



William "Billy" Lewis

March 21, 2019

"Onward, Christian Soldiers"

A 19th-century English hymn. The words were written in 15 minutes by Sabine Baring-Gould in 1865, and the music was composed by Arthur Sullivan in 1871.

The hymn's theme is taken from references in the New Testament to the Christian being a soldier for Christ. 2 Timothy 2:3 : "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

William Lee Lewis, Billy Lewis, marched into Heaven at 12:10PM, March 21, 2019. As a devout soldier of Christ, Billy lived 93 years as a strong man, a son, brother, husband, father, friend, businessman, and as a champion for the old, the "shut-ins", the sick, the nursing home friends who needed someone to

love them, to encourage them and to bring laughter and hope into their lives.

For more than 20 years, Billy's mission, his passion was to put his belief in God into action by filling every Sunday morning with, "visiting the shut-ins". Countless individuals and families looked forward to his visits and even called to check on him if he didn't arrive at his usual time! Billy was in his 80's and always said, "I'm going to see my old people."

Billy's life companion of 65 years, Betty Lewis, went to be with God 10 months before her husband. Betty and so many others were waiting at the gates of Heaven to welcome him. The promise of Heaven is real and those who believe as Billy did, are made whole again without illness and earthly challenges. Oh, what a wonderful reunion for Betty and Billy!

Billy served his country during WWII by joining the Army Air Force when he was 18 years old. Billy was a waist gunner in a B-17 named, "The Lone Angel". He endured hardness, he survived more than 40 missions in the European theater. The battle scars made their permanent mark on Billy and he fought the memories of war for the entirety of his life after the war. He was indeed a Christian soldier.

Onward Christian soldiers,

marching as to war,

With the cross of Jesus

going on before!

Billy is survived by his 3 children, Jeffrey Lee Lewis of Baxley, Georgia, Jill Lewis Kirby of Raleigh, North Carolina and John Campbell Lewis of Baxley, Georgia. 3 grandchildren, William David Kirby of Detroit, Michigan, Levi Benjamin Lewis of Portland, Oregon and Blake Elizabeth Lewis of Santa Fe, New Mexico. 2 great grandchildren, Claude River Kirby and Linus Jules Kirby of Detroit, Michigan. Billy was fortunate to have a host of family members who loved and cared for him. He loved them as well.

Anyone who knew Billy knew that he loved a good joke and he loved to laugh! One of his favorite lines was when he was leaving an event He would always say, "Oh, one more thing Bye!" Billy has said "bye" to his earthly life and has gone to join the angels in Heaven.

Onward, then, ye people,

join our happy throng,

Blend with ours your voices

in the triumph song;

Glory, laud, and honor,

unto Christ the King;

This thro' countless ages

men and angels sing.

Onward Christian Soldier! You have fought the good fight. It is time now to rest.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 1 p.m. from the chapel of Nobles Funeral Home and Crematory.

A reception honoring the life of Mr. Lewis will follow the service in the Strickland Room of Nobles Funeral Home and Crematory.

All are invited to attend.

A graveside service will follow at 4 p.m. in the Omega Cemetery with military honors.

Condolences may be expressed at noblesfh.com.

Nobles Funeral Home and Crematory is honored to serve the family of Mr. William Lee "Billy" Lewis.

Tribute Wall

BW

“ I had the privilege of meeting Mr Billy at the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum, the second time was in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Schweinfurt raid, which he participated in. He was a fascinating, captivating man and I am deeply saddened to hear of his passing. I had hoped to see his smiling face again, guess I'll have to wait! I'm not sure which son I met at the museum, either John or Jeff, but please accept my most sincere condolences and pass them on to your sister, Jill, as well. Mr Billy was a true American hero, God bless!

Brad Wolff - April 12, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ Many years ago in the early 90s when I was a waitress/cook for B F restaurant Mr Bilky would come in and share his opinions on the latest news and politics. Almost every single time before he left he had to tell a joke. The joke might not have been very funny but the way he would tell it was sure to make me laugh!! Lol. Thanks Mr Billy for ALL the laughs...

