



William H. Byram

Memorial

Scholarship

Endowment

1936~2020

William H. “Bill” Byram was born on January 16, 1936, in Fargo, ND to Harvey and Pearl (Erdmann) Byram. His siblings were Mary, James, and Merle. He grew up and attended school in Casselton, ND, graduating from Lincoln High School with the Class of 1954. He continued his education at NDSU and Moorhead State College.

On July 10, 1959, at the age of 23, Bill joined the North Dakota Highway Patrol. Throughout his career, he served in Valley City, Fargo, Grand Forks, and Devils Lake. He earned the rank of Sergeant in Grand Forks. As a dedicated patrol officer, Bill attended the Traffic Institute at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. In 1975, Bill was promoted and remained Captain at the Devils Lake District Office until his retirement on June 1, 1992, after serving for 32 years, eight months and 28 days. At that time, it was the longest career in the North Dakota Highway Patrol. Bill was known for his courage - putting others first and protecting the citizens of North Dakota. He was proud of his service to the Highway Patrol and honored to serve and protect his fellow North Dakotans. Bill loved his job and wished that everyone could love going to work every day like he did.

Bill’s career inspired his oldest son, Carson, to pursue a 30-year career in law enforcement as a Walsh County deputy sheriff, North Dakota parole officer and United States Probation and Pretrial Services officer.

Following retirement from the Highway Patrol, Bill worked with the North Dakota Safety Council where he taught defensive driving courses and helped North Dakota implement the seatbelt law. He also started a private investigation business that was pursued for three years.

In 1956, Bill married Eloré Svare of Wheatland, ND. They were blessed with three children, Carson, Brent, and Kelly. Sadly, Eloré passed away in 1985. Bill found love again and married Lynne Wright-Herda in 1987. They made Devils Lake, North Dakota their home. Bill enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Lynne’s son, Brandon. He was a loving and proud father, step-father, father-in-law, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

In his free time, Bill also enjoyed hunting, and passed that legacy onto his sons, Carson, Brent and Brandon. For many years, Bill was a North Dakota Hunter Education instructor and an active member of the Lake Region Sportsmen’s Club. Bill was a talented woodworker, a good steward of the land, and committed many hours to planting trees. Bill had a lifelong interest in Scouting and attended the 1950 Boy Scout Jamboree in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Bill also had an interest in classic cars and enjoyed car shows, particularly the Devils Run Car Show in Devils Lake.

After Bill’s passing on September 9, 2020, his family established this scholarship endowment in his name. It is hoped that the recipients of this scholarship will serve their communities with the dedication and honor displayed by Captain William H. Byram.