



William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr.

July 17, 1947 - January 24, 2025

William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr. peacefully departed this life on January 24, 2025. He was born in Williamson, West Virginia to parents Melvin Charles Brown Sr.; and Ulysses Brown. He is preceded in death by his parents Melvin & Ulysses, two brothers Herbert, Kenneth and one sister Dr. Marlene Faye Brown. William "Bill" H. Brown Sr.; was the fourth of twelve siblings. William "Bill" attended the historical Christiansburg Institute and obtained his high school diploma. Retired Chief of Police, William "Bill" Brown leaves behind a legacy not only within the Blacksburg Community but across the Commonwealth of Virginia. On October 19, 1966 he reported to the draft board like many other young men and women called to serve his country during Vietnam in the 9th Infantry Division and rose to the rank of Sergeant. Upon returning from Vietnam, "Bill" met the love of his life and married Rebecca James of Radford, Virginia to whom he was married to for 55 years. They have four children; Patricia, William Jr., Michael, and Timothy. After serving his country in Vietnam, Chief as he was called became the first African American Police Officer in the New River Valley in 1970. Bill held a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Human Resources Management from Bluefield College. He rose through the police department ranks and after attending the FBI National Academy in Quantico Virginia, was appointed Chief of Police in 1994. Brown led the department with integrity, honesty, and respect until his retirement in 2006. After retiring Chief "Bill" Brown went on to be elected to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors in 2008, serving as the Chair in 2014 thru 2015

when he stepped down from the position. William H. Brown Sr., leaves behind a legacy of contributions to the town citizens, community, and the police department of Blacksburg. Chief Brown's impact into making the Blacksburg Community a better place will affect generations to come. "Chief " Bill Brown has been recognized by many organizations and is the recipient of numerous community awards, including the 1984 Outstanding Young Law Enforcement award presented by American Legion Post 182; 1995 Neighborhood Federation Award for Leadership; 2000-2001 Citizen of the Year Award presented by the Christiansburg/Blacksburg Rotary Club. "Bill" served on the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Board for many years rising to the position of First Vice President. He served on numerous Commissions and Boards at the local, state, and federal levels. Past President of the Blue Ridge Assoc. of Chiefs of Police and past Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy. Left to cherish his memory is his wife Rebecca Brown. Siblings: two sisters Dorothy M. Vanderhall of Long Island, NY; Denise Holland (Mike) of Blacksburg, VA; six brothers Melvin C. Brown Jr., John C. Brown (Brenda), Earl T. Brown, Mack W. Brown (Karen) of Blacksburg, VA; Gregory V. Brown (Laurie), of Woodbridge, VA, and Theron U. Brown of Blacksburg VA. Children: Patricia , William Jr.; Michael, Timothy . Extended children: Angelo Sr.; Ellen, and Kelly . Grandchildren: Angelo Jr., Christian, Isaiah (Afton), Dominic, Madison, AtLeigh, Preslee and Cash. Great Grandchildren: Khloe, Brayden, Ava, Vanetta. Numerous special nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and special long time family friend Timothy "Tim" McCoy. Whom he loved all dearly.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 11:00 AM in the St. Mary's Catholic Church with Rev. Jenene Lewis officiating. The family will have a visitation from 4-7:00 PM on Thursday, January 30, 2025, and Friday, January 31, 2025 at the McCoy Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 30. 4:00 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>

Visitation

JAN 31. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home
150 Country Club Dr. S.W.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
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Funeral Service

FEB 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1205 Old Mill Rd
#3705
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tribute Wall

DM

“ Dear John and Earl, I wish to extend my condolences to you both, late as I am. I remember when your brother Bill first became a police officer. He did a wonderful job and was always fair with people. Everyone thought they could outrun him or sneak off, and they all got fooled. Your brother knew every backroad there was and would track you down. If my memory is correct, I remember him driving a Yellow Super Beetle police car. I didn't know him well, but had a lot of respect for him. I know he is sorely missed. I knew of you John, but not that well, you being older. I remember many fun times I had with Marlene in class. We laughed a lot. Was sad when I found out she had died so young. Earl, even though younger I knew you a little better. Appreciate all the joy you bring with the music. You are a very talented DJ. You brought back a lot of good musical memories at my 50th High School Reunion. I wish you both the very best life has to offer as you navigate life once more with the loss of another sibling. You both are a credit to the community and Town of Blacksburg. Again my most heartfelt sympathy to you as life moves forward. Sincerely, Don Marlowe

Don Marlowe - February 12, 2025 at 12:10 PM

DM

“ Don Marlowe lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr.



Don Marlowe - February 12, 2025 at 11:50 AM

J(

“ I was so very privileged, proud, and honored to work for Chief Brown. I saw him rise from Lieutenant, to Captain, and then to Chief. And now he's achieved the highest of promotions. Congratulations, Chief, you earned it. May God bless your family.

