

Head, William Tremaine, Jr.

1944-2021

By [Messenger Staff](#) | Published on August 25, 2021

William (Bill) Tremaine Head Jr.'s big-as-Texas heart finally gave out on Friday the 13th of August, 2021. Bill was born in Gainesville March 27, 1944, the beloved son of William Tremaine Head Sr. and Emma Marie Pace. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin where he then attended The University of Texas School of Law.

Bill took absolute delight in striking up a conversation with an interesting person. He was pretty sure everyone was interesting and expected they probably had a story to tell. He connected all kinds of people through the most lively, extensive and entertaining introductions. He was so happy to walk into a room of 200 people he did not yet know. He loved a grand gesture while also taking great pleasure in the smallest details.

Bill brought people together, friends and family, into a very big tent, one that included good company, good music, good food, good wine – the “stuff” of life. He was a fount of knowledge of all things Texan, teaching Texas history, especially to the children of Montopolis, in the 1970s and 1980s. Bill loved his family and his history. History was his area of study. It was the way to understand the workings of the contemporary world, as well as the past and future. His knowledge was deep and broad; he used it, lived it and shared it – in law, in politics, in conserving sacred parks, in finding and selling unique and collectible cars, in practicing real estate. Being a member of the Civil Air Patrol was especially meaningful to him, as he helped to search for and find the lost and keep the homeland safe.

A proud Texan and a BIG personality, he deeply loved Austin and loved beautifying it and making it better, from restoring the splendid historic home he shared with Patricia to serving as an original board member of the Pease Park Conservancy and many projects between. An accomplished guitarist and a lover of music, Bill was an integral part of the emerging folk music phenomenon in Austin in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, many of the planning sessions before performances and jam sessions after performances taking place in his home.

Bill was an eager and enthusiastic traveler, looking to connect with people from around the world in all walks of life.

Stories about “making” New Yorkers be friendly back to him, his trips to Israel, New Year’s Eve in Edinburgh, and more, his generosity and his love of family abound. From the Bob Armstrong gatherings in early March to flying airplanes and working on houses, Bill was ready for an adventure.

Bill loved and respected tradition and was a longtime member of St. David’s Episcopal Church in Austin. His survivors include his devoted partner of 27 years, Patricia Winston; his dearly loved stepbrother, Drew (Debbie) Bridges; his first cousins, Judith (Rick) Reedy, Sally (George) Light, George Addison (Piper) Head and Jan (Dan) Rash; a host of cousins’ cousins; and a multitude of friends.

A celebration of Bill’s life will be held at Weed-Corley-Fish at Lamar in Austin on Thursday, Sept. 2, at 3 p.m. The service will be livestreamed as well.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Pease Park Conservancy, St. David’s Episcopal Church or the charity of your choice.