



William Charles Vogel, 68

William Vogel, 68 passed away March 17, 2021 at home in Carrollton, Texas surrounded by his family after a courageous battle with cancer. He was the beloved husband and life partner of Barbara Ann Baum for 38 years. Bill leaves behind three children: Rochelle (Keir) Collins of Dallas, Texas; Evan (Rachel) Vogel of Williamston, Michigan & Meghan (Austin) Holgerson of Sanford, North Carolina, 5 grandchildren: Maddy, Cora, Anna, Calliope and Billy. He was predeceased by his parents and brother Robert.

Other family left to mourn are Bill's brother Jon (Karen) Vogel of Atlanta, Georgia; Sisters Sandy (James) Schramek of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Barbara (Yonnie) Vogel of Greensboro, North Carolina. Sisters-in law: Julie Vogel of Lansing, Bonnie (Art) Newhouse of Traverse City, Marion Crawford of Hiawasse, Georgia, Connie Thorne of Sault Ste Marie, Brothers in Law: Wayne (Lynette) Baum of Bradenton Florida, Richard (Kathy) Baum of Okemos, and many nephews and nieces.

Born in Lansing, Michigan, he was the son of Clare Wilmont Vogel and Helen Martha (Fuller) Vogel. He graduated from Lansing Catholic Central High School and attended Ferris State University and Michigan State University majoring in Marketing. He worked in radio in Lansing and Detroit before moving to Charlevoix in 1976. Upon arriving to Charlevoix, he began his radio career with WVOY AM, until WKHQ came on the air in 1980. Bill joined WKHQ, where he quickly assumed the name of "The Captain," in 1982. He hosted the Q Morning Zoo in his newly created costume of Captain's hat, leather jacket and sunglasses, but was most recognized for his bold mustache. There he became a popular radio personality for listeners young and old throughout Northern Michigan who woke up each weekday morning to hear Bill shout, "Get the heck out of bed!!" in his thundering voice while slurping his cup of coffee.

Always a comedic prankster, Bill would amuse and sometimes anger his audience with daring antics that went on for 10-15 minutes live on air. "I stopped only when I sensed it getting stale or someone was getting upset," he told Nancy Sundstrom in an interview in 1997. When asked about the change of character when he put on his costume Bill further explained the dynamics. "What usually happens is that the Captain badgers people when they're at their most vulnerable, which is when they're waking up" Vogel explained." I figure I look a lot funnier if they are semi-comatose, and if we're having fun, the audience usually does too." "It's really theater of the mind, and our objective is to just have fun with it. We don't look any further than that and we try to keep it honest. Never knowing what can happen on any day's show is part of what's kept it evolving. The only thing constant is that you can count on humanity to offer up comedy on a daily basis." Bill left 106 KHQ in 2001, after nearly 20 years to join the Michigan Talk Radio Network while working on the side with his voice-over commercial business called, "Vogel sound", where he referred to himself as "The Mouth", producing commercials on a national level. Listeners are often surprised to hear that familiar voice while traveling across America.

Bill and Barbara spent many winters in Islamorada, Florida before settling in the Dallas, Texas area. In the summer they returned to their home on Lake Charlevoix where Bill and Barbara entertained their family with summer fun swimming, boating and jet skiing at "Camp Vogel." Bill would often take the grandchildren into town for breakfast to give the ladies a break and share his favorite part of the day. His love for that first cup of coffee did not diminish over the years. When Barbara's mother was in a rehab hospital, every morning Bill would pop in with a fresh cup of her favorite coffee. While in younger years, Bill's hobbies included piloting a Cessna airplane, which was a tremendous triumph. More recently he had enjoyed flying his drone over the waters of Lake Charlevoix where he could capture spectacular pictures of his favorite place on earth.

No public Memorial service will be held at this time, but the family will hold a private memorial this summer. It was Bill's wish to donate his remains for research to the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, whose staff treated him for the last 10 years of his battle with cancer. Memorial donations may be made to the Salvation Army.