Jerry A. Bowyer, Jr., SGT. (Ret.) - February 04, 2025 at 05:36 PM

FR

“ In the seventies Bill took a young Deputy Sheriff under his wing and taught him what it meant to be a police officer . He explained it was so much more than simply locking up bad people and included such things as community service, education and compassion. He understood community policing long before most others heard of the concept. Bill was a mentor and a friend for the next fifty plus years, Always willing to answer my questions, give advice and most importantly just to listen when I needed a friend. Thank you for what you have done for me, policing and more importantly the community and people that you faithfully served.

Frederick Russell - February 01, 2025 at 07:58 AM

LC

“ Chief was always so kind to me every time i would see him in Blacksburg, i will miss him.

Liz Craven - February 01, 2025 at 07:19 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..



January 31, 2025 at 06:19 PM



“ Paul H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..

Paul H. - January 31, 2025 at 06:05 PM



“ Kathy P Banks lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr.



Kathy P Banks - January 31, 2025 at 12:39 PM



“ A cop's cop. Chief Brown was the best. He hired me as an officer and he was a great leader, partner, and wonderful person. Truly one of a kind police officer that we all strived to follow. Godspeed & Love, Lisa (Kendall) Lucas Gardner

Lisa (Kendall) Lucas Gardner - January 31, 2025 at 09:57 AM

WS

“ Earl, so sorry to hear of your brother's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. - Wesley Saunders & family

Wesley Saunders - January 30, 2025 at 03:50 PM

PW

“ Bill Brown worked for the Town of Blacksburg when my husband was Director of Parks and Recreation. We learned very quickly that he was kind, inclusive and compassionate. He had an ever-present sense of humor but was strong when necessary. He was always a good friend I will miss. My condolences to all of his family who helped make Blacksburg a special place.

Pam Winfrey

Pam Winfrey - January 30, 2025 at 01:37 PM

JF

“ Jay Sterling & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..



Jay Sterling & Family - January 29, 2025 at 11:12 PM

MP

“ Rebecca and other family members, my heart goes out to you at this time of both sorrow and thankfulness for the years that Bill lived. I always greeted him as “hi cousin Bill” since my mother was a Brown from Radford/Bellspring. We’re now in Florida so I can’t personally pay my respects. Much love to you. Mike Payne

mike Payne - January 29, 2025 at 01:06 PM

DW

“ Sending my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. William. Hold on to the loving memories for comfort.
Deborah Wallace

Deborah Wallace - January 29, 2025 at 09:49 AM

BE

“ To the family Bill loved my husband Henry Eaves they greeted each other with hello love and Bill was always there for us we will miss him but we really thank him and his family for taking care of the church and wake forest community 🙏❤️ much love and peace.



Benzena Eaves - January 28, 2025 at 10:52 PM

MR

“ Becky I am so sorry for your loss Bill was a good man. I worked with you at wolverine gasket. My prayers are with you all at this time. Please take care and God bless all of you.
Shellie Montgomery Roop



Michele Roop - January 28, 2025 at 10:14 PM

GR

“ I just don't know how in the world we made it in Christiansburg all them years prior without Bill. I have no Idea how Chief Bill felt about them Hokies, but I sure do hope he picked Jesus over them Chokies as that's really all that matters at this point. My condolences to his family and true friends as I know what it's like to lose both.

Greg - January 28, 2025 at 10:12 PM

SG

“ Sara Adams Goodwin purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..



Sara Adams Goodwin - January 28, 2025 at 08:37 PM

YC

“ Your OEB & OHRSD Colleagues purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..



Your OEB & OHRSD Colleagues - January 28, 2025 at 07:22 PM

MD

“ William married my husband and I on August 1 2011. We weren't even planning on getting married in Blacksburg but we had rented a VRBO and my husband suggested we get married in Blacksburg. I called the Court House to see how much the license was and could they recommend someone. They recommended William Brown and gave me his number. From the first moment I spoke with him it was like talking to an old friend. I told him we rented a VRBO but we had no plans. I told him it was important that it be on the 1st which he said was no problem. I talked to William a lot in the 2 weeks as that is how much time I had to plan. He told us he would marry us wherever we wanted and we said we wanted to get married at Virginia Tech. He told us to go there and find our spot. When we went to VT everyone was getting married that weekend and every place we went already had tents set up. We were told that we had to pay to get married there. I called William and told him what we had found out and that we would have to pay a lot of money. William said, don't even worry about paying, I am the Chief of Police, so are they going to arrest me. We picked the Horticulture Gardens and it was perfect. The waterfall and everything was in bloom. We even had our 3 goldens for our witnesses. William made us laugh and cry during the ceremony. It was the perfect day and all these years later we still talk about how wonderful and lucky we were to have met William. We are so grateful. Thank you William from coming into our life. Heaven has gotten a wonderful angel. To William's family we send love and prayers. I know your life will never be the same without him. May God comfort you during this time. Molli and Danny Diaz

Molli Diaz - January 28, 2025 at 05:39 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..



