



CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LOVE OF

*William "Bill" Brown*

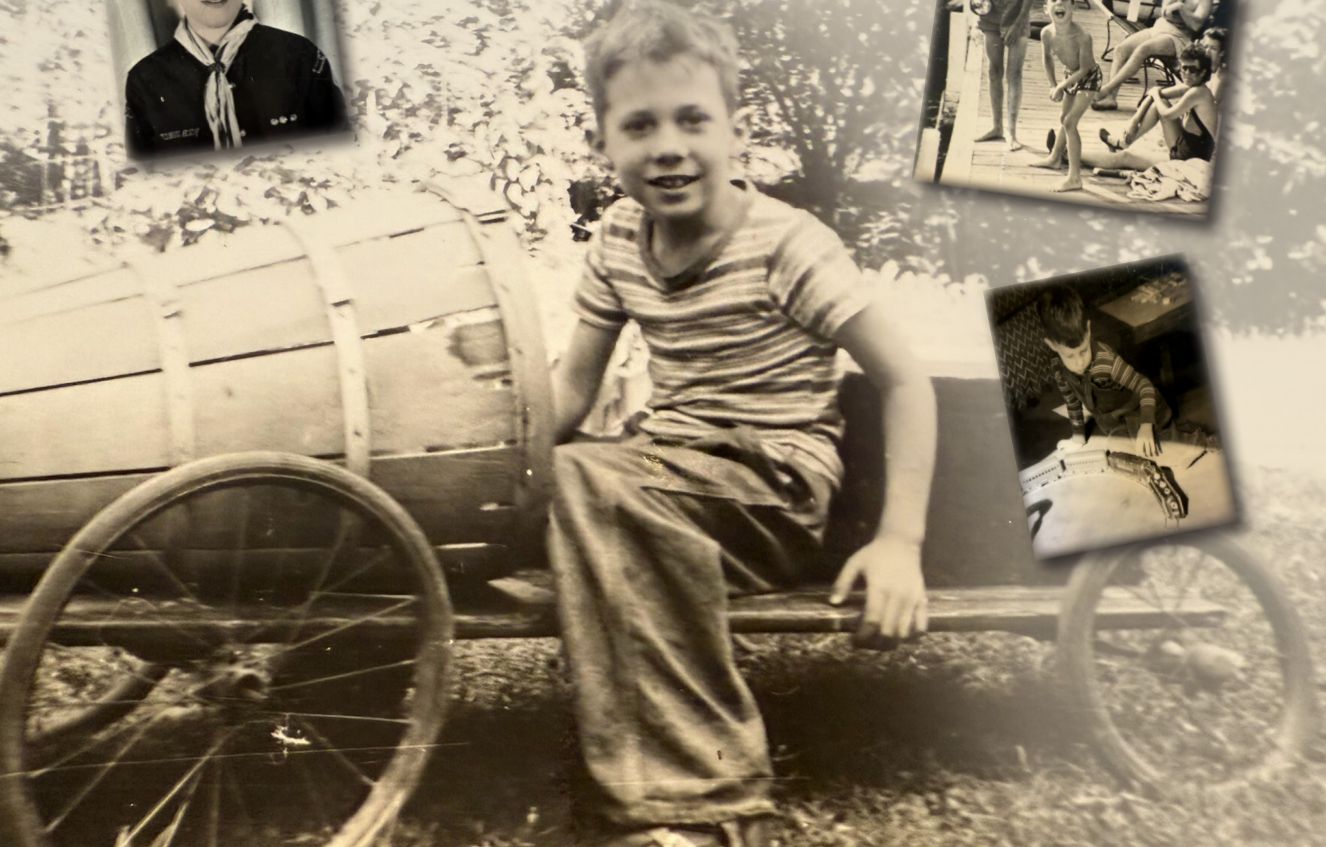
October 30, 1937 - November 25, 2025



William “Bill” Eckman Brown was a hardworking, compassionate, generous family man who proudly served his community. He was gentle, kind, selfless, and kept a full schedule. He was a life-long learner, keeping his mind busy by easily finding fuel for his curiosity. Bill was quick-witted and could read people immediately, easily adapting in any social setting. Laughter was always a big part of the Brown household. He was considerate, gentle, intentional, and humble. Bill bravely led by example and made those around him feel protected, unconditionally loved, and valued. He simply had that spark about him!



Bill’s story began on October 30, 1937, in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was welcomed into the world by his parents, Dwight and Alice Brown. Naturally outgoing, he formed friendships with ease and spent summers at the family lake house at Ryland Lakes Country Club in Kentucky. He had a wide circle of childhood friends and enjoyed plenty of adventures growing up. One of them, Tommy Butler, shared a particularly memorable summer with him at a camp in Maine.



Bill attended Clifton grade school and graduated from Hughes High School in 1955. He was a small but mighty kid who loved people and was social from the very start. His light frame and lively spirit lovingly earned him the nickname "100 Pound Brown." Bill maintained lifelong bonds with his high school friends and enjoyed reuniting with them multiple times a year.

