



William Wright Putney

November 7, 1948 - October 18, 2024

William Wright Putney, 75, formerly of Roscoe Village, Albany Park, and Renaissance Saint Luke Senior Apartments; passed away peacefully on October 18, 2024 at Paul House & Healthcare Center.

From 2011-2013, Bill co-owned The Music Store at 3121 W. Irving Park Rd., (previously on Clark St. in Andersonville) where he taught music and guitar lessons. He performed at the open mic at Town Hall Pub on Halsted. Bill loved jazz, was an excellent cat parent, and made a killer lasagna (he loved Italian food), had a great sense of humor, and was an avid reader of everything, even music manuals.

He is survived by his longtime friends Pamela Jimenez-Pinney and Charles Pinney. Preceded in death by Kittney the rescued cat.

Private cremation.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-370-2959 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Tribute Wall

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“ *This is very sad news which came to late to me.
Bill was a musical influence in my teen years as a musician.. A very
talented musician with a quirky sense of humor. We never really
knew you and I regret the fact we lost touch. RIP*

Terry Shields - September 01, 2025 at 10:31 PM

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“ This memory is going way back, into the mid-sixties, when for about 18 months Bill was the lead guitarist and backup vocalist in our Beach Boys "tribute" vocal group, The Surfbards. ("Songs of Surf, Sand, and Sun")

Bill's passion for music and his skill and devotion to his guitar were obvious, even in his 17th year! He was by far the most serious and professional of our five members.

We've all stayed in touch through the decades, but sadly lost touch with Bill in the late '60s, and had no idea he was still active in the neighborhood music scene!

Bill was a fine, reserved guy of great integrity, and a real gentleman, even as a teen.

Here's a group photo, taken by our other guitarist's wife, Yvonne Miller, in 1966. Bill is smack dab in the middle of this photo.

(Standing) Larry LaPalio, drums. (Seated, center row) Rich Miller (guitar); Bill, Glenn Raye, (bass). (Seated, front) Paul Wilson, singer.

We all sang 5-part harmony and played our instruments simultaneously. Sometimes we even approached greatness.

Bill, we'll miss ye.



Paul Wilczynski (Wilson) - June 24, 2025 at 02:44 AM

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This goes way back, to the mid-1960s, when Bill (then known as Bill Wright) was a vocalist and lead guitarist in our Beach Boys tribute band, "The Surfboards". ("Songs of Surf, Sand, and Sun"). We sang five-part harmony and played our instruments simultaneously. Sometimes we even approached greatness.

Bill was then, as always, dedicated to his music and expert on guitar beyond his 17 years.

We'll miss him.

In the above photo, taken in 1966 by guitarist Rich Miller's wife (then girlfriend) Yvonne "Bonnie" Miller, Bill is in the center of the group. Standing is Larry LaPalio, drummer. Kneeling are Rich Miller, guitarist, Bill, and Glenn "two N's" Raye, bassist. Seated in front is Paul Wilczynski ("Wilson"), singer.

Bill, we miss you. You kept us grounded!

Paul Wilczynski (Wilson) - June 24, 2025 at 02:55 AM