



Bill Zerbe

February 27, 2015

ZERBE, WILLIAM D.

Bill Zerbe, 61, Albuquerque resident and one of the best Hammond players around passed away on Friday, February 27, 2015. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 20 years, Bette; children, Stacy Moore (Blake), and Brandon Zerbe (Margaret), both of Kansas City, MO; five grandchildren, Grace, Kylee, Jordan, Blake, Jr., and Vivi; his parents Paul and Marilyn Zerbe; three sisters; Paula Carter (John), Jeanie Jones (Bill), and Debbie Zerbe (Bennie). He was preceded in death by his daughter, Shannon Zerbe. Bill was born in Kansas City, MO and spent most of his high school years in San Diego. At 16 he became involved in martial arts in Kansas City eventually earning his 3rd degree black belt in Hopkito and also served his Kansas City Community as a member of the Kansas City Police Force. Among his many talents he is most known for his music. He began playing the organ in his grandfather's church in Kansas City, played during his high school in San Diego; became famous in Kansas City playing with numerous bands such as Cotton Candy and BWB Blues Band. He and Bette moved to San Francisco where he played in several bands before coming to Albuquerque where he continued to play, most recently with Mystic Vic. Bill will always be remembered for his musical talent, his kindness and compassion, and his devotion to his family. Service will be held on Friday, March 6, 2015 from 10:00a.m. to 2:00 p.m. FRENCH –Westside at any time during that time friends are welcome to visit with his family and participate in a spiritual

ceremony. Please visit our online guestbook for Bill at www.FrenchFunerals.com

FRENCH - Westside

9300 Golf Course Rd NW

505-897-0300

Previous Events

Service

MAR 6. 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Golf Course)

9300 Golf Course Rd NW

Albuquerque, NM 87114

(505) 897-0300

<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

Tribute Wall

TS

“ *Betty its tammie from watsonville ca I'm so very sorry to hear about bill . Very sad hope your doing ok . We will be thinking and praying for you*

tammie sabala - August 19, 2015 at 10:29 PM

RN

“ *I knew Bill a couple years ago when he invited me to join his band, although it didn't pan out, i remember him being an awesome keyboard player, one if the best i've heard. My condolences to his family. Rest easy buddy. Sorry for your loss.*

Rafael Nunez - March 27, 2015 at 01:28 AM

JE

“ *I have a memory of Bill as a little girl. Our grandparents had a front green porch swing that we use to swing on. This was in Springfield, Mo. Also, I did contact Bill by email while in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was only 11 months younger then I. So sorry he has left us so young. Love, Your Cousin Janice*



Janice Eble - March 06, 2015 at 04:52 PM



“ I met Bill when he was teaching Combat Hapkido in Belen and I earned my green belt then we reconnected after I started living on my own again some years later he we began learning regular hapkido and libre knife fighting he is who I consider my Sensai or the person who trained me in the Martial Arts which has REALLY HELPED me in my Recovery from my Traumatic Brain Injury so he is and will Always be respected in my eyes an will be missed Very Much thanks Joseph Dilley SR.



Joseph Dilley - March 06, 2015 at 11:42 AM

“ (Pt. 2 of 2 from Larry Martin)

The musical talent which has obviously been such an important part of his life, Bill kept under wraps until one day after we'd known him for many months, when a few of us were together (I can't quite recall, at an apartment clubhouse or something) where there happened to be an upright piano. Bill sat down and within minutes was playing and singing a spirited and confident version of "I am a Long, Tall Texan." We were floored, but also by that time there was a feeling of "Man, is there anything Zerbe can't master?"

Bill's karate studio was in flux, moving and even merging for a time with another studio (we were much better than they were, with a way better instructor!) Many of us students moved with him willingly and repeatedly. However, by the next summer, after Bill moved houses, my brother George had to move away for his horse-training career. Foolishly, when Bill announced a short teaching break about that time, I let other teenage concerns make me take a break, as well. I have always been sorry that that break lasted, because Bill and I quickly drifted apart.

So, a single year, but it has always felt like it must have been 5 or 10 years, because he was one of those people whose impact is out of all proportion to the amount of time you know him. Believe me, I don't have nearly the vivid memories of others I knew for only a year 40 years ago.

