




## William "Bill" Spencer

March 11, 1936 - April 16, 2024

It is with a heavy and saddened heart that we share the news of the passing of William F. Spencer, affectionately known as "Bill," on April 16, 2024, due to complications from surgery for pancreatic cancer.

Born in Boston, MA, on March 11, 1936, to Sarah (Long) and Walter Spencer, Bill spent his early years in Quincy, MA, where he actively participated in scouting and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He graduated from North Quincy High School in 1953 and earned his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Northeastern University in 1958. Following graduation, he served in the Army Reserve from 1959 to 1961.

Bill embarked on his 34-year career with New England Telephone as a Northeastern University co-op student. After working in various locations, he settled in New Hampshire.

 Bill valued community and actively contributed as a member and chairperson of the Litchfield Budget Committee for 25 years, advocating for fiscal responsibility for the town's improvement and its residents' welfare.

Bill could often be found behind the lens of a camera, as he chronicled his family's life events. His commitment to family inspired him to delve deep into his genealogical past, spending countless hours tracing family lines and

connections. Bill had hoped to find his direct connection to the Mayflower but had to settle for connections through his children's spouses much to his chagrin.

His children fondly remember his love of the outdoors, taking them camping, skiing, ice skating, swimming, and hiking.

Bill's passion for competitive running began during high school and college, where he excelled as a member and captain of the cross country and track teams. Although he took a break from running for many years, he returned to the roads in 1991 after his retirement.

In his own professional running journey, he achieved 38 individual age records in New Hampshire, spanning distances from 5k to half marathon. Transitioning to Masters Track and Field in 1997, he secured an impressive tally of 22 National Championships across distances ranging from 800 meters to 10k, along with 3 National Cross Country Championships. In 2011, he showcased his talent on the global stage at the World Masters Championship, earning 3rd place in the 800 meters and 5th place in the 1500 meters. His exceptional accomplishments led to inductions into multiple halls of fame, including the Gate City Striders in 2012, the New England 65+ Runners Club in 2007, and the Millenium Mile in 2010. Remarkably, at the time of his passing, he held the 9th rank worldwide in the 800 meters for his age group (85-89).

Bill is well known in the cross country and track community; in 1999, he began his coaching career with a group of 11- and 12-year-olds eager to compete each December in the National Junior Olympics Cross Country Championships and never looked back. "Coach Bill" continued until his passing as he remained dedicated to all his teams, with close to 15 years of coaching at Bishop Guertin High School.

One parent shared, “My daughter ran for PAL for four years and had Bill Spencer as her coach for two. Bill was unquestionably her favorite coach. He trains his runners to compete and is particularly good at recognizing and developing talented girls. For the benefit of those who don’t know Bill, he is a very accomplished runner with many years of training experience. He tailors each athlete’s training according to their capabilities and goals. While direct and sometimes gruff, he sincerely loves to see the girls succeed, and cares about them long after they’ve left the PAL program.”

[L]  
[SEP] Bill’s dedication to the running community extended beyond coaching. He began tracking and recording New Hampshire road race results in the late 1990s and began posting records in 1999. To accomplish this, Bill had to cull through many file drawers of NH races going back to the early 1980s and went through literally every race result to find the best individual age times for NH residents, as well as the best all-time in the state.

Bill leaves behind his loving family: Pat (Maciolek), to whom he was married for 46 years; daughter, Michele Geesaman (William); son, Chris Spencer (Amy); daughter, Debby Spencer (Peter Parodi); grandchildren Sarah, Michael, Aidan, Daniel, Ella, Simon, and Samuel; many nieces and nephews; and grand-pups Leila, Samson, and Murphy. He was predeceased by his parents, Walter and Sarah Spencer, and siblings, Walter Spencer, Katherine Downey, and Marie Hagelston.

[L]  
[SEP] A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Immaculate Conception Parish, 216 East Dunstable Rd. in Nashua, NH on Thursday, May 2nd at 10:00 am. In lieu of flowers, donations in his honor would be welcome to an organization that he tirelessly supported both physically and financially: Bishop Guertin High School at <https://www.bghs.org/giving/make-a-gift/>

“Clearly winning individual championships, as I have, is fulfilling but it is nowhere near as satisfying as seeing a kid that you have worked with for a few years succeed.”

- Coach Bill

# Previous Events

## MASS AT CHURCH

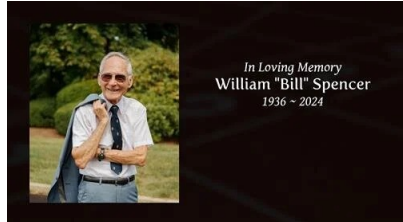
MAY 2. 10:00 AM (ET)

Immaculate Conception Parish  
216 East Dunstable Rd.  
Nashua, NH 03062

# Tribute Wall



“ Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Homes & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Bill" Spencer



Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Homes - April 19, 2024 at 10:28 PM

LA

*Such a beautiful compilation of Bill's life and passions.*

*Thank you for sharing these memories.*

*We are all much better people for having Bill in our lives.*

*LAB*

LAB - April 20, 2024 at 09:38 AM

KD

*Patty, So sorry to hear of your wonderful husband's passing. Our deepest condolences. Dino and Krys (Krycki) Donati*

