



## William James Cottman Jr

July 3, 1944 - December 5, 2021

No obituary found for this tribute.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC **14**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Estes Funeral Chapel  
2201 Plymouth Ave N  
Minneapolis, MN 55411  
(612) 521-6744  
<https://estesfuneralchapel.com>

# Tribute Wall

DE

“ I met Bill in the '90's through work at CME advertising when he was at Honeywell, and I was still "deb carter". I was so happy to meet someone from church in the corporate world! He touched so many people with his Saturday KFAI program. He was always so up beat, positive and creative. I've kept tabs on family updates through the years. Beverly and Kenna, and grandkids, I'm sad for your loss. His smile, love of family, passion for music and art will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone he has encountered.

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**Deb** - December 19, 2021 at 01:16 PM

AB

“ *The way I will always remember Bill is him at the front desk at KFAI and greeting you with this beaming smiling eye, He volunteered for his hours to do the Front desk. You walked in and Bill was always smiling and made it a home. He made everyone feel welcome and loved, just by the way there was this little twinkle in his eye. I've never met anyone who has that until Bill. Not since. He was a whole person all the time, and gave that feeling to everyone else, he let them be themselves. That's why when I would come into the station and he was at the front desk, those were the best days, because it made me feel like there was a home, not just at the station, but in the universe because he cared about you.*

*His show was something to aspire to. He taught a punk to like jazz - but it was his human presence was his most important work. He found something interesting and of value in everything he saw - which also made him, on top of everything else, a poet, a parent - an amazing photographer.*

*Everything he pursued he did with passion and achievement. But most of all it was the way he made you want to love and appreciate the world the way he did.*

*Bill is a gift to life for all of us*

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**Abbi** - December 16, 2021 at 09:57 PM

GC

“ *Thank you to the Cottman family for sharing yesterday's tribute to Bill. I can only echo the praises of kindness, compassion, curiosity and the openness he seemed to have for "the other" that is within all of us. He was a genuine and wonderful man who I know for myself, will continue to inspire. Thanks also for helping make the world a better place to listen to.*

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**Greg Carr** - December 15, 2021 at 10:27 AM

TW

“ *Bill was so kind and supportive of me when I worked at Park and afterwards. He exuded love and creativity and I am grateful to have known him. Peace and inform to your family.*

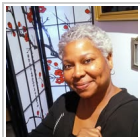
**Tessa Wetjen** - December 14, 2021 at 11:28 PM

ES

“ *Our heartfelt condolences to the Cottman family. Bill is irreplaceable but his positive influence in our community carries beyond borders. He has inspired and instigated creativity across generations. We are grateful to have shared moments with him. He was a teacher, he was a friend and so much more. We will miss him dearly. Rest in Peace, rest in Power, rest in Love.*



**Emel Sherzad** - December 14, 2021 at 07:31 PM



“ *You will be forever loved and greatly missed, Mr. Cottman. Rosemary, Angie & Billy*

**Rosemary Wood Klass** - December 14, 2021 at 06:38 PM

DE

“ *We will miss Bill greatly. Thanks to the Cottman family for being here/there for the community. We are here for you. Rhonnel and Del*



**Del** - December 14, 2021 at 04:49 PM

VL

*So much love to Beverly and family! Bill was a gentle, beautiful soul. I am so grateful to have spent time with him. His humor was something I'll always remember. Xxoo vicki luedtke*

vicki luedtke - December 14, 2021 at 06:16 PM

MV

*“ That was a lovely service this afternoon, and I am sending love and light to the Cottman Family, and will remember Bill, always.*

Miguel Vargas - December 14, 2021 at 04:42 PM



*“ So much love, so much wisdom, so much guidance. I can't pinpoint exactly when I met Bill but my life has been forever impacted from knowing him. I had a dream a couple of nights ago. Bill was building a house and I was getting ready to leave so Bill stopped what he was doing, put his arm around me and asked if I was okay. I responded, "No! I am going to miss you so much." That part of the dream couldn't be more true. To Beverly, Kenna, Yonci and Ebrima my thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Yvette Griffea-Gray - December 14, 2021 at 03:58 PM

DW

*Bill Cottman & I celebrated a 25+ years Ritual every Saturday at 9 a.m. on KFAI as we transitioned...  
our Ritual will continue...  
Cherish The Good Times*

dee henry williams - December 14, 2021 at 06:06 PM

LP

*“ In memory of Bill Cottman, I am forever grateful for the support and wisdom he gave, shared and captured! Sending my deepest and sincere condolences to Beverly, Kenna and the Cottman family.*

Leslie Parker - December 14, 2021 at 03:50 PM

RN

“ Dearest Cottman Family, we have been one of the lucky families to have known you and Bill throughout the last ten + years. We have had wonderful times with each of you and felt the warmth and love of your support. We live in North Minneapolis because Bill suggested it when we were looking for a house. In short, you all have felt like community family and Uncle Bill was beloved to us. You are beloved to us. We breathe with you, cry with you, and send you love always. He lives on as a beloved Ancestor. Still with you. Still with us. We love you all.



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**Rebeka Ndos** - December 14, 2021 at 02:59 PM



“ [Memorial Trees](https://www.estesfuneralchapel.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of William James Cottman Jr.

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December 14, 2021 at 02:59 PM

PB

“ Beverly, my prayers are with you and your family during this time. You were blessed to have a long a beauty relationship, friendship and most importantly marriage. May God continue to bless you and comfort you.  
Your long time friend Patricia Howell Brown



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**Patricia M. Howell Brown** - December 14, 2021 at 02:46 PM

NJ

“ I was only able to connect with Bill a few times in person but I understand that he was always advocating for the arts and therefore for me. Only to come to find out that he is the reason i had that aerial rig from Junauda to be able to do so many awesome things in the community each summer. This was actually the last year of using it as I'd finally purchased a new one and retired that one. Thank you for sharing him with us and my deepest condolences to the family.

