



## Bill Gene Snodgrass

October 10, 1945 - April 4, 2023

Bill Gene Snodgrass, 77, passed away on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at Freeman Hospital in Joplin, Missouri. Bill was born on October 10, 1945, to Wilbur Dell Snodgrass and Helen Irene (Stricklen) Snodgrass in Harrison, Arkansas. Bill was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Carthage, Missouri. He received his master's degree from Texas Tech and became a professor of music at the University of Texas in Arlington. He earned Professor Emeritus status from UTA after 30 years of teaching. He was the founder of the Jazz Studies degree, the Jazz History curriculum and Jazz Alumni Association, and an endowed scholarship was established in his name at UTA as well. His jazz orchestra was invited to perform in China, the Philippines, Germany, Switzerland, Brazil, and Mexico. Bill was an avid reader and a lover of history. He loved talking to and catching up with his friends and watercolor painting.

Bill was united in marriage to the love of his life, Debra Barnes, on May 11, 2006, in Carthage;  
she survives.

Along with his wife Deb, Bill is survived by one daughter, Karla Alumbaugh (Darin); one stepbrother, Wayne Snodgrass; one stepsister, Sue Swatzenbarg; four grandchildren, Kirsten Powell (Jessie), Cheyenne LaFalier (Dalton), Ashleigh Gibson (Cade), Kaden Carter (Elizabeth);  
and four great-grandchildren, Royce Powell, Caxton LaFalier, Kirksey Hasty, and Kimber Hasty.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilbur and Helen Snodgrass; one daughter, Kristi Miles Carter; and one granddaughter, Brylee O'Banion.

Per the family's wishes, there will be a Celebration of Life in honor of Bill 7:00 p.m. Friday, April 28, 2023, at the Faith Life Worship Center, 736 Fairview Ave., Carthage.

Online condolences may be made at [www.ulmerfh.com](http://www.ulmerfh.com).

Contributions may be made to The Bill Snodgrass Endowed Scholarship in care of Ulmer Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR 28. 7:00 PM (CT)

Family Life Worship Center  
736 Fairview Ave.  
Carthage, MO 64836

# Tribute Wall

NC

“ Remembering Bill from our time in the music department at Pittsburg. One night a group of us were sitting around when Bill said he wanted us to listen to something. He put a record on and found the right song. When it came to a particular spot in the song, he said, “now listen to this”. He said the guy on the sax came in too soon, and he played it again so that we could hear it again. He just laughed and laughed. That was the guy I remember: smart with a great sense of humor. I’m sorry he is gone, Debbie. I know you must have had a great life together.

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**Nancy Martin Capps** - January 04, 2024 at 02:07 PM

DS

“ Melanie and I remember Bill so fondly from high school. He was so intelligent, talented, and personable. He was fun to be with. We always looked forward to seeing him and Debbie at my class reunions, which we hold every five years. When Melanie and I connected with Bill and Debbie at the reunions, we picked up the conversation as if we had talked the day before. They were both so pleasant and interesting. They both made our class reunions very special and memorable for us. We will miss Bill this October when we have our 60th class reunion. Dan Stanley

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**Dan Stanley** - April 22, 2023 at 03:29 PM

JS

“ My prayers go out for you and your family Debbie! Bill was such a wonderful guy. I enjoyed talking to him at Aunt Ann’s service. I pray for your family in the days ahead. May the Love of Christ surround you!

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**Jerry Stark** - April 21, 2023 at 05:41 PM