



## William "Bill" Franklin Mantz

September 17, 1949 - March 4, 2020

Heishman Funeral Home Inc. sends condolences to the family of William "Bill" Franklin Mantz.

On Wednesday, March 04, 2020, our father William "Bill" Mantz at 70 years of age went to be with the Lord while doing what he loved. Yes, you guessed it... he was on his backhoe! Bill was born on September 17, 1949, in Woodstock, Virginia. Dad spent his whole life around heavy equipment. He would tell us stories of riding on the hood of his father's bulldozer watching the blade go up and down. Dad left school after 8th grade to pursue his passion of operating heavy equipment. Through the year's dad worked various excavating jobs until 1992 when he started his own successful business known as Fort Valley Excavation, which still continues today. Dad was a lifetime member of the Fort Valley Volunteer Fire Department and an honorary member of the Fort Valley Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary (No that was not a typo). Dad was a devoted Christian and a member of Faith Lutheran Church where he sang in the adult choir.

Dad was survived by his devoted and VERY patient wife of 35 years Jennifer Mantz whom he married on October 20, 1984; his seven children and their spouses Tracey & Jim Asbridge, Jake & Jill Mantz, Dawn & Neil Ramey, Summer & Josh Ruhling, Jamey & Amy Mantz, Ashle & Nathaniel Dirting, Seth & Karrigan Mantz; his 14 "mean and ugly" granddaughters BethHannah and Moriah Asbridge, Molly & Whitney Mantz, Katie Mantz, Madisyn & Natalie

Broy, Winter Ruhling, Alex, Camryn & Trynda Mantz, Leigha & Lainey "Lou" Dirting, and Reagan "Raggy Roo" Mantz; his 6.5 grandsons Daniel and Joseph Asbridge, Zackary Broy, Cole Ramey, Silas Ruhling, Landon Dirting and his first Mantz grandson to be born in June who will be named William Parker Mantz; his sisters Caroline Juliano, Carol Stephens and husband Jerry, Debbie Crisman and husband Phil, Shawn Wisman and husband Carl; and brother Terry Mantz and wife Jennifer. Bill was proceeded in death by his parents, Russell Mantz and Ellanora McClanahan and his brother Elmo Mantz.

Dad set the bar high for what it meant to be a community servant, spouse, parent, grandparent, and friend, and just when we thought we reached it, the ole man bumped it even higher. He was very active in his church and the Fort Valley Volunteer Fire Department, among other community service endeavors. If anyone in Fort Valley was in need, dad would usually be first to get involved to offer help. Help that he would never accept anything in return. As a husband, he was a hard-working provider, soulmate and best friend to Jennifer. As a father, he taught us to have a hard work ethic, pay attention to detail and to be reliable. He stressed looking after widows, and the less fortunate. As a grandfather, he always had a hug and kiss for his grandchildren and attended many sporting events, birthday parties, piano recitals, and graduations. As a friend, Dad created unique and special relationships with everyone he knew. Some of these relationships have been with lifelong friends Sonny Tamkin, Jimmy Paul, Terry Plauger, and Celeste Allen to name a few. Dad enjoyed gardening, landscaping, spending time on his farm, and traveling with Jennifer in which they visited all contiguous states; a feat he was most proud. What a legacy he left for everyone! MEEEEEOOW! Family night will be held at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 8 from 5-7 PM and the Funeral will be held on Monday, March 9 at 11:00 AM at Faith Lutheran Church. Burial will be held at Detrick Cemetery. Pastors Duke McCaffrey, Shelvie Mantz, and Katie Gosswein will officiate. A luncheon will follow at the Fort Valley Fire Department.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Fort Valley Detrick Cemetery, Faith Lutheran Pre-School, or Fort Valley Volunteer Fire Department.

Online condolences can be left at [www.valleyfs.com](http://www.valleyfs.com)

Arrangements by Heishman Funeral Home Inc., Valley Funeral Service Branch, Edinburg.

# Cemetery Details

## Detrick Cemetery

Fort Valley, VA 22652

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Faith Lutheran Church  
4260 Fort Valley Road  
Fort Valley, VA 22652

## Funeral Service

MAR 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Faith Lutheran Church  
4260 Fort Valley Road  
Fort Valley, VA 22652

# Tribute Wall



“ *William "Bill" Franklin Mantz*

January 30, 2023 at 03:03 AM



“ *William "Bill" Franklin Mantz*

January 30, 2023 at 12:44 AM



“ *My heartfelt condolences. I am a long lost cousin of Bill's. I am one month younger. I remember well attending Edinburg Elementary with him and all of the cousin's playing at family gatherings. I don't think I have seen him since high school days since I moved from the area. I am so happy to know the wonderful, full life that he had with his wife, children and grandchildren. Thank you for sharing the story of his love of family and community.*  
*Phyllis Dorton Shannon*