Krystyna Donati - April 22, 2024 at 08:47 AM

JP

*sorry to hear about Bill. He was a great Man. Jack pinciaro*

jJack pinciaro - April 23, 2024 at 11:57 AM

JM

*We were so sorry to hear of Bill's passing, he was a wonderful man ❤️  
Marcus Family*

Jean Marcus - May 01, 2024 at 07:55 PM

CJ

“ Pay. We are so sorry to hear of of Bill's passing  
I te.rmber you telling me about your wedding a d how you beamed  
as you mentioned each detail. Our love and condolences to.you and  
your family. Hugs. My friend

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**Connie Jackson** - May 16, 2024 at 10:04 PM

LB

“ On behalf of the entire Bishop Guertin Community, I offer heartfelt  
condolences during this time of loss. Bill's legacy at BG will never  
be forgotten and we are so grateful. His love of our students, his  
support of our school and his passion for his sport were truly  
remarkable. We ask our students to make a difference in the world,  
for sure Bill has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of  
students. Thank you for sharing this remarkable man with us and  
know that he will not be forgotten. Please also know that you will all  
be in our thoughts, our prayers and our hearts in the difficult days  
ahead.

*With our deepest sympathy;  
Linda Brodeur*

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**Linda Brodeur** - May 01, 2024 at 08:08 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of  
William "Bill" Spencer.

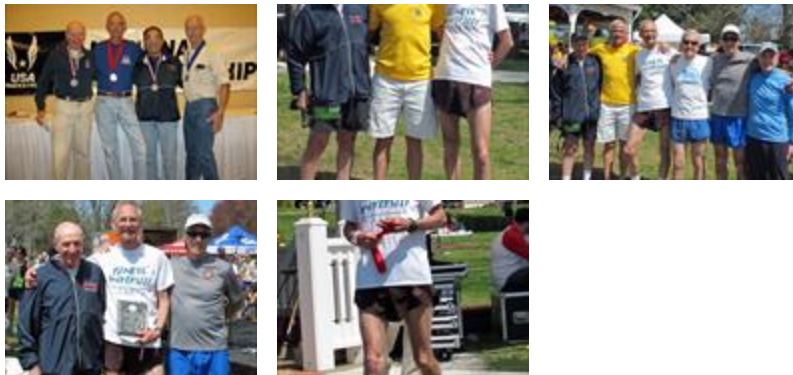


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April 29, 2024 at 04:11 PM

JL

“ So sad to hear about Bill. He seemed positive going into the operation. I sent him photos from the running past when I heard about his cancer. It was an honor and pleasure to run on teams with Bill over many years. He led us to World and National Records and many Championships. I'm glad he came to Providence in January 2023 to run and set National Club Records for the New England 65 Plus Runners Club in the 4X200 and 4X400. Bill loved so much coaching his cross country girls. The slideshow on this site is very good. We will miss his running and company.  
Jerry LeVasseur  
Many of the photos are from Sacramento and the world championships



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**Jerry LeVasseur** - April 29, 2024 at 12:57 PM

FB

“ Bill gave the town of Litchfield a significant amount of his time, effort and wisdom. He made our community a much better place. Bill, you will be missed. To his family and friends, please accept my condolences and best wishes.

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**Frank Byron** - April 23, 2024 at 08:39 AM

MH

“ While I did not know Bill well, I would chat with him on occasion at town functions and meetings. He was a great communicator and served the town of Litchfield in many different capacities. He was always respectful in debating the facts, which is a lost art these days. I remember always looking to see what his thoughts were on different town issues and warrant articles, knowing he would have done his homework. I respected and admired him. My condolences to his family and close friends. Rest easy Bill!

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**Maureen Halligan** - April 22, 2024 at 12:36 PM

PB

“ Bill was always a voice of reason during his time with the budget committee in Litchfield and in his thoughts as a private citizen in town, too. No matter which side of an issue you stood on, what he had to say was worth a good listen.

*He always took the time to ask about my former husband, also a talented runner, who was stricken with Parkinson's. Many years after he left our community, Bill would check in with me and ask how he was doing. He also took the time early on, when my husband could still run a bit, to let him know that he was aware of the accolades he had achieved in his running career and respected what he had been capable of. Small moments like that can go past without notice but it made a huge impact on someone whose capabilities were diminishing. I have never forgotten that kindness offered by Bill.*

*My deepest condolences to all that loved Bill, and especially to his family. I'm so sorry for your loss and I hope precious memories and the love you have for each other sustain you all in this difficult time.*

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**Pamme Boutselis** - April 22, 2024 at 10:20 AM

EL

*Chris, Amy, and family. Sending our condolences on the loss of your Dad, father-in-law, and grandfather. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Remember all the wonderful times you shared together and when you speak his name may it bring a smile to your face. All our love, Mr. and Mrs. Lennox*

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**Eileen and Walter Lennox** - April 22, 2024 at 09:44 PM

LT

*I've known Bill since 1990, when he beat me in a road race, it was my birthday and I just turned 50. I said to my self ,who is he !, I've been a friend off him ever since. He was allways very friendly and a joy to talk to over the years. Sorry for your loss . Lucien Trudeau*

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**Lucien Trudeau** - April 23, 2024 at 09:51 AM