



William "Bill" Fehr

May 21, 1969 - May 9, 2020

William P. Fehr of Charlotte died unexpectedly on May 9, 2020 at the age of 50.

Beloved husband of Lissa (Brewer) and devoted father to Karsen. He was born on May 21, 1969 in the Bronx, NY to the late Jane and Richard Fehr.

His love for outdoor adventure, biking, and dogs stems from a childhood filled with exploring the woods and trails surrounding his hometown of Brooklyn, CT. He is a 1987 graduate of St. Bernard High School and a US Marine Veteran of Operation Desert Shield. Bill traveled the world with his camera in pursuit of physical challenges and to make human connections, but on a daily basis he found his adventures on the streets of uptown Charlotte where he worked as a bike messenger since 1998. Bill was a gifted storyteller and had an innate ability to connect with complete strangers, disarming them with his warm smile and steady gaze. He was a talented photographer who made beautiful images by capturing people's emotion on film. Bill lived life with passion, gave of himself freely, and thought deeply. He will be profoundly missed by his family, friends, and his faithful companions ZooZoo and Gigi.

Bill is also survived by his sister Betsy Hensley of Chelmsford, MA, Uncle Gerald Fehr of Cranston, RI, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Memorial Service celebrating his life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Bill's name to The Humane Society of Charlotte

Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Funeral Home, Weddington Chapel.

Comments



“ My husband and I worked with Bill's father Rich at SNET in the late 70's and early 80's. We got to know Jane and Bill and Betsy at family picnics in Brooklyn, a summer vacation in New Hampshire (if memory serves), boating and skiing. As too often happens, we lost track of one another through the years. As also sometimes (happily) often happens these days, Bill and I too recently connected via Facebook. It was wonderful to get to know him again. And sad to hear about his dad's passing. Pre-COVID, we were talking about the possibility of re-connecting in person as I now have family in Mooresville and a family member who works in Charlotte. Not surprised to learn that he had taken what many would call "the path less traveled." Like his father, he was an individualist. And happy that his life was so meaningful and rich in the important ways. I can still see the child I knew in his adult pictures, both his face and his intensity. Stunned to hear of his passing so young and without warning. A true loss. Thankful that it was peaceful. Love and wishes for peace to his wife, daughter, and Betsy.

Shelly Saczynski

Shelly D Saczynski - July 03 at 08:45 PM



“ Upon hearing of the loss of Bill I once again recalled the many fond memories of time spent with my childhood friend. The bike rides through and around our hometown of Brooklyn CT, camping trips, skateboarding down Maynard road just past Bill's mom and dad's house, driving Bill's dad's boat on Webster Lake, summers taking a short walk through the woods to swim in Bill's pool, trips to New Hampshire and my brother and I going with Bill to see one of our favorite bands, U2 for their "Joshua Tree" tour where we had great seats close to the stage.

And although we lost touch for a while, these memories were never forgotten. I will always be grateful that my brother and I reconnected with Bill about a year and a half ago when he was back in Brooklyn spending one last night camping out in the yard of his Parent's house before it was sold.

We spent a few hours by a camp fire reminiscing over old times and it felt like so many years had not passed...

I admired Bill for having the courage to do what he loved for a living and for being willing to freely explore his interests in places and people.

And although I never had the pleasure of knowing his wife and daughter, it was clear the deep love he had for them when they came up in conversation.

You will be missed my old friend....

John Supe

John Surprenant - May 21 at 07:59 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



John Surprenant - May 21 at 01:50 PM



“ Bill and I met in 2004 through his work as a bicycle courier and the court runs he made for our firm. I enjoyed his authenticity and amazing perspective of the world. In 2011 I left that firm, but Bill and I always stayed in touch and I can say that I never left a conversation with that man heavier than I was when it started. He always went the extra distance and I know that this world is going to feel this loss in ways we cannot even yet comprehend and fathom. My heart goes out to his wife and daughter and to all the others whose lives he touched. I'm sorry your death was sudden unexpected and all too soon, but I'm glad it was serene and without pain. I will miss our chats and your amazing wit and relentless spirit. You truly walked the walk my friend and my heart cries for all of us left behind here missing you. Keep shining on us, we still need your radiance and guiding light.

Love, Rachael Dougan

Rachael Francis Dougan - May 17 at 02:45 AM



“ I too met Bill in an uptown tower as my courier 15 or so years ago, and later chatting on the express bus in the mornings, or an uptown bench on a nice day. I always enjoyed running into him and talking about anything and everything. He was a wonderful person who will be greatly missed. Condolences and caring thoughts to the family

Lane Angell - May 16 at 01:55 PM



“ Bill and I reconnected in Charlotte long after our Marine Corps time together. He was just a Force of Nature! He had such a love for life too. Brother, you are going to be missed by many. Hope to see you again someday.