**Phyllis Shannon** - March 11, 2020 at 03:09 PM



“ *I would like to express my condolences to Jennifer and the Mantz Family.*  
*Mark Johnson*

**Mark W Johnson** - March 09, 2020 at 11:00 AM



*I always liked bill I grew up with jamie and summer i dearley miss him*

**Carl ririggleman** - March 09, 2020 at 04:23 PM

KC

“ Our heartfelt sympathy in your loss. Kenny & Kim Cooper



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**Kim Cooper** - March 08, 2020 at 04:22 PM

RW

“ I am not sure who will remember us but we used to own the house at 496 Frenchman Pond Rd. Shortly after we bought it Bill put in a pond for us. I remember Jamie telling me about bringing bales of straw on his bike to mulch the new grass. Recently I heard that the house was on the market again so I looked at it on Zillow. I have to say that the pond was beautiful. You don't usually think of making art with earth moving equipment but I think it is fair to say that is what he did for us. We were shocked and saddened to learn of Bill's death. Please accept our sympathy and condolences for your terrible loss.

*Patricia and Robert Whisker*

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**Robert Whisker** - March 08, 2020 at 03:28 PM

AG

“ Fort Valley will never be the same. He was a wonderful person. Prayer for the family. He will be greatly missed 😞

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**Althea Gochenour** - March 08, 2020 at 01:17 PM

CB

“ Chuck Mason And Diane Brandon lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Franklin Mantz



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**Chuck Mason and Diane Brandon** - March 08, 2020 at 11:20 AM

CB

“ We only had the honor of meeting Bill twice since our recent move to the Valley, but he left a lasting memory. He was simply the nicest, most pleasant man. He was a light and will be missed....

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**Chuck Mason and Diane Brandon** - March 08, 2020 at 11:19 AM

BA

“ I was stunned when I got the news this past Wednesday from Pastor Sherry of Bill's tragic death. I have grappled with how to express my condolences to Bill's family, friends, and community during this deep time of loss. While I know words are inadequate at this time, it is my prayer that the deep pain of Bill's loss will eventually be consoled by the many precious memories held dear in your hearts.

On a personal note, I felt that all of the many jobs Bill did for me were done with integrity, care, and excellence (that was his way, that was his nature), and he did it all WITH A SMILE. To his family, friends, and community--thank you for sharing this precious many with me. He will always have a special place in my heart. I am one of those widows he looked out after.

*Betty Armentrout*

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**Betty Armentrout** - March 08, 2020 at 10:02 AM

“ I first met Bill Mantz when I moved to Fort Valley with my parents Chris and Carol Cuddeback almost thirty years ago. From the start Bill exemplified in himself what we came to love and respect about so many of the fine people we were blessed to get to know in Ft. Valley. And that was the beginning of a unique three-decade friendship with Bill—a friendship that only moves to another new stage now.

*I cannot encapsulate in words what Bill Mantz meant to me. I was a young college graduate in 1991. From the start Bill treated me like a man and a peer. Bill said what he meant, and he meant what he said. When he spoke I tried to listen carefully, because I could always learn something: whether it was about how to handle a machine or how to interact with people. I especially noted how for Bill you didn't have to be 'somebody,' for him to treat you like 'somebody.' I can see his head nodding in affirmation and hear him saying with enthusiastic generosity "I'll guarantee it!"*

*I loved watching the relationship of Bill and my father Chris. Dad and Bill came from very different backgrounds. Dad grew up on Long Island, New York, and he worked much of his adult life in Washington D.C. and Baltimore. But those two men were two peas in a pod. They loved and respected one another in a way that was implicit. They knew what one another were thinking and feeling. They worked together, they laughed together (who can ever forget Bill's laugh?), they mourned together, and they prayed together. When it was time a few years back to lay my father's body in the ground, there was Bill—with that backhoe of his—to dig the hole. Bill (and Seth), I'll never forget that day of digging that hole, or when you came with Jennifer to the burial and we all shoveled spades of earth together.*

*I hope and pray that you give Dad one of your special bear hugs soon. I love to think of it, as I'll sure miss that hug here below. Thank you Bill, from the bottom of my heart, for everything.*

*To each member of the Mantz family, beginning with Jennifer, please know that our love and prayers will always be with you and Bill. God be with you, Jennifer; I know He will sustain you. Jamey and Seth, it's been a pleasure to work with you through the years, and to see your father in different ways in both of you. We hope to work with you Seth for many more. Tracey, it's been a true blessing to get to know you and your family more recently.*

*It is a great suffering for me that I am overseas right now, and so I cannot be with you in body to pray, honor, and bury Bill. But I and my whole family are and will be with you in spirit, love and prayers.*

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**John A Cuddeback** - March 08, 2020 at 03:43 AM