Yesterday, in his memory, I pulled out some of the moves he'd drilled into us. I found, to my amazement, that the punches, blocks, and even a few kicks that he taught us so well were still there, still felt like second nature, and had some real snap. Thank you, Sensei. Thank you, Bill.

*Larry Martin
Kansas City*

Larry Martin - March 05, 2015 at 05:10 PM

“ I’d like to add some memories from a different time period in Bill’s life. My brother George and I were Bill’s karate students and friends back when Bill was 19 and 20 (although we at first assumed he must be in his late 20’s). We began taking lessons from him at a community center in Kansas City north in the summer of 1973, and were immediately hooked by his drive, his skill, and his passion to get it right.

I was a couple of years younger than Bill, and my brother was several years older. I can say that we definitely went beyond students to become real friends with him. First, though, the martial arts: at that time, Bill was a first-dan black belt in Tang Soo Do Korean karate, and darn good. Certainly much better than others of a similar rank we were able to see around town. His expertise was evident, and his moves were crisp, confident, and powerful. He spoke reverently of his past sensei, and was trying to find another teacher he liked as well. For us, though, he WAS the sensei, unquestionably, and he loved teaching, which he did well and again, confidently. He would demonstrate his own flowing combinations of traditional moves, and announce proudly that he’d invented them. We came up with a new term for them that we all liked: “Zerbe Do.”

George and I became good friends with Bill and his young wife, Cheryl. Bull sessions after karate classes often ended up going into the wee hours, playing a board game together at his kitchen table and just talking about life. I double-dated with them (to a bad movie), and even helped to babysit their baby girl. Along with a couple of probably more qualified people, Bill asked George and me to both be on the Board of Directors in planning to establish a proper new karate studio. That planning is one of my key memories of Bill: he was passionate about anything he put his hand to, always full of new ideas both for the short and longer term, always enthusiastic about his next moves. (Pt. 1 of 2)

*Larry Martin
Kansas City*

Larry Martin - March 05, 2015 at 05:09 PM

MM

“ *Bette, my most sincere condolences to you and all who knew and loved Bill.
Prayers & hugs.
Melody Morehouse*

Melody Morehouse - March 05, 2015 at 12:55 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Bill Zerbe.*



March 04, 2015 at 04:43 PM



“ *Jeanie Zerbe Jones, and all other friends and family:*

*Sorry to hear of the passing of your brother, loved one. I did not know him but wanted to share my condolences. May you find some comfort in memories and knowing that you have our heart-felt sympathies and you are in our thoughts and prayers.
Sincerely, Connie and Roger Berardinis*

Connie Berardinis - March 04, 2015 at 11:25 AM

BI

“ *Bill was my friend and training partner while he and Bette lived on the Monterey Peninsula. Bill studied Hapkido at the Defensive Arts Academy in Seaside CA and was a loyal and dedicated student. He worked hard to obtain his 1st Dan Black Belt and mastering the cane. You will be missed my friend but not forgotten.
God bless you brother
Bob Ingersoll
Seaside CA*

Bob Ingersoll - March 04, 2015 at 02:27 AM

GG

“ *One memory, of many, was the night we left the Space Museum in Alamogordo. Greg and I watched Bill launch the van off the portico after loading out. He hadn't noticed the pavement dipped markedly down on his right and, well, all the gear and Joe Ford hit the ceiling when the van finally touched down. No one was injured and nothing was broken, thankfully. Greg and I laughed and laughed, although Bill was none to happy about it. We spent many hours together between here and there on the road with Taxi Dancer. Sometimes it was grueling but mostly it was great fun. We could not have done any of it without Bill, he was so generous. Sometimes a bit crusty but always a heart of gold.*

Bette and the Zerbe clan, we can't take away the pain you are all feeling at this shocking loss of such a GREAT husband, father, brother, and friend. We can only come together to lift you up and through it. We are here for you.

For those of us who worked and played with Bill our lives will be a little less for his absence. We will miss him.

Gail Gordon - March 03, 2015 at 11:23 AM

GG

“ 5 files added to the album New Album Name



Gail Gordon - March 03, 2015 at 10:26 AM

GG

You are loved and missed, Bill. Thank you for the joy you brought to my life. I will never forget you.