January 28, 2025 at 02:55 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..

January 28, 2025 at 02:55 PM

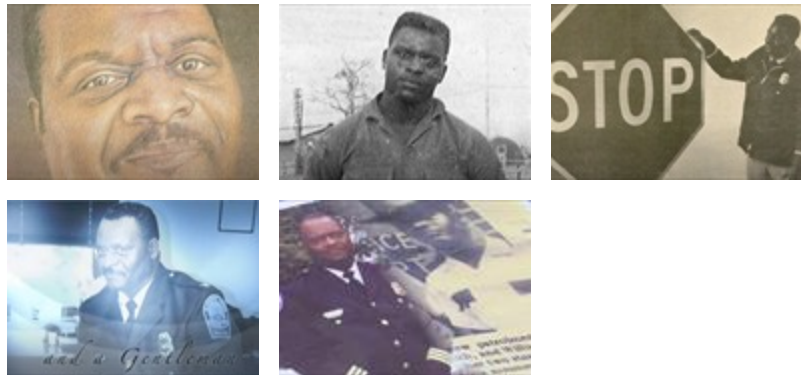


“ Thank you for your service to our country and our commonwealth. May you Rest in Peace.

Don Butler - January 28, 2025 at 01:56 PM



“ 21 files added to the album Memories



McCoy Funeral Home - January 28, 2025 at 11:15 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..



January 27, 2025 at 04:43 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..

January 27, 2025 at 04:43 PM



“ Becky I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. 🙏🙏🙏



Deborah Main - January 27, 2025 at 04:02 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..



January 27, 2025 at 03:50 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..

January 27, 2025 at 03:50 PM



“ The Staff at NRV Juvenile Detention Home purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..



The Staff at NRV Juvenile Detention Home - January 27, 2025 at 02:24 PM



“ NRV Juvenile Detention Commission purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..



NRV Juvenile Detention Commission - January 27, 2025 at 02:16 PM



“ NRV Juvenile Detention Commission planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..

NRV Juvenile Detention Commission - January 27, 2025 at 02:16 PM

PL

“ We are so very sorry to hear of Bill's passing he was one of our dear friends and will be missed by all who knew him .RIP our dear friend and our hearts go out to all of his family and know we will keep you in our prayers . Wayne and Peggy Linkous and Family.

peggy H Linkous - January 27, 2025 at 01:32 PM

MS

“ Montgomery County Board of Supervisors purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..



Montgomery County Board of Supervisors - January 27, 2025 at 12:53 PM



“ We want to express our sincere condolences on the loss of Chief Brown. His support of our association was truly admirable. His dedication supporting our veterans will be remembered. The Sunnyside-Tom's Creek Veteran's Association

Virginia Saville - January 27, 2025 at 12:30 PM

DC

“ I first met Bill in November of 1980 when I became the Blacksburg Police Chief. We worked together for over 13 years until I left the department to take another chief's job. Over the following years I had the priviledge to see Bill at national conferences and we caught up on the happenings in our lives and careers.

It was easy to tell early on in our relationship that Bill was not only a talented leader and manager, but a terrific human being as well. Bill was dedicated to enforcing the law fairly, but with compassion. He was gregarious and friendly to all people he came into contact with either on the job or otherwise. Over the years he became a trusted and integral member of the police department leadership. He also became a close personal friend to me and my family.

Bill's outgoing personality and his constant optimism will be missed. He was a terrific police chief and community leader.

Rest in peace, my friend.

Don Carey - January 27, 2025 at 11:13 AM

DC

“ Don and Carole Carey purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..



Don and Carole Carey - January 27, 2025 at 10:54 AM

DC

“ Don and Carole Carey planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..

Don and Carole Carey - January 27, 2025 at 10:54 AM

LB

“ Bill, you were a gift to us all. May the outpouring of love in our community and beyond hold your family tightly as we honor your legacy. We should all strive to be "Bills" in this world. Peace to all.

Lynn Brammer - January 27, 2025 at 08:49 AM

TA

“ The Staff of Cardinal Academy purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..



The Staff of Cardinal Academy - January 27, 2025 at 07:16 AM

TA

“ The Staff of Cardinal Academy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..

The Staff of Cardinal Academy - January 27, 2025 at 07:16 AM

AM

“ Anne Marie purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..



Anne Marie - January 27, 2025 at 06:02 AM

AM

“ Anne Marie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Henry Brown Sr..

Anne Marie - January 27, 2025 at 06:02 AM

RS

“ Prayers for Denise and all the family. I am so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. He will sure be missed by all of Blacksburg



Rosemary Sheppard - January 26, 2025 at 09:59 PM