“ Always Full of life in the desert and Camp Lejeune! Rest in peace my Brother Semper Fi! Prayers for all family and friends. Untill Valhalla

Tony Farrister - May 15 at 04:05 PM



“ I just wanted to take a minute to say how very sorry I am to hear of Bill's passing. He was an amazing man. I moved to Charlotte in 2005 and started working for a law firm in Uptown Charlotte where I was introduced to Bill as our Court Messenger – but Bill was so much more than a Court Messenger. He was a world of knowledge on so many topics. It was always a pleasure talking with him and hearing all of his stories. He made me look at the world in a completely different perspective.

I saw Bill's cell phone number yesterday on my "important number's list" for work - It was gut wrenching to see it and to really realize that I will never call that number again; or hear his voice say "This is Bill" or "We will take care of it." It is so hard to imagine not seeing him and talking with him about his next big adventure. I guess he has moved on to his next big adventure - hopefully he will somehow find a way to share this adventure with all of us as well.

Sending prayers to his family and thousands of friends. May his adventures continue on to the next life. R.I.P. Bill

Crystal Hester



Crystal Hester - May 15 at 10:27 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Fehr.



May 14 at 03:40 PM



“ When I first started my career as a paralegal in Charlotte, Bill became a fixture in my life. A reminder of the years that I spent working for various law firms in Uptown Charlotte. He and I are the same age. No matter how fast he was rushing to his next stop or on his way to file something for the firm, he ALWAYS greeted me with a quick "Hey" and I would return the gesture. I would often processed those greetings as if we both realized that yes, we are still down here - working. You probably did not know my name but I hope that we will once again see each other even if it is for a quick - Hey! - J. Williamson, fellow uptown employee.

Julie Williamson - May 14 at 08:55 AM



“ Bill was legendary, one of a kind, intense, and incredibly gracious. I loved randomly crossing paths with him. What an amazing human. I was lucky enough to purchase some of his framed photographs and will cherish them and Bill's memory. Godspeed.

Spencer Lueders - May 14 at 08:13 AM



“ My heart goes out to Bill's amazing daughter Karsen , his wonderful wife Lissa and his sister Betsy. Bill loved and charished all of you and was full of pride when he would fill me in on the updates and doings of his family. Bill was such a great friend and upstanding person. I wish there was something i could do to take your pain away. The world is truly a lesser place without his him. I know he made me a better person as he did to so many others . I have a few pictures and a boatload of memories and stories for anyone who needs someone to talk to through this , dont hesitat call me 630-740-6687 my pleasure to share the spirit of my friend with others. To Bill , im sorry for the way i left things . You will always be a part of my soul. I love you , Semper Fidelis my brother. RIP. twma

Tim McDonnell - May 13 at 05:56 PM



“ Rest easy Brother
Until Valhalla
Magnificent Bastards to the end

Leroy Smith - May 13 at 02:10 PM



“ The word "Gusto" keeps coming to mind when I think of Bill Fehr. I was privileged to have been in Bill's path so many times over the past 25 years -- mostly in high-rise elevators or on the streets of uptown Charlotte. Bill's passion for living in the moment was unabashedly apparent and unique. A true inspiration and a life well-lived. May he rest in peace.

Melanie Phipps - May 13 at 01:34 PM



“ He was Best Man at my wedding. Bill left a trail of luminous friends around the world, the way the rest of us leave fingerprints on doorknobs and office furniture. The World is truly diminished without a light that strengthened so many others.

Scott Allsbury - May 13 at 03:52 AM



“ Bill, as a Sgt back then, and although I never showed it, when I was down inside, you, Radford, Curtis, Hendrix, Mediavilla, and other kept me motivated just by watching and listening to you all interact with each other. The machine gunners we had, you all, where the best. I loved training with you. I loved everything about you. You , our brother, are now with your parents. Your wife and daughter will surely miss you, but so will hundreds of others. You did your duty on earth now do it in heaven. RIP, Bill. See you when I get there.

Donald Funkhouser - May 12 at 07:18 PM



“ We lost a "Great One!" I will remember Bill's spirit and his friendship for the rest of my life. He loved his friends and he loved his community. Rest easy my friend!

Tony Lowe - May 12 at 07:15 PM



“ Bill was always a breath of fresh air and always had some interesting adventure to share! I will miss the brief meetings as he dropped off or picked up a package! We recently friended each other on Facebook...the pictures he took told stories all by themselves! Bill lived a life he loved! We should all be so blessed! You will be missed, Sir, you will be missed! ♂

Keyna Hoyte - May 12 at 07:03 PM



“ Joe LaVancha sent a virtual gift in memory of William "Bill" Fehr



Joe LaVancha - May 12 at 07:01 PM



“ So many nights talking about life on the rock we live on doing yearly flybies of the Sun, same place just different time!!



