



William "Bill" S. Savery

October 31, 1943 - December 23, 2023

William S. "Bill" Savery, 80, of Wheatfield, New York, passed away peacefully at home Saturday morning (December 23, 2023). Bill was born in Rutland, VT to John Edward and Angeline Savery (née Carrara). Bill was predeceased by his parents and sisters Marie Garrow and Pearl Lavoie.

Bill was a German language teacher at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute for 30 years, for which he also ran the Ski Club for many years. He was a former president of the Buffalo Dortmund Sister City Committee through which he organized multiple high school exchange programs to Germany. Bill was an army veteran and an avid, lifelong Buffalo Bills fan.

Bill is survived by his wife Theresa Savery (née Daum), sons Timothy Savery (Chelsea) and Christopher Savery, granddaughter Poppy Savery, brothers John Savery and Phillip Savery (Giulia), and many nieces and nephews.

Friends may call Friday (January 5, 2023) from 2-4 and 6-8 PM at the Wattengel Funeral Home, 533 Meadow Drive, North Tonawanda. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday (January 6, 2023) at 9:30 AM from St. Jude the Apostle Parish. 800 Niagara Falls Blvd. North Tonawanda. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research. <https://www.michaeljfox.org/our-promise>.

Wattengel.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Wattengel Funeral Home (Meadow Drive)
533 Meadow Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 693-0440
wattengelfh@gmail.com
<https://www.wattengel.com>

Second Visitation

JAN 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wattengel Funeral Home (Meadow Drive)
533 Meadow Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 693-0440
wattengelfh@gmail.com
<https://www.wattengel.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 6. 9:30 AM (ET)

St Jude the Apostle Parish
800 Niagara Falls Blvd.
North Tonawanda, NY

Tribute Wall

BR

“ *Bill a great guy, I went to high school with Bill in Rutland, VT, he was part of our small "pizza on Friday night" gang, great sense of humor, a dear old friend. Bernie Reilly*

Bernie Reilly - October 24, 2025 at 04:03 PM

ML

“ *Mr. Savery - the world will never be the same without you. Mark Lisiecki, SJCI - 1985*

Mark Lisiecki - February 04, 2025 at 07:35 AM

PS

“ *I will never forget our relationship as brothers and friends for our entire lives. He was an amazing man and I will miss our almost daily phone calls. I was brought to tears by all of the kind words expressed by so many of his former students and friends. Thank you everyone. Rest In Peace my dear brother. Phillip (Giulia) Savery, Delray Beach Fl.*

Phillip Savery - January 09, 2024 at 10:38 AM

FD

“ Thank you, Bill
His humbleness, kindness, and consideration for others preceded him and brought me to appreciate and respect him as a virtuous man.
He is a Korean War Hero as he detailed in his amazing book; *Boarder Games* by William Savery. It is a biography about his accomplishments and struggles of the Cold War Korean Conflict and how he single handedly cracked the North Korean Code. <https://www.amazon.com/Border-Games-William-Savery/dp/1458209504>
As his sufferings increased, he was always was apologetic of the burdens he placed on others.
Thank you Bill for being an example to strive for...I love you always brother

Frank Daum - January 07, 2024 at 06:32 AM

JR

“ remember him from St Joe's ski club great guy . I loved his stories about skiing in Vermont .

Joseph Rennie - January 05, 2024 at 10:31 PM

JW

“ Bill was a wonderful neighbor on Nash Road. His family was always his top priority. He was always doing things with his family. He was very generous with his time whatever and whenever needed. He was especially a good friend to my father Walter Toellner. My father always looked forward in seeing Bill. He brought joy into the lives he touched. Bill definitely touched my life. You will be greatly missed.
Love Joanne

Joanne R Walck - January 04, 2024 at 07:42 PM

JA

“*Mr. Savery was quite simply a wonderful, caring human being who had a profound impact on me during my years at St. Joe's, more than any other teacher. From the moment I visited his classroom during an open house and heard him enthusiastically show German products and say, "We're so far behind in the US that we think we're in first," I knew that I wanted to study German language and culture with him. He opened my eyes to the fact that there is a wonderful world beyond our borders in the US, and his classroom was always a place where his dedication and enthusiasm for teaching were evident. His charisma and ability to connect with students were such that I genuinely looked forward to learning whenever I was in his classroom. May he rest in peace. My prayers and deepest sympathies to his family, and may they know what a huge impact he had on so many.*

Jeff Antkowiak, Class of 1989

Jeff Antkowiak - January 04, 2024 at 11:50 AM

PR

“ Every SJCI student has one or two teachers who greatly influenced him, and Mr. Savery was mine. He was a kind man, always ready with a wry smile, who made learning German relatively easy and interesting. He was a high-energy teacher, who looked for any means to get a lesson into a student's head.