Gail Gordon - March 03, 2015 at 10:57 AM

CB

When Bill was with BWB in KC I was just starting to play organ, whenever I would see them play Bill would say....do you want to play it some? I didn't know much and he certainly helped and inspired me. Rest in Peace B3 buddy.

Charlie Booth - March 03, 2015 at 06:37 PM

SG

Bette, I am sorry to hear of your loss. My prayers and sympathy go out to you and all your family. Shelia Grimmertt in Kansas City from the old Upjohn Group.

Shelia L Grimmertt - March 08, 2015 at 07:11 PM

AM

“ Anthony V Motisi purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of Bill Zerbe.



Anthony V Motisi - March 03, 2015 at 08:45 AM

RB

“ Bette, I was so shocked to hear about Bill's passing. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to you and Bill's family.

Rhonda Breit - March 03, 2015 at 07:45 AM

SB

“ Bill was an incredibly talented musician who had a huge impact on Mystic Vic in such a short time. Whether playing rhythm or soaring on a lead, he always was mindful of each of our parts and had a profound sense of the total sound and music of the band. He helped me understand that it's not your voice that's most important, but the conversation. Playing with Bill helped me become a better musician, knowing Bill helped me become a better person. You are sadly missed but will always be part of Mystic Vic.
Scott Blackwell

Scott Blackwell - March 03, 2015 at 07:36 AM

ZB

“ Bill played with us for awhile and the love of music is something we were all blessed to share . Bill was a very kind man.
Prayers for comfort for his Wife ,Family ands friends... God Bless

zona bauer - March 02, 2015 at 07:59 PM

KP

“ *Bill was my friend. Worked with him in earth 80's and will always remember his wonderful sense of humor and love of music. My deepest sympathy to you. Ken Potter- Kansas City*

Ken Potter - March 02, 2015 at 04:57 PM

EC

“ *Ed & Suzanne Clock purchased the Healing Tears - All White for the family of Bill Zerbe.*



Ed & Suzanne Clock - March 02, 2015 at 04:41 PM

CM

“ *If there were ever two soul mates ... it was Bette and Bill. So sorry to hear about your loss.*

Connie Matlock - March 02, 2015 at 10:59 AM

TM

“ *On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.*

Trinity Montoya - February 27, 2015 at 02:57 PM

JE

Bill Zerbe was my cousin, and I am so sorry to hear of his passing. He was only 11 months younger than myself. My deepest sympathy goes to my Uncle Paul(my dad's brother whose name was Bill also), Aunt Marilyn, Bill's 3 sisters, Stacy, Brandon, his wife Bette, his 5 grandchildren, and all other family members & friends. He was a talented person, and sure knew how to play that Hammond Organ, and a great singer also. Your memory lives on in our hearts. Rest safely in heaven with Jesus! Our Love & Prayers to his family & friends, Janice and Jeff Eble

Janice Eble - March 01, 2015 at 04:19 PM

KL

I'm so very sorry to learn of Bill's passing. His joy in music was contagious. He was a remarkable person in so many ways. Much love and sympathy - Kim Long

Kim Long - March 03, 2015 at 04:47 PM

SS

Rachel met Bette in yoga, and we soon all became friends sharing food, drink, laughter and games, and going to see him make music around town. Bill had a wonderful and prolific sense of humor, and it was just plain fun to be around Bill and Bette. He was so talented in music, information technology, martial arts and friendship. Whether we saw him working with his chop saw in his garage, his Hammond Organ, or a game controller, Bill and Bette knew how to have a good time with their friends. When he was playing with Taxi Dancer, Bill gave us a CD of their music. They were professional performing live, and I was truly impressed at the professional job Bill did mastering and producing that CD. We have listened to it many times. He was a true Renaissance Man, a great husband and a great friend. We will miss his friendship, his smile, his sense of humor, his voice. Our deepest condolences to Bette, Brandon, Stacey, Mr. and Mrs. Zerbe, and the rest of Bill's family and friends. Rest in peace Bill.

Rachel and Steve Schmidt

Steven Schmidt - March 07, 2015 at 12:18 PM