. at the A.S. Cole Son & Co. Funeral Home, with a Masonic service beginning at 6:30.

The Jackson family requests masks be worn by all attendees at the visitation and funeral services honoring Bill.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Bill's memory to your local emergency response, fire departments or first aid squads.