



## Dr. William Howard Bates Jr.

January 20, 1939 - March 18, 2022

Dr. William Howard Bates, Jr. was born in Albany, Georgia in 1939 to Lt. Col. and Mrs. William Howard Bates, Sr. He was the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. James Matthew Giddens of Albany and Mr. and Mrs. Luzarn Hanson Bates of Covington, GA.

He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann Hagan Bates, son William Howard Bates III of New York, NY, and daughter Bronwyn Georgia Bates of Albany, GA.

He was a member of First Baptist Church of Albany.

He spent many happy times in Albany visiting his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James M. Giddens. During the Korean War, he and his mother lived in Albany, and he attended Albany Junior High School.

Being an Army Brat, he traveled with his parents worldwide living on Guam for one year and in Germany for two years where he graduated from high school. He lettered in football and basketball for two years and was the president of his senior class.

After high school, he attended the University of Georgia, obtaining his Master's Degree in Science Education. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and received his commission in the US Army as a Second Lieutenant.

On October 26, 1963, he married Jo Ann Hagan of Athens and they were married for 58 years.

While in the military, he served in Korea, Colorado, Okinawa, Maryland, Alabama, and Vietnam.

In Colorado, their son, William III was born.

In 1970, he separated from the Army with the rank of Captain and returned to graduate school at the University of Georgia to complete his sixth year Specialist Degree in Education. The family then moved to Albany where he taught biology at Dougherty High School for one year. He then became assistant principal at Albany High School. While there, he completed course work for his Doctorate Degree and received his degree from Nova University in Florida. In 1979, their daughter Bronwyn was born. He became principal of Northside Elementary School and retired in 1995.

After retirement, Bill briefly ran Antiques Plus (his mother's antique shop), managed the family rental properties and has served on the Chehaw Park Authority as chairman, he was a member and chairman of the Albany/Dougherty Greenspace Committee, a member of the Albany Tree Board, and Thronateeska Heritage Center Board, President and long time Treasurer of Albany Audubon Society, an officer in the Albany Coin Club. He was one of the first, if not the first, person to establish a Georgia Land Trust Permanent Conservation Easement and working with the Calhoun County NRCS to establish a USDA-NRCS Wetland Reserve on his Pinewilde Farm. Over the years thousands of Longleaf pines were planted. He ran for the Dougherty County Board of Education. He wrote four books, numerous articles, and The Chronicles of Pinewilde which were stories of his wildlife encounters at his farm. He had a keen interest in investments, wildlife hunting and conservation.

A graveside service will be held at Crown Hill Cemetery, Friday, March 25th at 11:00 AM. Those desiring, may send memorial contributions to their favorite charity.

# Cemetery Details

## Crown Hill Cemetery

Albany

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAR 25. 11:00 AM (ET)

Crown Hill Cemetery  
1903 Dawson Rd  
Albany, GA 31707  
(229) 883-6600

# Tribute Wall

GG

“ *GINA GRIFFIS lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Howard Bates Jr.*



GINA GRIFFIS - August 26, 2022 at 07:52 PM

VB

“ *My friendship with Bill began quite a few years ago. We served together on the Thronateeska Board. I knew him to be a kind, caring and intelligent man and so much more. He will, no doubt, be missed. Sincere condolences to his wife and family.*



Valerie Buchanan - March 29, 2022 at 05:35 PM

CS

“ *Dr. Bates was the best and always was smiling and running around Albany High School. Sending many prayers to the family!!*

Cathy Shaw - March 29, 2022 at 04:59 PM

JB

“ *Janie And Bruce Bitterman lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Howard Bates Jr.*



Janie and Bruce Bitterman - March 25, 2022 at 03:39 PM

PL

“ Dr. Bates was our vice principal at Albany High, and a really good guy. He understood that leadership means knowing how to work with and appreciate people. When I was president of the student body, I got to spend time with him, and saw how he got things done. That was a valuable lesson for me. Well done, sir.

Paul Ladd - March 24, 2022 at 09:52 PM

BF

“ I had a fabulous career in education and Dr. Bates was there from the very beginning. I would not have had my career if he had not come to my rescue. Always grateful to a very fine man.

barbi fishser - March 24, 2022 at 06:52 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Dr. William Howard Bates Jr..



March 23, 2022 at 12:57 PM

RS

“ Bill will be greatly missed. He was a close friend for nearly 30 years. I can truly say he had real integrity and believed in the worth of others. We shared a love of all of nature, especially wildlife, and had many adventures there. Jo Ann, William, Jr., and Bronwyn are lifted up in prayer for comfort in the knowledge that they will be reunited with Bill.