His engaging stories about travel, learning Russian, his time in the Army and intercepting Soviet radio transmissions were fascinating to a young teen like me, and spurred my interest in languages and travel. I participated in the Buffalo-Dortmund exchange in 1983, which he expertly organized, and remember clearly our hotel in Berlin, which literally overlooked the Berlin Wall.

I always looked forward to German class, and chatting with Mr. Savery in the halls of SJCI.

Without a doubt, Mr. Savery had an outsized influence on my choice of university, and also the path of my career and life.

O Herr, gib Ihm und allen Verstorbenen die ewige Ruhe. Und das ewige Licht leuchte ihnen. Lass Ihn ruhen in Frieden

Paul Rath, class of 1984

Paul Rath - January 04, 2024 at 11:33 AM

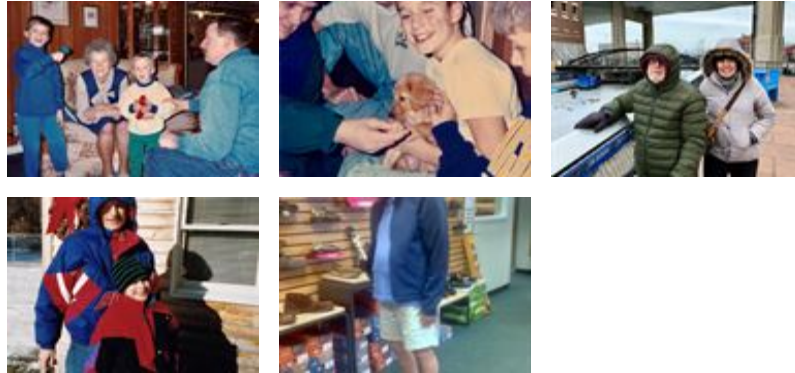
KH

“ Herr Savery was an amazing teacher and had unparalleled enthusiasm for his students and the German language/culture. I had the privilege of learning from him at St Joe's and traveling to Germany with him via the exchange program. May he rest in peace.

K. Andrew Hood - January 03, 2024 at 11:31 PM



“ 131 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Wattengel Funeral Home - January 03, 2024 at 01:45 PM



“ *I chose to take German because of Mr. Savery's personality he showed off at the open house. He made a huge impact on me, always talking about former students who later used their language instruction to travel in the German-speaking world. I became one of those students, spending my senior year in Germany as an exchange student on the Congress-Bundestag scholarship. Needless to say, the experience changed my life. A worldly educator who took his role seriously and almost never stopped having fun. It's been many years since I expressed my gratitude for everything he gave of himself to us, and I wish his family peace, and that his abiding and rich sense of humor and love of life continues to resonate.*

Aaron Lowinger, Class of 1998

Aaron Lowinger - January 03, 2024 at 09:54 AM

DC


“ I took German for four years from Herr Savery. He was truly a good man, and put his all into teaching not only the German language, but also culture. It was truly his passion. He gave generously of his time and even opened his house to student groups and activities. He shared his joys and life with his students...I remember when he came to class after his first child was born...he truly beamed! My sympathies to the family.
David Clippinger SJCI '91.

David Clippinger - January 03, 2024 at 09:45 AM

JJ

“ I took German the very first year he started teaching. There was only about a handful of us in that class, I was so lucky to have him as a teacher for the three years I took German. Ski club on Friday nights at Bluemont was always a blast with him! God bless you.

Jim Johnston - January 03, 2024 at 07:40 AM

 Brian Bookmiller

“ What a great guy! Showed us the real Germany !

Brian Bookmiller - January 02, 2024 at 10:08 PM



“ I took Spanish up until my Junior Year at SJCI. I switched to German after I passed Spanish 3 Regents in my Sophomore year. The first time I was in Herr Savery's class, he didn't speak a word of English. I still remember him saying "Offne Das Fenster!" I understood everything that he said that day. He launched a love of German in me that I continued in college. I truly appreciate everything that he did for me.

Mike Deitzer, Class of '95

Mike Deitzer - January 02, 2024 at 06:14 PM

MO

“ I have very warm memories of Mr. Savery and a deep sense of gratitude to him. He was kind and funny in the classroom. I went on to be a German major in college and I did a PhD in German history. I wish I had re-connected with him to let him know what an impact he had on my life.

