



William Gordon Jr.

JUL 25, 1942 - SEP 29, 2025



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



William Gordon Jr.

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William Gordon, Jr., age 83, passed away peacefully on September 29, 2025, after stays in Westport Estates in Marshall and Lakeview Care Center in Booneville, Missouri. Born on July 5, 1942 to Sara Fagan Gordon, and William Gordon, Sr, in Columbus, Ohio, Bill lived a life defined by service, music, and a deep commitment to others.

Bill's early years were marked by a strong spiritual foundation. He attended Roman Catholic Franciscan Third Order Regular at Highland Hall Franciscan Preparatory School in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania-a preparatory school for priests and brothers-where his faith was once so profound that he considered entering the priesthood. Though his spiritual journey would take many turns over the decades, including periods of agnosticism and atheism, Bill ultimately reclaimed his faith in his final months. He wore a cross around his neck until the day he died.

Education was a lifelong pursuit for Bill. He often joked that he had enough college credits from institutions across the country to build his own diploma. His curiosity and passion for learning never waned, and this intellectual spirit carried over into every facet of his life.

As a teenager, Bill found his first job at a music store-an experience that would ignite a lifelong love affair with the guitar. He honed his skills by playing in a big band in Indianapolis and enjoyed recounting stories of selling clarinet reeds to Benny Goodman and watching jazz guitarists perform up close. Music was not just a hobby for Bill; it was a calling. He was an accomplished guitarist who never hesitated to share his talent. Whether performing at events or simply playing for friends and family, Bill believed deeply in the power of live music and encouraged others to discover their own musical passions.

In 1963, Bill joined the United States Air Force. Despite having a father known for his hunting prowess and published writings on the subject, Bill had an aversion to firearms and loud noises. Yet through determination and courage, he overcame those fears and earned a marksman medal. He served honorably at Tahk Li Royal Air Force Base during the Vietnam War, maintaining flight



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lines for pilots-many of whom never returned. Although Vietnam remained a difficult topic throughout his life as more truths about the conflict emerged, Bill remained proud of his service. In later years, he could often be seen wearing Vietnam campaign colors and caps that identified him as a veteran.

After his military service, Bill held various jobs that reflected both his versatility and compassion. One of his most notable contributions came when he helped Johnny Morris launch what would eventually become Bass Pro Shops by assisting with its early mail-order operations. Later, he worked for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, where he took pride in promoting programs for cancer screenings and infant nutrition support. His dedication earned him both Employee of the Month and Employee of the Year from honors from the DHSS and the state of Missouri.

Bill's generosity extended far beyond professional accolades. He had an open heart for veterans, the homeless, and anyone in need. He gave freely-of his time, possessions, and resources-without expecting anything in return.

He is survived by his beloved wife Elayne Gordon; sons Chris Gordon; Terry Gordon and wife Tasia; Jason Gordon and wife Pilly; granddaughters Madison Gordon, Kira Gordon, and Maya Gordon; brother Richard Gordon and wife Elaine; as well as former spouse Denise Gordon.

He was preceded in death by his sister Judy Moler; mother Sara Fagan; and father William S. Gordon, Bill's legacy lives on through the music he played, the lives he touched through service and generosity, and the enduring love of those who knew him. May his memory bring comfort to all who mourn his passing. A Memorial Service will be held on October 10, 2025, from 01:30 PM to 02:30 PM at Parkview Christian Church 1405 E. 16th Street




Events

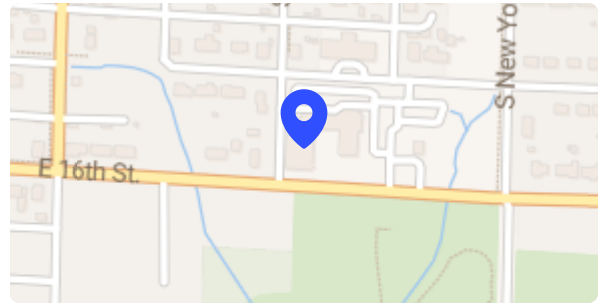
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Memorial Service

 **Friday**, October 10, 2025

 1:30 PM CT

 **Parkview Christian Church**
1405 East 16th Street, Sedalia MO 65301





Tribute Wall

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Carla H posted:

I met Bill at the Post Office where I worked for 33 years and where we talked about music. We shared the love of musicians and singers from years gone by. I was shocked to look over my shoulder at my 101 yr old WWII Vet-uncle's funeral, Bill was there. Somewhere they had met through the years. Bill told me that Virgil was the epitome of a gentleman, and he was right. For several years, Bill blessed my husband and I the most delicious jar of homemade Cranberry Sauce. Our kids would come home for Thanksgiving and would ask, did that man give us any Cranberry Sauce? After I retired, I never saw Bill again. I asked his dear wife Laynie for his address. She gave it to me over Facebook Messenger. I was able to send him a card and I thanked him for making this world a little bit brighter. Wouldn't you know, Bill replied and said the same thing about me. Bill will always be remembered, especially on Thanksgiving and when I hear a Basie or Ellington tune. May the Goodness of God be with you during this time of sadness. Scripture tells us that JOY comes in the morning. I am a witness, it will.

October 1 at 5:17 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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