

The Reverend Dr. William (Bill) H. Brendley, Jr. passed away suddenly at his Williamsburg, VA, residence on February 20, 2013. He was 74.

Bill was born in Philadelphia, PA, on March 26, 1938 to William and Mary Brendley. His early years nurtured a love of sports and of all things Philadelphia Athletics. His grandfather took him to hundreds of ball games at Connie Mack (Shibe Park) Stadium. Following graduation from Roman Catholic High School, he matriculated to St Joseph's College (now University) where he earned a BS in Chemistry and later a MS in Radiochemistry. While working on his Master's Degree, he began full-time work with the Rohm & Haas Company in Bridesburg, PA. Bill served in the US Air Force Reserves for eight years; first as an Airman, and later as a Captain during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He then left Rohm and Haas to pursue his PhD at the University of Pennsylvania on a National Science Foundation fellowship. In 1965 he completed his dissertation in physical chemistry.

While at Penn, he met Yvonne Baay in a class entitled The Chemistry of the Rarer Elements and they were married in 1967. Bill went back to work for Rohm & Haas at the Springhouse Research Labs in the Industrial Coatings Division. Over his 33 years with Rohm & Haas he amassed many patents, authored numerous publications, and contributed multiple chapters to scientific books. His position in the company allowed him to travel worldwide. Bill was most proud of his last position at Rohm & Haas where, as Director of Specialty Purifications, he worked closely with the Department of Defense to develop the M291 skin decontamination kit for US military forces. Made with proprietary Ambersorb Adsorbants, this kit is still issued to our troops.

Following the birth of Bryan William in 1969 and Meredith Linn in 1972, Bill became involved with Hatboro Community Methodist Church. It was here that he began a journey that led from being part of an early morning Bible study to being licensed as a Primitive Methodist Local Preacher to ordination as an Elder to his final position as President of the Primitive Methodist School of Theology. During this time he enrolled in classes at Trinity Theological Seminary where he earned a Masters and a Doctorate. He served for over 20 years as Associate Pastor at HCMC.

After his retirement from Rohm & Haas in 1996, he decided to pursue his love of teaching chemistry and began lecturing as an adjunct faculty member at Philadelphia College of Textile and Science (now Philadelphia University). Those who know Bill well would not be surprised to learn he was made Dean of the School of Science and Health two years later. He served in this position until 2004 and then retired ... again.

After leaving Philadelphia University, Bill served as Yvonne's assistant lab instructor, chemistry tutor, guest lecturer, and assistant ninth grade basketball coach at Gwynedd Mercy Academy high school until Yvonne's retirement in 2011. They then moved to Williamsburg, VA, where Bill was active in numerous senior groups as well as teaching at Williamsburg Community Chapel. He recently completed the Citizen's Police Academy with the James City County Police Department.

Bill enjoyed both playing and watching sporting events of all sorts and was very active as a baseball umpire for the Hatboro (PA) Little League for many years. Later he officiated high school and college basketball games. He loved to study Biblical apologetics and graduated from Chuck Colson's Centurion Program in 2007.

He was very active in the lives of his children, always present for marching band competitions and for sporting events. Bill taught for many years at PMBC during the summer camping seasons and enjoyed doing karate demonstrations. He became an expert at navigating traffic on I-95 from Hatboro to William & Mary where Bryan ('91) and Meredith ('94) attended.

Bill is survived by his wife Yvonne, his children Bryan and Meredith, his daughter-in-law LCDR Debbie Brendley, son-in-law Bret Nathaniel, grandchildren Brooke, Kate, Brendley, Crosby, and Emery, brothers Charles and Richard (wife Dee), nieces, nephews, an uncle, and numerous aunts and cousins who all loved him and will miss him very much.