RON SIMPSON - March 23, 2022 at 10:23 AM

SP

“ I taught for 13 years at Northside while Dr. Bates was principal. He was always supportive of teachers. He was knowledgeable in many areas and always willing to listen. He shared our sad times and happy times. He became a friend to me over the years. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Sandi Powell

Sandi Powell - March 22, 2022 at 08:02 AM

CM

“ I remember Dr Bates well from my time at Albany High. He was a good man and did a great job with us rowdy kids. My prayers are with his family and friends.

Charles McComb - March 22, 2022 at 07:25 AM

OC

“ Praying for the family. My 35 year old son was a student at Northside

Olanda Cox - March 21, 2022 at 10:41 PM

PH

“ PAM HILL lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Howard Bates Jr.



PAM HILL - March 21, 2022 at 08:51 PM

GF

“ Bill Bates was a great asset to our community for so many years in so many ways that he lead us and served us. The gifts of his mind and heart and soul will be greatly missed by all who knew him. While Carol and I are out of town and will miss the service on the 25th, our hearts will be with JoAnn, Bronwyn and Bill, Jr., and with all others who in their presence or in their spirit join in the celebration of his life well-served. Greg Fullerton

Greg Fullerton - March 21, 2022 at 05:55 PM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. William Howard Bates Jr..



March 21, 2022 at 02:59 PM

TS

“ So very sorry ... I remember Mr.Bates at Albany High School ... Such a nice man. Condolences to his family ..

Tammie Suess - March 21, 2022 at 01:37 PM



“ Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. William Howard Bates Jr..



March 21, 2022 at 10:16 AM

JN

“ *Deepest Sympathy extended to the Bates family.  
Dr. Bates was assistant principal when I attended Albany High School & principal of Northside Elementary when my Mom taught & retired.  
He visited her at the hospital before she passed.  
Truly a kind man.  
He will be missed.  
Prayers lifted for the family.  
Sincerely, Jennie Gibson Newberry*

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**Jennie Newberry** - March 21, 2022 at 08:28 AM

MO

“ *Mother always spoke so highly of Mr. Bates, her principal at Northside. When he retired, she retired because she did not want to work for anybody else. Whenever I saw you two out and about, Mr. Bates would ask about Mother. We were so blessed to have known him. I am so blessed to continue to call JoAnn a friend. Love you.*

*Merita Ott*

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**Merita Ott** - March 20, 2022 at 11:08 PM

JD

“ *Bill was a man of integrity and wisdom. He was kindhearted and good natured. We especially enjoyed hearing him tell about his bird sightings. He was a very special friend, and a good friend is never forgotten.  
Jo Ann we are uplifting you and your family in prayer. Your friendship is treasured.  
Love, Carl and Janice Dunn*

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**Janice Dunn** - March 20, 2022 at 02:45 PM

TP

“ We are so sorry for your loss. He was such a good friend to our family. Our prayers are with you all.  
Tracy Adams Poulos

Tracy Adams Poulos - March 20, 2022 at 08:05 AM

NN

“ A great man that I first knew as Assistant Principal. Reading this story of his life adds more to what I now know about him. Also, he **COULD** swing that paddle.

Ned Newcomb - March 20, 2022 at 06:24 AM

ME

“ Dr. Bates was the Principal when I started at Northside Elementary. He was one of the most sincere and loyal people I knew. I will never forget him and so thankful I had the honor of knowing such a wonderful man. Many prayers to his family and friends.

melissa.pollock1@hotmail.com - March 19, 2022 at 07:21 PM

NR

“ Thinking of all of you at this time!

Nancy Reimer - March 19, 2022 at 04:58 PM

GD

“ Gary and Becky Dorough purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Dr. William Howard Bates Jr..



Gary and Becky Dorough - March 19, 2022 at 03:46 PM

MK

“ *Steady, Dependable, Trust worthy. For decades he was involved with Audubon and just like his appreciation for those around him he was appreciative and loved all the birds and little bits of nature that he observed.*

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**Mike Keenan** - March 19, 2022 at 03:13 PM

CC

“ *To JoAnn, Bronwyn, and William...  
May you feel the beautiful undercurrent of His Peace!! Blessings abound as we share in your sorrow, but we can also celebrate Bill's life!!  
Thankful for the opportunity to work under his leadership at N'side Elementary!*

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**Carey and Annlies Cato** - March 19, 2022 at 01:09 PM

JR

“ *My heart is broken to hear that Dr Bates has left us. I have loved him since he hired me at Northside in 1987. We were a family during the years he was there at Northside and he looked after all of us and we loved him for that. We will miss him and we are praying for the family. Jan and Jim Rusin*

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**Jan Rusin** - March 19, 2022 at 01:07 PM