



## Bill L Ward COL (Retired)

October 17, 1940 - September 7, 2023

Colonel (Retired) Bill Ward, 82, of Athens, passed away Thursday, September 7th, 2023. He was born October 17th, 1940, to Thomas and Lolie (Knowles) Ward.

He was a 34-year Army veteran who served in the Vietnam War as an Army Aviator. His subsequent assignments included senior logistical positions. Bill was also a professor at the University of West Alabama and was known for his great mentorship of students. He was the District President for the Lions Club in Alabama and was involved with the Gideons. Bill is a Deacon Emeritus at the Livingston First Presbyterian Church. He was a much beloved member of the Old Guys golf group at Canebrake Club of Athens.

Colonel Ward was a graduate of Troy State University, Troy, Alabama (BS and MBA) and The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama (PhD). He graduated from the United States Army War College in 1985.

His awards and decorations include: Somerville Award (given for extraordinary achievement in Joint Logistics), the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame, the Legion of Merit, the Air Medal with nineteen (19) Oak Leaf Clusters, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Valor Device, and the Army Aviator Badge. Colonel Ward also has many other decorations and awards.

He is survived by his wife Mary Spann Ward; sons Colonel (Retired) David Ward (Kimberly) and Colonel (Retired) Chad Ward (Stephanie);

granddaughters Audrey Kate Andrews (John), Meredith Long (Logan), and Anne Everett Ward; brother Sam Ward (Sarah); sisters Helen Weeks (Wayne) and Dianne Norwood (Marlon), and a host of nieces and nephews.

Col. Ward is preceded in death by his parents Thomas and Lolie Ward.

The funeral service will be Tuesday, September 12th, 2023, at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home, at 11:00 a.m., with Dusty McLemore officiating.

Visitation will be Tuesday, September 12th, from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m., at the funeral home. Pallbearers will be John Andrews, Logan Long, Bo Purinton, Billy Schaffer, Micky Wolfe, and Sean Sawyer. Honorary Pallbearers will be the 'Old Guys Golf Group' from Canebrake Golf Club. The Alabama Army National Guard will provide graveside honors. Burial will be at Thatch-Mann Cemetery.

The family has established a scholarship at Bryant Bank in his name for first generation college students: the Bill Ward Scholarship.

# Cemetery Details

## Thatch-Mann Cemetery

1803 W Hobbs St  
Athens, AL 35611

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 12. 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

Limestone Chapel Funeral Home  
322 Hwy. 31 N.  
Athens, AL 35611  
(256) 232-1051  
info@limestonechapel.com  
<https://www.limestonechapel.com/>

## Funeral Service

SEP 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

Limestone Chapel Funeral Home  
322 Hwy. 31 N.  
Athens, AL 35611  
(256) 232-1051  
info@limestonechapel.com  
<https://www.limestonechapel.com/>

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ He was one of the best professors at UWA. We did not always understand his stories, but he recognized when we did not and just gave up on telling it. lol! He was a good man to us in the COB at UWA.

TJ Smith - January 09, 2024 at 07:39 AM

JW

“ Joseph o W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bill L Ward COL (Retired).

Joseph o W. - September 12, 2023 at 12:23 PM

JW

“ Joseph o W. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Bill L Ward COL (Retired).



Joseph o W. - September 12, 2023 at 12:23 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Bill L Ward COL (Retired).



September 11, 2023 at 05:32 PM

NB

“ Billy and I were National Guard Friends for many years. He loved his family, being from Samson, Alabama, His Faith in this Country, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, . His faith was unbreakable. He will always be my friend.

Neal Brown

Neal Brown - September 11, 2023 at 03:13 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bill L Ward COL (Retired).



September 11, 2023 at 12:18 PM

PZ

“ Sending our deepest condolences to all the family on the loss of Bill. It was an honor to have met him several times. He lived a compassionate, full and meaningful life. We pray the wonderful memories you made with him will comfort you in the days ahead. - Tim and Pam Zimmerman

Pam Zimmerman - September 11, 2023 at 11:25 AM

PZ

“ Pamela Z. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bill L Ward COL (Retired).

Pamela Z. - September 11, 2023 at 11:20 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Bill L Ward COL (Retired).*



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September 10, 2023 at 12:33 PM



“ *Mary, I'm so sorry to hear about Bill's passing. All of you are in my prayers.*

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**Dianne Moore** - September 09, 2023 at 03:42 PM



“ *Lucy G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bill L Ward COL (Retired).*

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**Lucy G.** - September 09, 2023 at 01:51 PM



“ *I am a classmate of Billy's from Samson High School. Always admired Billy. I am so proud of his lifetime achievements. My best to his family.*

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**Valinda Lolley** - September 09, 2023 at 11:47 AM



*I am Ralph ward Bills last uncle on the ward side of the family before Bill got sick he would call and say just checking on you uncle Ralph. I miss those sweet calls always short but I could feel that love between us. Alway love coon hunting with him. Rest in peace nephew and Brother in Christ. I'll see you on the other side.*

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**ralph ward** - September 09, 2023 at 03:58 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Bill L Ward COL (Retired).*



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September 09, 2023 at 09:41 AM



“ *Sheilah N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bill L Ward COL (Retired).*

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**Sheilah N.** - September 09, 2023 at 08:00 AM



“ *Sheilah N. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bill L Ward COL (Retired).*



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**Sheilah N.** - September 09, 2023 at 08:00 AM



“ *Mary and family, so sorry to hear about the passing of Bill. He was such a fine Christian man, loved by everyone that knew him. He will be missed.  
Love to all,  
Carolyn Weeks Britt*



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**Carolyn Weeks Britt** - September 09, 2023 at 04:41 AM

JG

“ *Bill had a beautiful voice. I have fond memories of his solos at church. He was also a beautiful person; always kind and welcoming. We have missed him and Mary since they moved from Livingston. But it is wonderful that his last years were spent with his sons and their families. God be with you all.*

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**Janice Greenwood** - September 08, 2023 at 08:02 PM

JM

*Mary, David, and Chad (and all the family),  
We are so sorry to learn of Bill's passing. He was a fine Christian and a kind and caring friend. He was an intelligent man: well-versed in many subjects, and he had a beautiful singing voice. We are remembering you all in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Joe and Marie Morgan** - September 11, 2023 at 09:42 PM