RA

“ *Well folks, we lost a wonderful man here on earth the other day. Bill Mantz, the Father of our Daughter in Law Tracey Asbridge and our Son Jim Asbridge. We loved our visits with him the times we were in Fort Valley, Virginia. He always had a hug and big smile and plenty of interesting stories. His family was his life. He left a big wonderful family, he was so proud of each of them. Mary and I will miss him during our visits. I know Bill was a very loved man by all of Fort Valley. I have to say, he was Fort Vally. Peace and love to each of his family. You are all in Mary and my prayers.*

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**Ron & Mary Asbridge.** - March 07, 2020 at 08:09 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Franklin Mantz.*



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March 07, 2020 at 07:52 AM

CP

“ *Charlie And Cindi Plauger lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Franklin Mantz*



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**charlie and cindi plauger** - March 06, 2020 at 08:55 PM



“ *Jake and Jill, Tracey and Jim, and all the family, We send our sincere condolences. Ken and Mona Seay, Moriah, and Kenneth.*

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**Mona Seay** - March 06, 2020 at 08:38 PM

WM

“ Bill was my friend, and I will miss him. He was always helpful to our family. Bill and his men did the excavation work on our new home in Fort Valley in the early 1990's, the work they did on that raw land was beautiful. My father thought very highly of Bill Mantz and whenever dad wanted to make some improvement on the land, Bill would be the first person to be called, and always offered the best advice and solutions. The work was always top notch. Where ever I crossed paths with Bill he would always greet me with warmth and happiness to see me, and talk to me and shared with me his health concerns and recovery, as recently as last week. Each and every time he would ask me how my family is doing. He looked great and was in great spirits after a recent medical procedure. I am so happy that I was able to know such a nice man and be received by someone so well respected in our community. The more proof of Bills achievements are in the lives and personalities of his children, each that I know or am acquainted with share the same qualities of their father. Perfect example of someone we can all look up to.

Wayne M. McConchie  
Margaret McConchie

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**Wayne McConchie** - March 06, 2020 at 08:20 PM

MB

“ Bill, your sweet daughters, your fine sons and their precious children are an excellent tribute to the man you were. Thank you for your legacy of faith and love and hard work!

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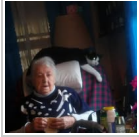
**Mark Bowyer** - March 06, 2020 at 08:14 PM

MB

“ Bill, you're sweet daughters, your fine sons and their precious children are an excellent tribute to the man you were. Thank you for your legacy of faith and love and hard work!

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**Mark Bowyer** - March 06, 2020 at 08:13 PM



“ I remember one time when we lived up on the hill. Bill had pigs and they got out and came to our house we was away and when we came back Bill and my brother was patting the grass down where the pigs rooted the grass up. There are many more memories but this was the funniest. Bill you will be missed. You are all in my thoughts and prayers

Velvet Powell - March 06, 2020 at 07:45 PM

LH

“ Thinking of all of the Mantz family. Sincerely, Lisa Heishman

Lisa Heishman - March 06, 2020 at 07:32 PM

MG

“ I am so very, very sorry for your loss Jennifer. My heart goes out to you and your entire family during this really difficult time. I hope you can find comfort in the hard days that follow. We are praying for you all.



Megan Bly, Nathan and Colton Grimes - March 06, 2020 at 07:21 PM

LT

“ Linda Green Tilley lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Franklin Mantz



Linda Green Tilley - March 06, 2020 at 05:21 PM

PH

“ *Such a surprise to hear cousin is gone, he would always come up to me shake my hand how ya doing cousin did you walk today. Thinking of you all may the good Lord bless and keep you*

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**Phil Heishman** - March 06, 2020 at 04:56 PM

WD

“ *Sending heartfelt condolences to all the Mantz family and friends. Marc and Wendy DuVal and family*

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**Wendy DuVal** - March 06, 2020 at 04:46 PM

NO

“ *My sincere condolences go out to the family of William 'Bill' Mantz as they grieve their loss. I share in thanking God for your loved one's life, and pray for strength and comfort for everyone. I lift you up in prayer, trusting God to hold you close. God made Bill his child and Bill knew God as his Heavenly Father. He has called him by name to dwell in His house forever.*

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**Nancy Carbaugh O'Rear** - March 06, 2020 at 04:28 PM

IN

“ *We will remember Bill as a person who had a hug and a smile for everyone. I grew up in Fort Valley and attended church with the Mantz family at Faith Lutheran. We knew we could always count on Bill whenever we needed a job completed at our property in Fort Valley. He will be greatly missed by so many people in the Fort Valley Community as well as those of us who still call Fort Valley home.*

*Iris and Bruce Nelson*

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**Iris & Bruce Nelson** - March 06, 2020 at 04:21 PM

NL

“ *I never knew Mr. MANTZ but as a nurse in the ED at SMH worked with numerous children and their spouses. To have been able to raise and influence these children he must have been a very fine man. I'm sorry for your loss.*

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**Nancy Lehman** - March 06, 2020 at 04:00 PM