

The Life of W.H. 'Bill' Waters

William Hugh “Bill” Waters was born 2 Aug 1932 in Starkville, Miss., to Richard E. and Elizabeth G. Waters. Bill was graduated from Starkville High School in 1950 with honors. He received his BS in Dairy Science at Mississippi State University in 1954, his MS in Dairy Science at LSU in 1967, and his PhD in Dairy Science at LSU in 1971. He served on active duty in the U.S. Army from 30 Jul 1954-Apr 1957, in Germany. (His subsequent military career is detailed in a separate document)

In 1954, Bill married Margaret Carolyn Wells. Their first child, Margaret “Margo” Elizabeth was born in Heidelberg, Germany in 1955. The other two children, David Michael and Donna Jean were born in Baton Rouge.

After returning to the U.S., Bill worked as a farm manager for two years in Virginia and New Jersey before beginning his long career with LSU. He followed in the footsteps of his father, who had been a Dairy Specialist in South Carolina and Mississippi. Bill worked for the LSU Dairy Science Department from 1959-71, then became Dairy Specialist in the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service in 1972, Division Leader for the Animal Science Division in 1979 and Associate Director in 1989. One of his strongest educational messages was providing a better living environment for the cow to reduce the incidence of mastitis. He arranged many Extension training programs at Camp Beauregard. He retired from the Extension Service in 1994.

Bill received the Gamma Sigma Delta Extension Award in 1981, was a member of the Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association in 1979 and was elected to Epsilon Sigma Phi as a member of the Class of 1977. He was a member of Alpha Zeta, Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa Honorariums. The LSU Dairy Science Club voted him a Lifetime Honorary Membership in 2000.

In 1998, Bill and his second wife Geneva moved to Zachary where they enjoyed an active retirement life. For several years, Bill had a small herd of goats, grew strawberries, tomatoes and harvested pecans. They belonged to two RV clubs, organized and hosted numerous rallies, including trips to Nova Scotia, Calgary, and Carlsbad. Bill hosted the 2010 Annual Meeting of the LCAAA Life Members and spouses in Alexandria and at Camp Beauregard.

Throughout his life Bill volunteered for a variety of organizations to include Capital City Kiwanis, Future Farmers of America, Baton Rouge Military Officers Association, American Legion Boyd Ewing Post 58, Cadets of the Ole War Skule, the Wesley Foundation and the United Methodist Church of Zachery, where he served ten years as Treasurer and Church Building Committee chair.

In addition to Geneva and his children, David and Donna, Bill is survived by his sister Jean Thomas, niece Lillian Thomas, nephews Hugh Thomas and Geoffrey Thomas, Geneva’s daughters Leah ‘Becky’ Thomas, Elizabeth ‘Betsy’ Hayes, Julia Womack, eleven grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

