



William Henry Pratter

May 25, 1929 - September 24, 2023

William Henry Pratter was born on May 25, 1929 in Cairo, Georgia to Esteller (Stephens) Pratter and Joseph Henry Pratter.

He was raised by his mother Esteller and step-father Buddy Black. He joined the Army at the age of 18 and served for 22 ½ years. He served in both the Korean and Vietnam War as a combat soldier and medic and was a Purple Heart recipient.

After retiring in 1971 he went on to study various coursework ranging from Automotive Technology to Interior Design. Ultimately, he landed on Barber and Styling and earned his Master of Barber & Styling license. He cut hair for many friends for years in his garage turned Barber Shop in Ayer. Bill had many hobbies during his life including camping, home improvement projects, caring for his beloved dogs and most of all fishing! Retiring at a relatively young age afforded him the time to enjoy these hobbies as well as spending time with family and friends. He was a social guy and the life of the party at any occasion. So, whether you knew him as Wee Henry, BeeBop, Pratter, Dad, Papa, Grampy or simply Bill he was loved and befriended by so many and will be dearly missed.

Bill is survived by his daughter, Raquel Taylor and her husband Robert of Shirley, MA, daughter Bridget Williams and partner Stephanie Sellers of

Georgia, daughter Patricia Scott and her husband John of Georgia, Son James Thomas and his wife Traci of Florida; grand-daughter Ashlie (Taylor) Velez and her husband Alex, grand-daughter Giovanni Friend, Stephan Sellers, Grandsons Patrick and Padreus Pratter, grand-daughters Karin Hylton and Junko LaSalle Peck; great-grand-children, Jayla, Gianna and Joshua Friend, Jameson William Velez and nephew, Nathaniel Thornton, step-sons Steven, Lawrence and Edward Urban.

He was predeceased by wife Mary Lisa Pratter, wife Karin Pratter, and wife Ann Pratter, son William Henry Pratter Jr., son Therone Pratter and son Minkoo Pratter.

Funeral services and burial in the Village Cemetery in Shirley will be held privately. The Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Rd., Ayer, is assisting the family with the funeral arrangements.

In lieu of flowers please donate to a Veteran's charity of your choice and/or the Alzheimer's Association.

Cemetery Details

Village Cemetery

Harvard Road
Shirley, MA

Tribute Wall

MG

“ *Mr. Prater , I will forever be grateful for knowing and respecting you and your family. May God keep eternal watch over you while you forever Rest in Peace.*

Michael Gailliard - November 22, 2023 at 09:58 AM

RA

“ *My sincere condolences to Mr. Pratter’s family and friends. I was lucky to have first met Bill at my first bartending job in Ayer, where he was introduced to me as Mr. P. He was also my neighbor across the street for some time. I would often see him walking his dogs. When I changed jobs and started at a new pub, Bill would come down for lunch and a Heineken. Bill became like family with the regulars. He had become a great friend to me. He loved to share his life stories. He spoke fondly of his family, church, dogs and friends. He also talked about his time in the service, history and politics. His words always had meaning. He was a very kind-hearted soul. I appreciate the friendship we had and I won’t forget him.*

Rebecca Andrews - October 06, 2023 at 09:05 PM

CA

“ *Raquel. My sincerest condolences on your dad’s loss . I had great admiration for him ever since your Mom’s death. He took such loving care of you. May he rest in peace*

Christine Anderson - October 02, 2023 at 01:31 PM

DS

“ I am so saddened to read of Bill's passing. We were neighbors for many years & I like to think we had become friends. He would often mosey over to my yard & stand at the fence to chat. I liked listening to his many stories & laughing together. I have missed you since you left your house. My deepest condolences to all of Bill's family.

Denise Stepleton - September 27, 2023 at 01:18 PM

CH

I knew your dad I have pampered pets he was a regular customer. What a a terrific guy , loved talking to him for many years and many stories. I am so sorry for your loss ❤️

Cheryl - October 06, 2023 at 11:08 PM



“ Bill, you will always be in my heart, never to be forgotten and my memories to always remember. Rest well my friend, it is a honor to be your step daughter-in-law. :-)

Laurie Urban - September 27, 2023 at 12:17 PM

AL

I am so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. I was one of his drivers who drove him to the VA & shopping. I enjoyed the stories he told me from cutting hair, his dogs, Camping in his RV, among many others. My condolences to his family who he talked about all the time ❤️

Allison - September 27, 2023 at 09:08 PM

AN

Mr. Pratter, 62 Denali nursing staff will miss you and you will be always stay in our heart. It was our pleasure that we could get a chance to take care of you and were a part of your life till the end of journey. Our deepest condolences to all the family members- 62 Denali , nursing staff, Bedford, VA

Anu - September 30, 2023 at 10:48 AM