His parents instilled in him a deep sense of service and the importance of community from an early age. For many years he was an active Boy Scout with his father as the Scout Leader. Bill rarely stayed idle and had quite a few jobs growing up, including cutting grass at Spring Grove Cemetery, delivering flowers for Adrian Durbin florist, and driving a school bus for St. Ursula Academy. At just 16, he began volunteering with the Ryland Heights Fire Department and in later years with the Ft. Mitchell Fire Department, where he quickly discovered both his passion and a lifelong brotherhood within the fire service. After high school, Bill attended the University of Cincinnati where he earned his degree in Economics in 1959 and played on the golf team. After graduation, he landed a sales job at the local Volkswagen dealership, where he

enjoyed learning the business and growing with the company before ultimately accepting a sales position at DuBois Chemical Company. While at DuBois, he met the love of his life, Pamela Brandfass. Pamela also worked at DuBois, and after buying her lunch one day, he won her heart with his larger-than-life personality. Bill not only asked Pamela to the company dance, but after she managed to hook him in the arm while casting her line on a fishing date, the rest was history! The two loved hitting up the golf course together, and after finding many things in common, they recited their vows in front of family and friends on May 3, 1969. This would be a beautiful start to a 56-year marriage.

In 1975, Bill and Pamela joyfully welcomed their first daughter, Jennifer. They were thrilled to start a family, but these were also worrisome times for Pamela since Bill continued his passion as a volunteer firefighter. Several large fires happened around the same



time frame, and one in particular that would be a pivotal moment in Bill's life. A fire occurred at the CVG Airport, and Bill found one of two fallen airport firefighters within Terminal A Building. He had navigated his way through many tragedies, from working the aftermath of the Beverly Hills fire to fighting major fires such as Fort Mitchell Country Club, Ben Castelman's White Horse Tavern, and Lookout House Supper Club among endless others. He relied on his faith and his brothers at the department to get through the day-to-day tasks during the toughest days. Routine helped make sense to Bill's days and he gave of his time and talents to such companies as Silco Fire and Safety, Orr Safety and Supply, and General Safety before deciding to build something of his own. Bill began Webco Fire Equipment Company with Pamela by his side. The two made an awesome team, and he quickly made a name for himself. In 1977, Bill and Pamela were blessed with their second daughter, Courtney. Bill made the perfect "girl dad" and just as he was their biggest fan, they too wanted to be just like him.

While the girls were growing up, one of their favorite memories was of their dad driving them to dance class and having an ICEE ready for them after every lesson. He loved driving them to school each day and seemed to seamlessly balance his busy schedule, always making them a priority. He never missed an opportunity to catch one of their sporting events or lend a helping hand. Bill and Pamela were exceptionally close with their neighbors, treating them more like family than friends. They remained grateful for the close-knit community that



walked through life with them. Bill's professional accomplishments were matched by the joy he found in simple, everyday moments. He loved playing golf at Ryland, tinkering with antique cars and fire trucks, and tending to his expansive model trains—especially the garden railway at his Ft. Mitchell home. He was an active member of the Cincinnati Garden Railway Society and was honored with a place on the Wall of Honor at the Ft. Mitchell Fire Department.

The family made wonderful memories heading out to fire conventions, and when they were not with him, he always brought a little something special home for his girls from his travels!

The 4th of July was always a special time at Ryland Lakes, and one Bill looked forward to every year! From the turtle races to the fireworks, it was an annual tradition that everyone loved. Bill's time spent serving his community is truly remarkable. Bill was always on the go! He served 30-plus years on the Board of Trustees at the Cincinnati Fire Museum and most recently also served on their Executive Board.



He was a training instructor for 18 years at the Kenton/ Boone County Fire School and served on the Greater Cincinnati Regional Arson Fire Investigators Committee. He was the Captain of the Ryland and Fort Mitchell Fire Departments. He loved serving with his fellow Box 13 Association members. Bill retired from his company in 2018, and carved out more time for family. Whether going to “Coffee” Club, the Miles Greenwood Club, Wednesday morning train gatherings or the Monday volunteer group with the Cincinnati Fire Museum, he continued to keep his days scheduled.

In 2002, Pamela and Bill became grandparents, welcoming their first granddaughter, Emma into the world! Five more grandchildren would bless their lives, Evan, Paige, Julia, Micah, and Mia. They all lovingly called him “Pop” and were the light of his days. He could not wait to cheer them on at their next event or game. He adored his dog, Theo, enjoyed '70s country music, and was known for being quick with a wisecrack.





Bill dedicated his entire life to the fire service, answering every call with courage, humility, and an unwavering commitment to others. From his earliest days as a young crossing guard at Clifton Elementary—shaped by the values of service and community his parents instilled—he carried a servant’s heart into every chapter of his life. He fought countless major fires, stood shoulder-to-shoulder with a brotherhood he deeply cherished, and built a successful fire equipment business that he proudly owned and operated for 46 years. Yet, beyond the flames and the accolades, what truly defined Bill was the way he gave back—pouring his time, energy, and compassion into the community he loved.



As the years passed, Bill never lost his ability to read a whole room and brighten someone’s day. His health began to decline, and in his final days, true to his nature, he placed his family first. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Tuesday, November 25, 2025. Bill’s compassion for service is his lasting gift to the world – a legacy that will be carried on forever in the lives of those who follow in his footsteps.





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