



William N. Burnette

May 25, 1935 - July 10, 2025

William N. Burnette “Bill”, a life-long resident of Tarrytown, NY was born on May 25, 1935 and departed this life on July 10, 2025 at the NY State Veteran’s

Nursing Home, after battling a multitude of health-related issues for many years.

Born in Chapel Hill, NC he was the only child of Raymond T. Burnette and Eva L.

Burnette. He graduated from Chapel Hill High School and then received his BA

degree in Education from North Carolina Central University. He was a member of

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. It was at NCCU that he met the love of his life,

Barbara Ann Lumpkin. The two were married shortly after graduation and he was

drafted into the United States Army as a Private 1st Class, stationed at Ft. Devins,

MA. Upon returning to New York, William and Barbara settled in Tarrytown and

had two children, Philip D. Burnette, Brian K. Burnette and an adopted son, Nicholas Simmons.

Bill was employed by the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns, where he was an esteemed and well-respected Guidance Counselor at Sleepy Hollow High School

for over 40 years. Prior to that role he served as a Truant Officer for the district,

ensuring that students attended school. He was a strong advocate for higher education and passionate about encouraging his students to pursue their dreams.

He continued his own pursuit of higher education by obtaining a Master's in Education/Counseling from City College of New York part-time in the evenings while he continued to work full-time.

Bill was affectionately known as the "Unofficial Mayor of Tarrytown," because he

literally knew everyone and would stop to have a conversation at any time.

Before

his decline, Bill was extremely active in Tarrytown community affairs. He was the

President of the Tarrytown Municipal Housing Authority and the Asbury Terrace

Housing Board. He worked with the Community Opportunity Center Board,

The

Abbott School Board, and volunteered as a driver with the Tarrytown Ambulance

Corps. He was also an active member of the Tarrytown Rotary Club. Bill received

numerous awards and accolades, including the 1997 Sleepy Hollow Chamber of

Commerce, "Person of the Year" award for his years of service and dedication

to
the community as a Guidance Counselor, shaping the lives of thousands of
students under his tutelage. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award
from
The Salvation Army, and an Outstanding Educator Award from the Sleepy
Hollow
PTSA. He truly loved and cherished his community.

Bill was a loving, caring, thoughtful and a devoted husband, father and father
figure to so many throughout his lifetime. He profoundly cared for his
immediate
family but often expanded this reach to include members of the community
who
he virtually adopted. He had a generous spirit to help those in need, and most
importantly, he loved his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

William leaves to cherish his memory: his son Brian K. Burnette, Yolanda F.
Johnson; Grandsons: Philip Burnette and Desmond (Delilah) Burnette; Grand
daughters: Ashley Bennerman, Ariel Simmons-Udovicic, Briana Burnette;
Nephews: Anthony Ellis, Alvin Ellis, in addition to Dawn Connolly, Katrina
“Lynn”
Greene and a host of loving relatives and friends. Bill was predeceased by his
wife Barbara Ann Burnette and son Philip D. Burnette. He recently celebrated
his
90th birthday, less than a month ago!

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 18. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer & Michael's Funeral Home
90 North Broadway
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Remarks and Tributes from 7-8pm

Funeral Service

JUL 19. 10:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Tarrytown
56 S. Broadway
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Burial

JUL 19. 11:15 AM (ET)

Sleepy Hollow Cemetery
540 N. Broadway
Sleepy Hollow , NY 10591

Repast

JUL **19**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Tarrytown
56 S. Broadway
Tarrytown, NY 10591

This is a catered event. The family kindly asks that guests do NOT bring food or beverage. Instead, the family appreciates your tributes to Bill.

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William N. Burnette.* ”



July 25, 2025 at 01:10 PM



“ *Much love to the Burnette family* ”



George Earle - July 19, 2025 at 09:17 AM



“ *Love The Nixon Family and Mr. R. Dash purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William N. Burnette.* ”



Love The Nixon Family and Mr. R. Dash - July 18, 2025 at 04:41 PM



“ *We will always remember Mr. Burnett and his love of taking beautiful pictures (and plenty of them). May he rest among the Angels.* ”

Sharon and Connee Love - July 18, 2025 at 02:59 PM

AC

“ We loved having Bill and Dori Friedman join The Coqueran Family at Yankee Stadium for a Yankees game in remembrance of our late mother Alyce N. Coqueran. Nice memories of three good people. RIP Bill. Love you, Al Coqueran



Al Coqueran - July 18, 2025 at 11:59 AM

CF

“ Curtis Samuels and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William N. Burnette.



Curtis Samuels and Family - July 18, 2025 at 11:51 AM

AF

“ Al Coqueran and The Coqueran Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of William N. Burnette.



