



William Roger Balfrey

July 14, 1937 - March 18, 2017

William Roger “Bill” Balfrey, born July 14, 1937, died March 18, 2017 at the age of 79. Bill lived his life in Siskiyou County except for a few short years in colleges and the military. He took tremendous pride in his Scott Valley heritage and his family home town of Etna. Bill came from a pioneering family who traveled by covered wagon to the community of Etna in the 1850's.

Bill taught Psychology, Speech, Cross Country Skiing, Winter Survival and People Tracking at the College of the Siskiyous for 36 years. He also developed and coordinated a Wilderness Emergency Medical course and taught a course, “Getting Lost is Preventable.” He was president of the COS Faculty Association two times and served as Faculty Parliamentarian. He was once a member and President of the Weed Kiwanis Club. Bill was very active in the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Search and Rescue organization and held different positions, including Training Officer and Group Leader. He was also a member of the Sheriff's Posse and a life member of the NRA. He was very involved with the Siskiyou County Historical Society after his retirement.

Bill loved teaching and watching insights and awareness develop within the students, spending time on Search and Rescue, either tracking or using his Tucker Sno Cat in a winter search mission, and most of all riding his saddle mule up the trail to his much loved Abbott Ranch on the North Fork of the Salmon River, as well as packing on up into the Marble Mountain Wilderness.

Bill leaves his wife, Willo Balfrey, two step-daughters and four wonderful grandchildren. A family gathering is planned at a later date. Any contributions may be made to the Siskiyou County Search and Rescue organization.

Tribute Wall



“ *Just saw this in the newspaper online. I remember Prof. Balfrey so well...loved his class so much...it was my favorite class in college...prayers to the family for your loss...*

Diana Watson Gerding - April 12, 2017 at 07:47 AM

KP

“ *My sincere condolences to Mr Balfrey's Family .. I will remember sooo many amazing teachings from him. In one PSYC Class he asks us "What do you think is the best way to get to know someone"? No one knew the answer yet it sense perfect sense to us when he devulged "camping"! Have to say I agree. Thank you for the memories, history of your Family in the Valley (which I grew up in) and being you.*

RIP Sir

KimLen Perreira - April 06, 2017 at 11:16 PM



“ I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of one of the few people in this life I have but the highest respect and regard for: Mr. William ("Bill") Balfrey. I had the honor of having this fine man as my psychology teacher at the College of the Siskiyous and even enjoyed taking his tracking class on a dark rainy day! My sincerest condolences to his wonderful wife Willo and his family. Professor Balfrey (as I still fondly think of him to this day) was one of the most kind, giving, moral and ethical gentleman I had the pleasure of knowing who more than gave back to his community but in so doing made this world a better place. Thank you sir for teaching me so much and also for the kindness you showed me. I will never forget what you did and I gratefully y thank God that you entered my life which meant more to me than you will ever know. Rest in our Lord's eternal peace worthy sir.

Chester Sgroi - April 06, 2017 at 06:31 AM



“ Bill was my favorite teacher in college. His stories were not interesting but were educating and full of life. I truly miss going to his class. He was a great teacher and person. R.I.P. Bill. Thanks for the fun times at COS...

Lance Harriss

Lance Harriss - April 03, 2017 at 04:41 PM



His stories were interesting edit

Lance Harriss - April 03, 2017 at 04:44 PM

BS

“ Willo, I am so sorry for your loss. Bill was a nice guy. Mike Robbins and I enjoyed knowing the two of you years ago when we were with the Audubon Society. You lost a wonderful companion and husband. We are sorry for your loss and you keep cherishing the good memories. He will always be with you.

Sincerely, Barbara (Robbins) Silvius

Barbara Silvius - March 28, 2017 at 12:42 PM

SN

“ *condolences from suzanne and sherwin*

sherwin nelson - March 25, 2017 at 11:51 AM

JY

“ *Bill was a family friend and teacher. His stories were always entertaining, and enlightening. I learned so much from him. He will be greatly missed.*

Jayne Mullin Yenko

Jayne Yenko - March 25, 2017 at 11:03 AM

JO

“ *Bill and I could always find something to talk about when we'd get together at the high school reunion.....family, Scott Valley, friends, etc. Through the years, via e-mail we'd solve some family history questions. I'll miss that contact with him. Condolences to the family.*

Joanne Smith Mello

Joanne - March 23, 2017 at 04:52 PM

AT

“ Dear Willo and family. I am in Texas just now and just saw Bills obituary. I am so sorry. Bill was and always will be a very special person in my life. I learned alot for him. I am also so grateful for the time that he and my Bud got to spend together and the reminicing of old friends, times and places they shared. We so enjoyed reading the stories that Bill wrote about in his book. When Bud could no longer read, I would read them to him The Life they lived. We will never see that time again. I am so sorry Willo .Be at peace now my friend.

Ann Tozier - March 23, 2017 at 12:57 PM

KG

“ I heard Bill speak at several events and I always tried to get a seat up front so I could catch some of his little wisecracks that he spoke ever so softly between important ideas he was presenting. He was a treasury of stories about the history of Siskiyou County.

Kathy Graves - March 21, 2017 at 12:05 PM

GG

“ My condolences... I had classes from Bill in the late 60's, he scared me to death in speech class. I had a couple tracking classes, from him and was in BCHC and heard wonderful mule stories and a few bear stories. I was fascinated with his adventures as a young man gathering the Native American baskets and artifacts. I learned a lot from Bill in Search and Rescue...I looked forward to seeing Bill, not afraid of him anymore, I liked him well enough that I would have washed his BIG DINNER PLATE/PLATTER if he would have let go of it. I promise, I will pass down to the next generation his love for the back country and keep our heritage special...Thanks for sharing him Willo..Gail Goodrich

Gail Goodrich - March 21, 2017 at 02:33 AM