



William "Bill" Scott Sanderson

May 23, 2025

William "Bill" Scott Sanderson passed away with peace on May 23, 2025, at the age of 64. Bill was born in Westfield, Massachusetts, to the late William and Helen Sanderson.

His memory will be cherished by his wife of 38 years, Amy Sanderson, daughter Claire (Matt) Brukasz, son Will (Rebecca) Sanderson, sister Linda (Victor) Vela, and brother Tim (Patty) Sanderson. He was beloved "Papa" to three young grandchildren Sylvia, Benjamin, and Abigail.

Bill grew up in the arms of his family in Westfield, MA, hunting and fishing with his father and brother, teasing his sister, and learning the value of hard work in his youth. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1982 with a degree in chemical engineering. Having put "geographical preference: none" on his job applications, he landed in southwest Virginia with Celanese Corporation, with which he spent his 40 year career.

He built expertise, from project engineer to ultimately finding his niche in research and development, collecting many patents along the way. A gifted engineer, Bill could bird-dog and solve a problem...whether in his industry or some mechanical conundrum at home! He could fix anything, he was never one to leave a project unfinished, and his workshop was always thoughtfully organized. His work took him to far corners of the world...Ocotlan, Mexico,

Edmonton, Canada, China, and to Lanaken, Belgium, where the family lived for two adventurous and fulfilling years. He maintained close friendships with colleagues both at home and abroad.

Bill enjoyed the meticulous aspects of target shooting and reloading, as a longtime member of Shawnee Shooting Sports Club. His inner chemist drew him to beer brewing; there was an impressive list of favorite recipes. Then there was that time when he took up Chinese cooking...Hiking the multitude of lovely trails in Virginia and beyond was his happy place. His trail name "Backside Billy" referenced the fact that he was always striding ahead, thus was our view of him.

Bill and the love of his life, Amy, met in Blacksburg and raised their children Claire and Wills in Gastonia, NC, Lanaken, and Blacksburg. Bill's greatest joy was in his family; they were the center of his life. He instilled in his children optimism and self-reliance, and a spirit of adventure. Bill and Amy were each other's best friend. They endeavored to see all the National Parks in their lifetime, and many were checked off. Yet it was never about the goal, but the journey. And what a marvelous journey it was.

A visitation will be held on Friday June 6 from 5pm to 7pm at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg, VA

Memorial service will be held on Saturday June 7 at 11am, at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St. SE, Blacksburg, VA. Interment will follow at a later date in Westfield, MA.

In lieu of flowers, please direct any charitable gifts in honor of Bill to the LUNGeivity Foundation,
<https://fundraise.lungevity.org/campaigns/Bill>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home
150 Country Club Dr. S.W.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 552-3211
mccoyfuneralhome@verizon.net
<https://mccoyfuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

JUN 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church
701 Church Street SE
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tribute Wall

SW

“ Sean, Jenna, and Blaire Walsh purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William "Bill" Scott Sanderson.



Sean, Jenna, and Blaire Walsh - June 05, 2025 at 08:10 PM

SW

“ Sean, Jenna, and Blaire Walsh planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Scott Sanderson.

Sean, Jenna, and Blaire Walsh - June 05, 2025 at 08:10 PM

AB

“ Dr. Sanderson, I am so sorry to hear this, I know he will be greatly missed and leaves behind his legacy. I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers - Amanda Bradley



Amanda Bradley - June 05, 2025 at 02:19 PM

BM

“ Benjamin Dessart & Kevin McMillen purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William "Bill" Scott Sanderson.



Benjamin Dessart & Kevin McMillen - June 05, 2025 at 12:02 PM

BM

“ Benjamin Dessart & Kevin McMillen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Scott Sanderson.

Benjamin Dessart & Kevin McMillen - June 05, 2025 at 12:02 PM

LF

“ Love your CSC Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William "Bill" Scott Sanderson.



Love your CSC Family - June 05, 2025 at 11:26 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Scott Sanderson.



June 03, 2025 at 12:22 PM

JM

“ Jerry and Gerry McDonald purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William "Bill" Scott Sanderson.



Jerry and Gerry McDonald - June 01, 2025 at 10:03 PM

JM

“ Jerry and Gerry McDonald planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Scott Sanderson.

Jerry and Gerry McDonald - June 01, 2025 at 10:03 PM

DT

“ Deborah T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Scott Sanderson.

Deborah T. - May 31, 2025 at 09:41 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Scott Sanderson.



May 31, 2025 at 09:02 AM