Ed Curtis - May 12 at 06:55 PM



“ After almost 20 years together there was always something new with Bill. I'm saddened by knowing there won't be any more stories unless I'm telling them. If you knew Bill his explanations of events are so entertaining and vivid. I don't think I've experienced at least not yet a man with so much passion. A man not moved by mere meteorologist as he sported his shorts and sandals in the brutal cold of winter beard full of grey which was actually ice. In those early years just another day of meeting Bill for those mail pickups. Nothing seemed to stop him as he seemed driven by everything. Bike rides to the coast, Kathmandu, or some other faraway place I won't ever experience other than through his stores. Just last week him and I watched a video of the new pup and how big and strong she was going to be. Then this boat he purchased not too long ago that he would go on and on about lol. I felt I finally had my answer to what he would do if he would ever park that custom-built bike frame. He was so happy talking about taking the boat out and how he and Lissa could go anywhere they wanted soon enough. Going to miss you Bill but I've got so many of your stories and our experiences that you will live on in great memory. My continued prayers for Lissa and Karsen. He spoke of you so often and loves you so dearly.

Charles Evans

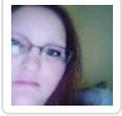
Charles Evans - May 12 at 05:33 PM

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“ Bill was such a cool and talented young man. It was a great honor to have known him. He was an important part of our uptown community. He'll be missed, but always remembered.

Jim Horne - May 12 at 05:28 PM



“ Tina Anderson lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Fehr



Tina Anderson - May 12 at 01:14 PM



“ Tina Anderson sent a virtual gift in memory of William "Bill" Fehr



Tina Anderson - May 12 at 01:14 PM



“ Lissa and Karsen, I am truly saddened and sorry to hear of your loss. My prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. It was a pleasure getting to know Bill not only as a coworker, but also as a friend. He was truly a interesting individual with a kind heart. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Tina Anderson - May 12 at 12:57 PM



“ Our condolences to Bill's family and friends. We grew up with Bill and Betsy as our neighbors and friends on Maynard Road. Lots of fun childhood memories of my cousin Ron and my younger sister JoAnne, with Bill, exploring the woods and river. Having a lot of fun adventures. From all that I've read he was a well loved man, with many friends. A life lost to soon. Rest in peace.
Linda (Surprenant) Trahan

Linda Trahan - May 12 at 11:50 AM



“ Bill will live forever in our hearts as the kind, unique and thoughtful friend he was in every single encounter over the past 20 years. Thinking of you, Lissa and Karsen. He loved you so much.

With deepest sympathy, Aundrea and Marco Scipioni

Aundrea Scipioni - May 12 at 11:06 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Fehr.



May 12 at 11:02 AM



“ I'll never forget the 3 years I worked with Bill at Nova Office Strategies a decade ago. He was by far the most interesting and intense person I have ever met. He put his everything into everything he did. He wore his heart in a place where everyone could see it and experience it. We all loved Bill. I am glad I was able to reconnect with him this past year online, and to meet him again a couple times in person. He came out to my house in January to record a podcast about his unusual life and career, and we shared some smoked ribs I had made for the occasion. I also met up with him again this past March to work on a creative project together and to have some coffee at his favorite coffee spot on 7th street. The last time I talked to him was a couple weeks ago when Bill had sourced out a giant 13 lb bag of flour for making pumpernickel bread. He wanted to go in half with me on it because he knew I was trying to procure some pumpernickel bread without much success. That was so Bill. I am saddened by his loss. My condolences to you and your family.

Here is a link to the podcast where Bill shared his life story with me. I pray it's all a source of joy and comfort in our time of grief: <https://jimmystable.com/the-cosmic-career-of-a-bike-messenger-bill-fehr-episode-44/>

Jimmy Humphrey - May 12 at 09:56 AM



“ Jimmy thanks for letting us hear your podcast with Bill. He never mentioned to me after all these years about him making his life changing decision at the lake ice fishing with me. What a great gift you have given a lot of people. Tim McDonnell



“ Lissa and Karsen I am so sorry for your loss. I met Bill through work-he delivered many a package for me, but more importantly I was lucky enough to have him as a friend. Always always a kind word, good story, genuine connection from Bill. I heard so much love in his voice when speaking of both of you which was often. Peace for you and your family.

Sarah - May 12 at 07:39 AM



“ I am very sorry for your loss Lissa and Karsen, this is truly a tragedy and I pray for both of you.

Laura Varney - May 12 at 09:30 AM