



Today, my loving, kind, and generous husband Bruce took a one-way ride on his beloved Pennsylvania Railroad. Meeting him at the most heavenly train station were his parents, Bill and Josephine, and his brother, Mark. Bruce loved working for the railroad. It paid well during college and who doesn't love driving a train engine. At the same time, he worked as a bartender and also found his love of men's quality clothing selling apparel in an upscale downtown men's retail clothing store. He spent 30+ years of his career as a commercial real estate professional for CBRE. Working the Cincinnati and Dayton industrial markets, Bruce retired only ten years ago at the young age of 69.

Bruce was an athlete. He played high school football in North Carolina and Indiana and softball for many years with his younger brother Warren (Kelly). He loved running. On Sundays he would join his late running buddy, Dills, and then later on with Fred. Bruce ran the Peachtree Road Race on the 4th of July for 30 years. We still have all of the unworn race t-shirts carefully stored. Bruce was an outstanding snow skier. He skied numerous resorts on both the east and west coasts. Although my ski skills could never compare to his, Bruce would always ski the hills most comfortable for me just to be out on the snow. We even enjoyed a few days this past March just scoping out the new chair lift at Beech Mountain in Banner Elk, NC when there was too little quality snow to ski.

His true sporting love was tennis. Bruce played singles for many years but truly enjoyed doubles. In addition to social tennis, Bruce played competitive tennis in a company league, as well as with many teams while a long-time member of Queen City Racquet Club in Cincinnati. Why he loved playing mixed doubles with me is a mystery. Our last match together was October 30, 2021, when he experienced an unexplained cardiac event. He was saved by our teammates and medical professionals, Anna and Howard. Just 26 hours after being carted away in an ambulance, Bruce was home on Halloween with a shiny new stent in his LAD and watching football. He added yet another exciting sport called Pickleball to his resume after we retired and moved to South Carolina (our permanent vacation in paradise) in 2013.

Bruce was a loyal friend to so many. Although he felt sad to leave long-term Cincinnati friends like college roommate Jim when we moved, he quickly gained an enormous number of new friends in South Carolina. None more important was his tennis friend and fast car enthusiast Eric. They could talk cars endlessly. Bruce also definitely enjoyed traveling “home” each year for the Masters tennis tournament in Mason where he could catch up with tennis friends and special neighbors Rich and Susan and Mike and Maryellen. He never said no to anyone. He was just that nice and everybody absolutely loved him.

Bruce was a family man. Not being blessed with our own children, he took special interest in his nephews Logan and Colin and too many to mention on my side. We spent a very special weekend in July at a McConnell gathering in PA/NJ. The celebration included his Aunt Peg and was hosted by his cousin Lois and husband Doug. Cousins retired USMC Lt. Col. Pete McConnell and retired USMC Lt. Col. Paul McConnell and their families attended as well.

Patriotism and honor were very important to Bruce. He served in the Air National Guard reserves for six years. He liked discipline and order. In charge of lawn and laundry for our household, Bruce insisted on precision to his folding or hanging duties. Grass cutting was never hired out. He demonstrated absolute perfection in his lawn care task. Just by coincidence, Bruce learned that he and his Sun City buddy Mike actually went to basic training together in Texas as young men. Sun City also brought him another valued military friend. Nurse Becky held rank on Bruce and he never failed to salute her as a sign of respect and friendship.

Animals loved and were always attracted to Bruce. He had a special touch with dogs that made them feel safe. Welcoming him across the rainbow bridge were Gretchen, Ali, Kristi, Scooter, Jack, Nikki, and Roxanne. He left behind Lucy and Chandler to keep me company.

Above all, Bruce was the best companion and husband a girl from Kentucky could imagine. Married just nine years, but together 30+, we enjoyed every minute together. The transition from full-time careers to retirement was simple as it meant more time together. He was a beach bum, loved riding bikes together, or just sharing a lazy fall Sunday watching football. He leaves a hole in my heart that can never be filled. I know many of you will feel the same. In recognition of his special life, memorials can be made to your favorite military charity or animal rescue.