-Staaaj

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**Nastaaja Johnson** - December 14, 2021 at 02:22 PM

KS

“ Ken Short purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William James Cottman Jr.



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**Ken Short** - December 14, 2021 at 02:14 PM

RO

“ My condolences to Mama Beverly, Sista Kenna, Yonci and Ebrima. So many of us who were cared for, accepted and understood as extended family are so blessed to have known him. Such a great man and always a calming presence. After years of being blessed to know him and sometimes, be in collaboration with him, his mere presence in a room made me better in so many ways. One memory: At Pangea working/playing - maybe 'Cactus in the Desert'. I put Bill over my shoulder and lifted him. With his signature stutter he asked on the way up "How tall are you..?" Bills' amazement, Lori's belly laugh- a moment of change. I am deeply saddened by his passing but feel so blessed that my life/artistry was enriched by being around him and the whole family. You all are real examples of empowered Black love and excellence.- Roxane

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**Roxane** - December 14, 2021 at 11:21 AM

MS

“ I'll miss our hours of deep conversations, your profound intelligence, and powerful creative spirit...you have inspired me from the moment we met, im eternally grateful for how you all~ways showed up for me. My sincere condolences Ms Beverly, Kenna, and Yoncy



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**Miko Simmons** - December 14, 2021 at 10:53 AM

BE

... that smile!

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**Beverly** - December 15, 2021 at 07:45 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William James Cottman Jr.*



December 13, 2021 at 04:33 PM



“ *Ruth&Richard Underdahl-Peirce lit a candle in memory of William James Cottman Jr*



**Ruth&Richard Underdahl-Peirce** - December 11, 2021 at 11:47 AM



“ *Such shocking news...Bill was an extraordinary man. Dearest Beverly, having survived the death of my husband and soulmate I have an idea of your pain. My deepest condolences to you, Kenna, and your family and friends. Sending you love...🙏*



**Deidre A. Kellogg Ketroser** - December 10, 2021 at 02:03 AM



*I'm feeling so grateful to have known him, basked in his kindness, honesty, and generosity. My heart goes out to you Beverly, and the family.*

**Jean Ann Durades** - December 10, 2021 at 05:03 PM

BU

*Beverly, I'll miss the sight of Bill across the alley! He was a wonderful neighbor. The two of you always reminded me of one of my favorite library patrons ever, your mother, Patricia.*

**Beth Underdahl** - December 11, 2021 at 11:34 AM

DP

*Thank you for your encouragement over these few years. I am grateful for the small moments in passing we had. Even two minutes felt meaningful. Much love to you and your family.*

**David Pierini** - December 13, 2021 at 03:33 PM

CD

*Dear Beverly and family, my heart is sad hearing the news of Bill's passing. He was larger than life. A presence. An artist. A gentle spirit. A deep soul. A loving human who shared so much of his love with so many. I grieve for your loss. You two made a beautiful life together. May you find ways to continue your conversation in this transformed energy. May you find comfort in your grief. with love, Catherine Reid Day and family*

**Catherine Reid Day** - December 14, 2021 at 09:59 AM

KS

*Beverly, my heart goes out to you and Kenna. It was a blessing for me to have had Bill as a friend.*

**Ken Short** - December 14, 2021 at 02:27 PM

PK

*Dear Beverly, Kenna, Yonci and Ebrima, I am thinking of you and wishing I could find words to show how much I admired your dear, dear Bill. He helped me be a better human. And he made me laugh. And he shared great music with KFAI and so I got to be there to hear it. And I got to meet you all through him. I am so grateful for all of that. May you feel at peace and surrounded by love now and whenever you feel the need for love.*

**Pam Hill Kroyer** - December 14, 2021 at 03:05 PM

AP

*I don't think I've known a better man, and I've known several.*

**Anthony Porter** - December 14, 2021 at 04:56 PM

MP

*Dear Beverly, I am alone at this moment, Alain is doing volunteer work at the present. It was a shock to read that Bill will no longer be coming our way. We will always remember the wonderful moments we shared together here in Paris, France. You were a most beautiful couple. We're grateful to have known you both. Please receive our most profound condolences for you and your family, we will cherish his way of being, calm and caring with his unique sense of humour and his love for Jazz. With our love and sweet embraces for you, Kenna and all his family, Alain and Maria*

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**Maria and Alain Parisot** - December 14, 2021 at 05:26 PM

AJ

*Words cannot express how hard this hit me. I have known you for what seems like my entire adult life. My goal was to grow up and be as happy and in love with life as you were. I pray that you are resting in peace as you watch over your loved ones. To Mrs. Cottman my dear former teacher I pray for your heart to be filled with all the great memories of your sweet loving husband. To his amazing daughter Kenna and his amazing grandchildren I pray that you continue to live and breathe in his awesomeness.*

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**Ann Johnson** - December 14, 2021 at 07:01 PM

DO

*I was so saddened to learn about Bill's passing. A big light has left us. What a beautiful loving powerful soul he was. My deepest sympathy to Beverly, Kenna, and Yonci.*

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**Deborah Owen** - December 14, 2021 at 09:41 PM

CC

*A great loss to the community. Bill Cottman was truly a rendezvous man for all ages. Thank you for sharing him. My condolences to Beverly Cottman and family.*

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**Coventry Cowens** - December 17, 2021 at 04:58 PM