Michael O'Sullivan, Class of '95

Michael Edmond O'Sullivan - January 02, 2024 at 05:23 PM

TS

“ A true legend of SJCI. He brought me, and many others, to study and love German through his sheer charisma. Great memories of class and the field trips to a German restaurant in Hamilton that he used to organize. St. John Baptist de LaSalle, pray for him.

Tim Seymour - January 02, 2024 at 05:22 PM

KR

“ Mr. Savery was a beloved teacher during my time at St. Joes. He brought a wonderful sense of humor and enthusiam to his class. Furthermore he was a thoughtful leader during my time in Dortmund. Lastly his organization of the Friday night ski club made the trip to and from Holiday Valley an easy and enjoyable experience. He made many meaningful contributions to his students lives and he will be missed

Kevin Roe - Class of 1989



Kevin Roe - January 02, 2024 at 05:15 PM



“ *It is not possible to overstate the excitement, fun, and humor Mr. Savery brought to German class at SJCI.*

Bill Dime - January 02, 2024 at 04:48 PM



“ *My four years of German with Mr. Savery at St. Joe's are my most enduring memory of my time there. He had a passion for teaching but, more importantly, he was one of the most generous, caring, warm-hearted individuals whom I have ever met. I can't imagine how many young men's lives he touched and changed for the better. May he rest in peace.*

Adam Kubik - Class of '95

Adam Kubik - January 02, 2024 at 04:44 PM



“ *A lot of high schoolers who had never thought about learning German ended up doing so because of Herr Savery. I was one of them. His classes are some of my enduring memories from SJCI. As well as our trip to Germany. He kept kids engaged during the driest of lessons through his humor...or some intentional commotion near a kid starting to nod off. And of course, he was incredibly kind. Will watch Lola Rennt in his honor!*

Andrew Rafferty '05

Andrew R - January 02, 2024 at 04:22 PM



“ *Thoughts and prayers to Mr. Savery's family. While I took Spanish at SJCI, he ensured that St. Joe's ski club was well organized and fun.*

Tobias Weyer - January 02, 2024 at 04:12 PM

NH

“ Herr Savery was an excellent German teacher at SJCI. He helped me to become a better student while learning German for the Four years he taught me. His teachings helped me to place in advanced German in college. He was always fun and a bit zany when he taught us - always kept it interesting - he will be missed and I will remember all the fun times learning a new language

Nate Hartrich - January 02, 2024 at 03:50 PM

JG

“ So sad to hear of Herr Savery's passing. He was genuinely a nice man and a wonderful teacher. Although I was never a German scholar, his influence inspired me to dual major in German in college.
Mr. Savery was a young guy when he taught our class and he later became an institution at St. Joe's. I remember him teaching us how to make potato pancakes for St. Joe's open house. As I look back on it, Mr. Savery inspired many of us to be good men. May he rest in peace.

Joe Goergen - January 02, 2024 at 03:46 PM

PR

“ I was fortunate to visit (East and West) Germany and other countries on a school trip with Mr. and Mrs. Savery in the mid-80's, shortly before the Berlin Wall came down. German may not have been my best class but I always enjoyed and admired Bill's exuberance for teaching and for life. He will be missed!



Paul M. Rivard - January 02, 2024 at 03:37 PM

CK

“ *What a beautiful guy. I'll always remember Bill's unassuming, welcoming presence and kindness. Peace to his family.*

Chris Keffer - January 02, 2024 at 03:33 PM

GP

“ *May all the family and friends find peace in the time of sadness and grief. I had Mr. Savery as a homeroom teacher at SJCI and I have great memories of him from that time.*

Gene Pohancsek - January 02, 2024 at 03:32 PM

RT

“ *I owe him a lot. While my German may not be great he taught me a lot about life. I followed his lead, joined the military, and lived in Europe for three years. It changed my life trajectory. I thanked him many times and he was always too humble to take any credit.*

Richard Trinkwalder - January 02, 2024 at 03:20 PM

DG

“ *I had the pleasure of learning from Herr Savery when he was a teacher at St. Joe's. He was an incredibly passionate and dedicated instructor, and he will be missed.*

*Douglas Gibbons
Class of 2003*

Douglas Gibbons - December 31, 2023 at 08:22 PM

SA

“ Our condolences to the Savery family. Such wonderful memories of working with Bill on the German exchange program at St. Joe’s. We had the best experience hosting two students as well as our son’s participation in the Summer exchange.

Sue and Rick Arnold

Sue Arnold - December 31, 2023 at 04:07 PM

TK

“ God Bless Bill&Family at this Difficult time. He will Be Missed ,Many Fond Memorys of Family Celebrations with Him

Terence J Keith - December 29, 2023 at 02:57 PM