Al Coqueran and The Coqueran Family - July 18, 2025 at 11:38 AM

CC

“ *Mr. Burnette was an amazing counselor who always greeted me with a warm smile. His kindness and sense of humor made a lasting impression on me. I will always remember his warmth and the joy he brought to every interaction.*

Cini Chacko - July 17, 2025 at 03:10 PM

MG

“ *Maria Grajales purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William N. Burnette.*



Maria Grajales - July 17, 2025 at 11:03 AM

CL

“ *Charles and Barbara Love purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William N. Burnette.*



Charles and Barbara Love - July 16, 2025 at 10:24 AM

JN

“ *John Naples lit a candle in memory of William N. Burnette*



John Naples - July 16, 2025 at 03:06 AM

CC

“ 1 file added to the album Slideshow



CC - July 15, 2025 at 09:07 PM

GS

The best friend

Gwen Carter smith - July 16, 2025 at 06:42 PM

AR

A wonderful human being. We are so grateful to have met Bill via The Jazz Posse Group. Will miss his smile and deep conversations.

You are now with the angels.

Michael & Aida Anglely

Aida I Rivie-Anglely - July 18, 2025 at 06:58 PM

LC

“ *I just loved him so much. He was a pillar of our community and a beautiful soul. I will miss his smile and his great hugs*

Lorraine Corveddu - July 14, 2025 at 06:26 PM

AR

“ *Sending my condolences to the entire Burnette family. Mr. B was an amazing human being. He had such a profound impact on me, so much so, that I became a School Counselor because of his example. He always listened and genuinely cared for his students. I strive each day to be half the counselor he was. Rest in peace, Mr B.*

Annia Rivero-Jones - July 13, 2025 at 09:17 PM

LC

Bill was just an amazing human being. He was also an OUTSTANDING counselor. There are not enough positive words in the dictionary to describe him. He truly touched many human beings. My condolences to his family and may he rest in peace.

Leo Caporale - July 14, 2025 at 02:39 PM

MC

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Mr. Burnett's passing. My sincerest condolences to his family on this sad occasion. He lives on in so many of our stories as we truly felt influenced and guided by him all those years ago at Sleepy Hollow High. Thank you, Mr. B. May his memory be a blessing*

Maria Stanton Chester - July 12, 2025 at 09:08 PM

DS

“ *Rest in Peace, Mr. Burnette, I will always treasure our memories. Sending love from Belize*

Deborah Sewell - July 12, 2025 at 07:23 PM

CB

“ *Rest easy, Mr. B! You were an amazing guidance counselor and gem of a human. You will be missed. 💜*

Courtney (Dillas) Bosch - July 12, 2025 at 04:46 PM

AA

“ *He was a symbol of black excellence! A true gentleman! Mr.B may you rest in peace....thank you for all the words of wisdom and love. You will be forever missed and never forgotten. Love you brother B.*

Antonio Amato - July 12, 2025 at 09:26 AM

MN

Wonderfully said *100* 😊

Maria Nixon - July 19, 2025 at 10:28 AM

ST

“ *Mr. Burnett was a great guidance counselor in my high school years. He help me to stay the path to be successful. I will be always grateful.*

Stephen Turk - July 12, 2025 at 08:25 AM

LC

“ *Bill Burnette was a wise counselor and trusted friend and co-conspirator who touched the lives of countless young people. I never met a kinder, gentler, more loving spirit. Sending prayers and condolences to the Burnette family. May your hearts be lightened with the knowledge that his soul is at rest. With love, Lane Cobb and Family*

Lane Cobb - July 11, 2025 at 11:20 PM

BD

“ *Mr. Burnette was a force of greatness for so many students. He helped to change us for the better. Whenever we got in trouble, he didn't discard us. He encouraged us to do better. A great man* ❤️🙏

Bryan DeLoatch - July 11, 2025 at 08:48 PM

DC

“ *Bill was a legend due to his many years of service in the schools, and also as a devoted Rotarian. A wonderful friend to all!*
Dave and Christina Cartenuto

David and Christina Cartenuto - July 11, 2025 at 01:39 PM



“ *Mr. Burnette was a wonderful counselor and all around nice guy. I have fond memories of him. Condolences to the Burnett family. May his memories bring you joy in this time of sadness.*

Patti Camilo - July 11, 2025 at 12:58 PM



“ *He convinced my parents to allow me to graduate as a junior. He believed in me and that meant a lot to me. May his memories be a blessing.*

Susan Mills - July 11, 2025 at 11:31 AM



He was my guidance counselor and he was the best Rest In Peace Mr Burnette

Farrell - July 11, 2025 at 06:04 PM



A man with great perception who could get you out of the weeds and on to your right path,,,,,though it has been 52 or so years since our meetings,I sill remember his words of guidance that helped me move ahead,,,,,thanks Mr. Burnette....see you when I see you

Jimmy Carroll - July 12, 2025 at 04:59 AM

MR

My wife and I were deeply saddened when we learned of Bill Burnette's passing.

Bill's passing is a tremendous loss for his family and the Tarrytown community, which he loved.

I met Bill in 1988, when I became Director of Guidance at Sleepy Hollow High School and worked with him until 1992.

It was an absolute pleasure knowing and working with Bill Burnette. He was a gentle giant of an educator, guidance counselor and person.

Bill's calm personality was always comforting, supportive, and reassuring.

My wife and I were fortunate to have known and worked with Bill, I as a coworker, and she as a coworker and resident of Tarrytown.

Bill will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

May Bill rest in peace.

Maxwell and Donna Riggsbee

Maxwell Riggsbee - July 12, 2025 at 08:14 AM