



## William Connelly

November 26, 2019

William Connelly, age 76, passed away at his residence November 26, 2019. He was born in Detroit, Michigan and was a resident of Murfreesboro. Bill was a professor in the English Department at Middle Tennessee State where he also served as Chairman.

William was preceded in death by his parents, William J. and Mary Katherine Braus Connelly. He is survived by his wife, Carol Lallone Connelly; son, Paul (Patricia) Connelly of Ringgold, GA; daughter, Beth Connelly of Rockwood, TN; brothers, Robert (Mary) Connelly of Michigan, James (Kathy) Connelly of Michigan; Thomas (Lois) Connelly of Michigan; sister, Mary Katherine (Joseph) Szczesny of Michigan; mother-in-law, Martha Lallone; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Art (Diane) Lallone; grandchildren, Trevor Connelly, Shelby Connelly and Emma Connelly, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Visitation with the family will be 4:00-7:00 PM, December 1, 2019 at Jennings and Ayers Funeral Home. A Catholic funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 AM at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church on Monday, December 2, 2019.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the MTSU English Department or the National Foundation for Cancer Research.

Arrangements are under the direction of Jennings and Ayers Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 820 South Church St., Murfreesboro, TN 37130. 615-893-2422. Please leave online condolences at [www.jenningsandayers.com](http://www.jenningsandayers.com).

# Events

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**DEC**   **Visitation**                      04:00PM - 07:00PM

**1**

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Jennings and Ayers Funeral Home and Cremation  
820 South Church Street, Murfreesboro, TN, US, 37130

**DEC**   **Funeral Mass**    10:00AM

**2**

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St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church  
1601 N Tennessee Blvd, Murfreesboro, TN, US, 37130

# Comments

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Connelly.



December 05, 2019 at 07:11 PM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Dr. Connelly. He was a fine man and a great professor. I returned to MTSU in 1985 as an adult student, divorced mother of a 3 year old. Dr. C was my professor for an English lit class. He was very genuine and dedicated to his calling. In later years when I decided to pursue a Master's degree, he was kind enough to write a glowing letter of recommendation for me. I went on to teach at MTSU for 14 years in the Sociology Dept. I did see Dr. Connelly from time to time, and it was always a welcome pleasure. I can only imagine how much you will miss him. May he Rest In Peace. Lorraine H Petty

**Lorraine Petty** - December 03, 2019 at 09:40 PM

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“ Bill Connelly was one of my favorite English professors when I was at MTSU (1994–1999). He was generous and humble, often claiming that he learned as much from his students as we did from him. He was full of humor and decency, and he always made time for me as a student when I needed something, even cheerfully agreeing to write letters of recommendation for me years after I graduated. He was also keenly perceptive, like the time he sensed something was wrong and stopped me after class to ask if I was okay, unaware that my grandmother had just died. He went beyond being an excellent teacher. He was an excellent human being. I am very sorry to hear of his passing. I regret I was not able to attend the visitation or the funeral. My deepest condolences to his wife, children, and all his family. --Janet Patterson Karns

**Janet Patterson Karns** - December 03, 2019 at 12:04 AM

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“ Bill Connelly was one of my favorite English professors when I was at MTSU (1994–1999). I think I had classes with him three times. He was always so generous and humble, often claiming that he learned as much from his students as we learned from him, if not more. He was full of humor and decency and always made time for me as a student when I needed something, even cheerfully agreeing to write letters of recommendation for me years after I graduated. He was also very keen to know when something was going on with me, like the time he noticed I wasn't quite myself and stopped me after class to ask if I was OK, not knowing that my grandmother, with whom I was very close, had just passed away. He went beyond being an excellent teacher. He was an excellent human being. I am very sorry to hear of his passing, and regret I am not able to attend the visitation or funeral. My deepest condolences to his wife, children, and all his family. --Janet Patterson Karns

Janet Patterson Karns - December 01, 2019 at 09:47 PM

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“ Sorry to hear of his passing. Earl and Sue Pond

Earl Pond III - December 01, 2019 at 01:40 AM

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“ Bill was a great person and a pretty darn good tennis player. He will be sorely missed. Rest in Peace my friend.

Jay Sadler

Jay L Sadler - November 28, 2019 at 11:54 AM

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“ Bill was the best friend, best colleague, best person. We loved him as a fellow English Department faculty member, as a friend since 1970, as a scholar and as our chair. His fabulous sense of humor, his basic human decency are his legacy. We miss you, Bill.

Sara Dunne - November 27, 2019 at 10:21 PM

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“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of William Connelly.



November 27, 2019 at 05:05 PM

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“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of William Connelly.



November 27, 2019 at 04:54 PM