



Warren Miller Bell

Warren Miller Bell, 88, of Alexandria, VA, passed away on September 17, 2024. A dedicated naval officer, civil servant, author, and family man, Warren led a life marked by service, creativity, and devotion to his loved ones.

Born and raised in El Dorado, Arkansas, Warren pursued higher education with vigor, earning a BS and MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas, and later an MBA from The George Washington University. After undergraduate school, Warren married the love of his life, Annette Hudgens, and they set off on a life together full of adventure and travel all over the world.

Warren's distinguished 29-year naval career culminated in major command as Commanding Officer of Navy Public Works Center Guam. He retired from the Navy as a Captain. He served with honor in the Seabees as Operations Officer for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40 during the Vietnam War, where he earned the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V Device among other citations for his exemplary service. Following his military career, Warren continued to serve his community as the City Engineer for Alexandria, Virginia.

In retirement, Warren's passion for storytelling flourished as he authored and published four novels, adding to a lifetime of creating tales that delighted his family. He was renowned for his ability to craft imaginative bedtime stories for his children and grandchildren, inventing memorable characters tailored to their interests.

Warren was a man of many talents, with music holding a special place in his heart. His rich baritone voice graced church and community choirs, often as a soloist in performances of Handel's Messiah. Music was an integral part of Warren's daily life; he filled his home with song, sharing even the silliest tunes with those around him. This love of music extended to his children, whom he encouraged to learn musical instruments and participate in school bands, fostering a musical legacy within his family.

An accomplished woodworker, Warren crafted beautiful furniture, including a cherished cradle used by all his grandchildren. He was also an avid vegetable gardener, a dedicated Boy Scout troop leader, and a voracious reader with a particular interest in history.

Committed to his community, Warren was deeply involved with his United Methodist Church congregation, serving on the board. He also volunteered his professional engineering skills as Facilities Manager for his Williamsburg housing community.

Warren is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Annette Hudgens Bell, and his children Stephen Spencer Bell (Susan) of Garden Ridge, TX, and Karen Bell Williams (David) of Alexandria, VA. He leaves behind four grandchildren: David Arvelo (Jessica) of Miami, FL, Sarah Arvelo of Alexandria, VA, Thomas Bell of Boise, ID, and Evan Williams of Alexandria, VA. Warren was preceded in death by his daughter, Susan Margaret Bell; his father, Jewell Thomas Bell and mother, Hazel Olive Bell, both of Magnolia, AR; and his brother, William Thomas Bell of Phoenix, AZ.

Visitation was held at Lewis Funeral Home, Magnolia, AR, on Sunday, September 29, 2024, from 6-8pm. A graveside funeral service took place at Magnolia Memorial Park Cemetery on Monday, September 30, 10:30 a.m. A memorial service celebrating Warren's life will be held at Williamsburg United Methodist Church, Williamsburg, VA, on October 12, 2024, at 1pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Warren's memory may be made to Williamsburg United Methodist Church.



Do not let your hearts
be troubled.

Believe in God;
believe also in me.

John 14:1

A Service of Worship
in Celebration of the Life of
Warren Miller Bell
June 16, 1936 – September 17, 2024

October 12, 2024 1:00 p.m.
Williamsburg United Methodist Church

PRELUDE

WORDS OF GRACE & GREETING

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who gave us birth, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray.

**You know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking.
Give us now your grace, that as we stand before the mystery
of death we may see the light of eternity, and live as those who are prepared
to die. Show us in these days of our loss that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from your love, and give us the peace of knowing
that living or dying, our life is in you. Amen.**

*HYMN *Amazing Grace* UMH 378 (red book)

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE Karen Williams, Stephen Bell

SPECIAL MUSIC *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*
(arr. Susan Staples Bell)

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

ANTHEM *The Lord Is My Shepherd* WUMC Choir
(Allen Pote)

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 13

WORDS OF FAITH

*HYMN *How Great Thou Art* UMH 77 (red book)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

*HYMN *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*
***Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
who bid'st the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.***

***Lord, stand beside the men who build and give them courage, strength, and skill.
O grant them peace of heart and mind, and comfort loved ones left behind.
Lord, hear our prayer for all Seabees, where'er they be on land or sea.***

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*THE PLAYING OF "TAPS" Retired U.S. Army First Sgt. Ryan Staggs

*POSTLUDE

Friends and family are invited to a reception
in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

Assisting with Worship
Clergy: Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton
Organist: Thomas Marshall
Sound: Jimmy McCarter
Video: Josh Clayton