



Dr. William Sims Thurman

March 17, 1931 - March 9, 2019

Dr. William Sims Thurman, 87, passed away on March 9, 2019.

Born in Paris, France on March 17, 1931, Bill obtained his Masters and Doctorate in Classics from the University of Texas. Proficient in many languages, he loved books and teaching. After positions at Winthrop University and the Harvard Center for Byzantine Studies (Dumbarton Oaks), he accepted a professorship at Asheville-Biltmore College (later UNC-Asheville) where he began the Classics Department in 1967. Bill taught at UNC-A for many years, but pursued multiple other interests including hiking, building, dancing, sailing, singing, animal husbandry, writing, politics, alternative energy, inventing, and theology. A wordsmith and punster, he continued to share his passion for Hebrew, Greek and Latin in retirement.

Bill is survived by his wife, Susan Wright Thurman, and by his children, Sharon Thurman Freeman (Mike), William David Thurman (Mary Beth), Robert Daniel Thurman, Jonathan Michael Thurman (Astghik) Alexander Paul Arthur Thurman, Stephanie Carolyn Thurman (Aaron), and Celia Tabitha Thurman. He leaves twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The family is grateful to Asheville Health Care Center and its staff for their excellent care.

A memorial service will be held 11:00 AM, Saturday, March 16, 2019 in the chapel of Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville. The family will receive friends immediately following the service.

Contributions in his honor may be made to Samaritan's Purse, PO Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

Morris Funeral & Cremation Care
304 Merrimon Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 252-1821
info@morrisfamilycare.com
<http://www.morrisfamilycare.com>

Family will Receive Friends

MAR 16. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. William Sims Thurman*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *My condolences to the Thurman family. The Thurman family had a lasting impact on me in my formative years growing up in Asheville from the late sixties through the seventies. I remember fondly Bill (or Dr. Thurman to me), Sharon (my friend and closest to me in age), David, Daniel, Michael, and Arthur. I loved the middle school bible studies Bill taught at Antioch, the fantastic theological discussions and arguments he had with my dad, and the crazy Jesus people that were always entangled with his family and mine. I loved that he was interested in everything and that he was a college professor. I really admired him and am so sorry for the loss this is for his family.*



Phil Bowers

Philip L Bowers - March 16, 2019 at 08:47 PM



*Memoria teneo! It's good to hear from you, Phil. A friend of mine wrote recently "the hole that is ripped in your heart allows a flood of memories to wash in". You and all of the Bowers family are among those we recall with affection. Best,
Sharon Thurman Freeman*

Sharon Freeman - March 21, 2019 at 01:10 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *William Sims Thurman*



Morris Funeral Home - March 15, 2019 at 10:27 AM

MA

“ *Lots of love and hugs to you all in the coming days, months, and year. I pray for peace and comfort for each of you. Please let us know if you all need some friends to lean on! Martha Stradley Johnson*

Martha - March 14, 2019 at 01:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. William Sims Thurman.*



March 14, 2019 at 10:04 AM

GH

“ I was fortunate to have DR. Thurman for Latin in 1967-68 just before obtaining by degree from UNC-A in 1968. Dr. Thurman always made time for his students. He was one of my favorite professors in those turbulent times.

This is a great personal loss for me, coming on the heels of the passing of another of my favorite professors, Dr. Philip Walker. Some of my fondest memories at UNC-A center around Dr. Thurman and the Humanities studies. Dr. Thurman made you think deeper and be curious about the world around you. Aurevoir, Dr. Thurman. You left your mark in so many ways. Gerry Huntley (UNC-A, 1968). 828-318-4013. gerryh1947@yahoo.com



Gerry Huntley - March 14, 2019 at 08:31 AM

KP

“ Our prayers are with you all. I have a sweet memory of David's dad dancing joyfully before the Lord at Resurrection Church many years ago. I know that was only a rehearsal for his joy in glory now!

Kathryn Pell - March 14, 2019 at 07:17 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. William Sims Thurman.



March 13, 2019 at 04:47 PM

DS

“ So strange, Susan. I have been thinks Ng of you so very hard the past 2 weeks. Friendship is a single soul dwelling in two bodies! So sorry for the loss of your dear Bill. My favorite memory of him is he sleeping info the rafters to keep you from being disturbed by his snoring, and of him wanting to save the spiders, and you smashing them when he wasn't looking. Love you!

Diann C Shook - March 13, 2019 at 04:24 PM

AM

“ I will never forget the day Bill gave me the shirt off his back, literally. He was wearing a black and blue checked polar fleece pullover (two of my favorite colors to wear). I commented on how much I liked it and he immediately pulled it off and handed it to me. I think of Bill whenever I hear that comment made about someone, "He'd give you the shirt off his back." Bill actually did. Rest in peace, dear Bill.
Alice Mills

Alice Mills - March 13, 2019 at 02:55 PM

KA

“ Much Love to All of the Family. We love you. Kaylynne Clark and family.
I imagine he and Jackie(Jack Clark) are having some good conversations now. :)

Kaylynne - March 13, 2019 at 09:57 AM

DT

“ Sorry to hear of the passing of Dr. Bill Thurman. We were good friends and spent many hours discussing Greek and Hebrew text. I wish I could be there for the service, but I'm out of the country. He was an academic champion that will be missed. My sincerest condolences to Susan and the family. Dr. Terrence Threadwell.

Dr. Terrence Threadwell - March 13, 2019 at 04:14 AM

AN

“ So sorry to hear of Bill's passing. He was a kind person and such an interesting man. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love ,
Steve and Ann Marie Hope

AnnMHope - March 12, 2019 at 10:33 PM

BC

My WONDERFUL THURMAN FAMILY!!!! Shalom..... to you ALL!! This is Beverly, from WAY BACK,..... as in Charley and Beverly!! I am SO SAD about Dr.Thurmans passing! We love him and all of you all SO MUCH! I delight in our many hours and days spent together. Kids..... I hope you remember us. There is no one like our BELOVED, Bill Thurmond..... wise, adventurous, witty, loving,..... just the BEST!
Beverly Connor

Beverly Connor - March 13, 2019 at 01:04 PM

RS

Bill was a dear and old friend with whom I spent many hours discussing the Bible, theology and our purpose.

Many God rest his soul, comfort his family and strengthen them all for life beyond his tall shadow.

Love and blessings,

Ron and Ginger Singer

Ron Singer - March 28, 2019 at 09:08 PM



“ Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. William Sims Thurman.



March 12, 2019 at 06:12 PM