



William Buckner “Bill” McDowelle

March 19, 1947 – April 25, 2017

(From Charleston Gazette Mail – April 2017)

William B. McDowelle was born March 19, 1947, in Hinton, West Virginia, to the late Alva Jean Haynes McDowelle and Orlando McDowelle. William, or Bill, as he was more commonly known, was the second of four sons - older brother, James (Squeegie), and twin brothers, Michael (deceased) and Chuck.

Bill, growing up in Hinton, West Virginia, loved all sports. He reveled in swimming in the New River, but he especially enjoyed football and basketball. An avid athlete, Bill played both sports at Hinton High School.

After graduating from high school, Bill attended West Virginia State College, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. It was at West Virginia State where he met his wife, Cheryl, and together they were married for 46 years. Their union produced two children, son Scott and daughter Tina. Bill and his family lived in Dunbar, West Virginia, for over 20 years. He worked for State Farm Insurance as a Claim Adjuster and eventually advanced to a Claim Supervisor. Gifted in social skills, he was adored by his co-workers and employees.

While living in Dunbar, Bill made many lasting friends. He was especially known for playing basketball on the Dunbar Junior High basketball court. Many also remember him for taking Scott and his teammates to their games. Bill, very

passionate and vocal at Scott's games, never missed one and spoke his mind, to the dismay of the referees.

Also known for his laughter, Bill's sense of humor left an impression on those he met. He loved to join in witty banter with everyone he came across. However, he also had a serious side that showed compassion, concern and love for those whom he cared. He was one you could go to for advice. He loved his family. He would do anything for his children.

With his job at State Farm Insurance, Bill was transferred to Maryland where he lived in Owings Mills. He retired from State Farm after 30 years of service. He was called home to rest on April 25, 2017.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory, his wife Cheryl, daughter Tina, son Scott, daughter-in-law Valarie, brothers James and Chuck, and a host of other family members and friends.

Per his request, his ashes will be spread across the New River in Hinton, where he celebrated life as a child.

His service will be held at 1 p.m., Friday, May 5, at the First Baptist Church, 432 Shrewsbury Street, Charleston, WV 25301.