A. Waters - April 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Thoughts and prayers to my Good Friend John and his family. And thank you Mr. Billy for being a good man and a Great American!! Know that POPS is glad to be reunited with Mama Betty

Sean Flanagan - March 25, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RU

“ We will miss having Mr. Billy attend Zoar UMC on the occasional Sunday morning when he felt well enough. He always had a cheerful handshake and jovial remark. He sat on a row with our other WWII veteran, Buddy Cain. They made a formidable duo. Before he was unable to keep an alert eye and ear to the community, he would share ministry needs with our members. We all miss that. We will miss Mr. Billy forever.

Rev. Danita & Jim Knowles, Zoar UNC - March 25, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Duncan and Brenda Dukes lit a candle for



Duncan and Brenda Dukes - March 25, 2019 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ Mr. Billy was such a kind man and made such an admirable impression on me as a young girl while visiting my Mother at work at Lewis Battery. A true hero and will be missed by the community and you his dear family. Please accept our sincere condolences at this time. Jerry and Erin Brewer Murray

Erin Brewer Murray - March 24, 2019 at 12:00 AM

HA

“ Farewell to my friend the "General". May you have a strong tailwind on this, your final flight, to join Ms. Betty Ruth. You will be sorely missed. The "Admiral"

Harry - March 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *An A GARDEN PATH was ordered on March 23, 2019*

Expression of Sympathy - March 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ *Sympathy and condolences to Jeff, John, and Jill. Always enjoyed talking with Billy. He will be missed by many.*

Cheryl and Dickie Tillman - March 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ *John and family, We are sorry to hear about Mr. Billy passing!*

Debbie and Jackie King - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *Prayers for the family love mr Lewis always you will never leave my heart. enjoy Heaven with MS Betty st your side*

Sheila rentz - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

WE

“ *Condolences to the family. MR Billy will surely be missed.*

Winston & Lila Everett - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *Prayers for the family . my heart breaks I love mr Lewis you took and have my heart forever. enjoy heaven with MS Betty at your side*

Sheila rentz - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Jeff, John and Jill, we are sorry to hear this sad news. Billy was a great friend and helped us many times. We will miss his as we miss our own parents. His love will always be cherished.

Don & Eileen Sears - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ Earl Griffis & Sue Rowell lit a candle for



Earl Griffis & Sue Rowell - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ I & many people have lost a dear friend & another WWII veteran . I always will remember our trip to Douglas for the EAA war birds air show . God bless you John , Jeff & Jill

Bill Tharpe - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ We loved Mr. Billy dearly and considered him as a good friend!! He could always make us laugh!! Love and prayers to all of you and your families!! Love you all!!

Larry and Beth Knight - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ My sincere sympathies.

James Lewis - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Thank you Jon-Jon, Jeff, Jill, (my beautiful soul child) Blakie, Levy and David for sharing Pops. I know he and Betty have reunited and are at peace. Both of them so very dear and special to me. Oh, the stories and adventures. I am honored to be among those who were lucky enough to be a part of this heros life. A man of courage and faith and just a tiny bit of mischief! I will miss him just as I miss Ma Betty but I know both are at peace and together. The barn is becoming a quiet place...The McLean family shares in your grief. Our sincere condolences and love.

Jackie McLean - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ A Designers Choice was sent by Gilbert D. Ellis, Jr. on March 22, 2019

Expression of Sympathy - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

EJ

“ God Bless each and every member of this family. It is an honor for me to have him for a friend.

Emmett Johnson - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Bonita WrightPraying for comfort in your loss.

Bonita Willcox Wright - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ Appling County has lost a great citizen and I have lost a great friend!

Bill Bowers, Jr. - March 21, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *Jill & Harry Dasher lit a candle for*



Jill & Harry Dasher - March 21, 2019 at 12:00 AM