



## Lt. Col. William Harrison Lyerly Jr.

August 5, 1953 - December 26, 2020

Lt. Col. (Ret) William “Ebola Bill” Harrison Lyerly, Jr. 67, passed away December 26, 2020 in Sarasota, Florida. He was born August 5, 1953 in Frederick, Maryland to the late William Sr. and Faye E. (Gunn) Lyerly.

Bill graduated from Thomas Johnson High School in 1971 and received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, Class of 1975 (“Best Alive”), which kicked off his 42 years of government / military service. He had a life-long affinity for helping people, so after an assignment to Myrtle Beach, SC, he transferred into the Army to pursue a career in medicine. He was assigned to Walter Reed Medical Center where he interned as a medical technologist and met his wife of 42 years, Sylvia. His career then took his family to Nairobi, Kenya where he worked “on the ground” on visceral leishmaniasis. Back in the states, his time at USAMRIID in Ft. Detrick, MD introduced Bill to medical intelligence where he worked in a BSL-4 lab with the incurables such as Ebola (hence his call sign), Marburg, Dengue and other hemorrhagic fevers. As a result of these experiences, he was tapped as a consultant by the State Department / United States Agency for International Development to work on AIDS prevention and other programs in over 35 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. He then worked for the Department of Health and Human Services, setting up global and domestic programs in Emergency Management and Preparedness. After 9/11, Bill was an integral part in helping form the Department of Homeland Security where he led WMD Operations /

Incident Management and Global Health Security. Bill also earned both his Master of Arts in Management and Healthcare Administration from Central Michigan University and his Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University along with completing post-graduate coursework in Disaster Management, Epidemiology, Immunology, Infectious Diseases, and International Health.

He was, as he put it, “forced to” retire in 2016 due to health concerns. Even in retirement, Bill continued to serve others through a role with Global Research & Discovery Group as Chief Strategy Advisor and member of the Board of Advisors for Impact BioMedical, Inc.

As impressive as Bill’s career was on paper, he was even more admirable as a man. Bill devoted his entire life to helping people and was the living embodiment of “do the right thing when no one is watching.” Mentoring young people on their careers and sharing life advice was one of his great joys, and he often said “find a job you love and you’ll never work another day in your life.” Even after his passing, he has continued to give back through organ donation: he helped more than 50 people, including giving two people the gift of eyesight.

The king of Dad jokes, Bill was a gregarious man with an infectious smile. He was always up for a good conversation and was the last to leave a party. Bill loved playing and watching football and lacrosse, cheering from the sidelines at his children and grandchildren’s sporting events, listening to live music, and spending time with his family and Goldendoodle, Zoomie, in Annapolis and on the back deck of their beach house in Ocean City, MD.

Bill is lovingly survived by his wife, Sylvia; daughters, Kirsten, Heather (Ballew) and husband Jonathan; adoring grandchildren, Kyla, Kellan, Kase, and Kora who dotingly referred to him as Pops; and a large network of loving

family members and friends whom he valued greatly.

Bill will be inurned at USAFA and a celebration of life will follow in Maryland at a later date following the pandemic. Memorial contributions may be made, in Bill's honor, to the Wounded Warrior Project online at <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/donate>. Family would love for memories to be shared online at <http://www.mfhcares.com> through Maloney Funeral Home.

<https://www.marketwatch.com/press-release/global-research-discovery-group-honors-the-life-of-chief-strategy-advisor-lieutenant-colonel-william-h-bill-lyerly-jr-2020-12-31>

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Charles Beadling - February 08, 2021 at 06:07 PM

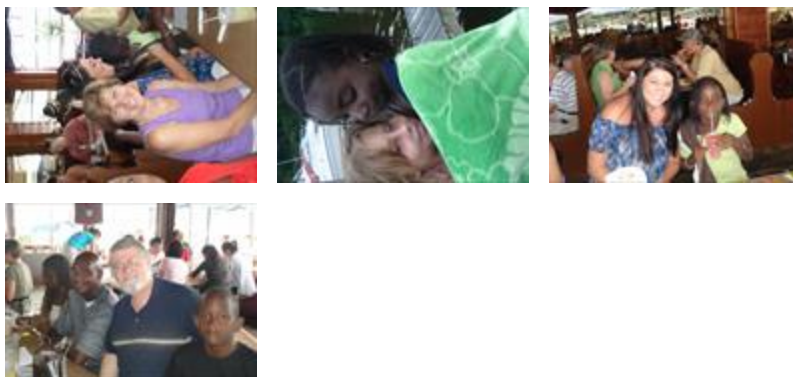
CB

*Bill and I both worked in the metropolitan DC area a lot of our career, and shared a love for Africa. Being able to share some time in Accra, Ghana after the 2014-2015 Ebola epidemic, with him teaching better preparation for the next outbreak, was truly wondrous. We also were able to share evenings over One Health dinner speakers (with the essential Dark & Stormy), and some great Washington Football Team games - when they still went by the previous name. Every memory with Bill and his beautiful family is a fond one. Godspeed!*

Charles Beadling - February 08, 2021 at 06:15 PM

SB

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Souleymane M Leonard Barry - January 24, 2021 at 01:06 PM

SB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Souleymane M Leonard Barry** - January 24, 2021 at 12:22 PM

SB

“ Quite hard for me to also accept that I will no more have the opportunity to sit with Bill, eat crabs, brainstorm, sleep at his home and have breakfast with him, enjoy his jokes etc... We just received two weeks ago, after his death, the traditional card he and Sylvia write every year to wish us the best. I cannot thank him enough to have opened the doors of his house to and shared his family's love with my entire family (see pictures). Now three have graduated and the last one will graduate next year. I am so grateful that he provided the right perspective of the US to my children, a country full of just good people across the states!!

*I have been Bamako when I received the news, and I am still in Bamako. Of course I will not miss the celebration of the wonderful life of my friend. A big hug to Sylvia, Heather, Kristen, Jonathan and all the grand kids. I pray everyday for Bill and am very confident that the Almighty has welcome his wonderful heart in paradise. I also pray to maintain the spiritual connection with him by striving to meet his high work ethic, passion for an holistic and sustainable approach to public health that improves the lives of the vulnerable, and his genuine strong love for his country, The USA. Souleymane*

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**Souleymane M Leonard Barry** - January 24, 2021 at 12:08 PM

PW

“ Bill was a TJ classmate and friend. So glad Reed and I got to spend a few hours with him and Chuck a few months ago. What fun catching up. Condolences to his family. He will be missed.



Pam Wachter - January 20, 2021 at 01:37 PM

JM

“ I have known Bill since middle school, and always felt like we were "best buds". We were neighbors, and played together on the TJ High School football team. He was always upbeat, even when his health let him down. He will be missed.

Jeff McKinney - January 20, 2021 at 11:40 AM

MH

“ Bill Lyerly was like a brother to me. We first met as 18 year old basic cadets at the Air Force Academy in 1971 and became friends for life. We had many good times together and I will miss him dearly. Bill's wonderful family is in our thoughts and prayers. RIP, Falcon Buddy.  
In Deepest Sympathy,  
Mike and Donna Heil



Michael Heil - January 14, 2021 at 09:01 PM