

William "Bill" Henry Chambless Jr.



November 22, 1946 - June 17, 2018

William Henry Chambless, Jr. ("Bill") passed away at home in Plano, TX, on June 17, 2018. Bill was born to William Henry ("Boots") and Elsie Oakley Chambless on October 22, 1946. He spent most of his childhood in Montgomery, AL.

An excellent athlete, Bill lettered each year on his Winter Park (FL) High School football team. In college, he started every game at the University of Miami and was elected captain of the Hurricanes his junior year and co-captain as a senior. Bill was listed as a Pre-Season All-American and featured player in the August 1968 issue of Playboy.

Bill was a standout academically and a leader of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at the University. Although the Kansas City Chiefs drafted him, he elected to end his football career to marry and pursue his PhD in Chemistry.

Bill re-invented himself several times during his career. He began working for a major oil corporation, then moved on to work for smaller, more specialized chemical companies. He spent a significant amount of time working internationally particularly in the UK, Germany, and Chile. After 30+ years in the chemical industry, Bill "retired" and purchased a local catering business and event hall which he co-operated with his wife for several years. Later, Bill obtained his Master Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma and spent the last part of his career serving as a business consultant helping small and mid-sized companies across the country.

Bill will be remembered as a man who was honest to a fault, a physically large man with a kind and gentle heart. He had a quiet intellect and scientist's eye for analysis. Although a capable problem solver, Bill owed his success in consulting work to being inclusive, bringing all stakeholders together to find solutions collectively – building teams who took ownership in the change. Bill received multiple accolades in his consulting role and his family will treasure the many letters his clients wrote him in praise of his work. Bill eventually wrote a book on management practices.

Bill Chambless is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Barbara Livingston Chambless; their children Mandy Swirczynski (husband Mike) of Flower Mound, TX; Jennifer Chambless of Dallas, TX; and Casey Chambless of Plano, TX; his beloved granddaughters, Maddie and Allison Swirczynski; and his sister Barbara Conner (husband Jim) and brother Woody Chambless (wife Marianna).