



GIVING 15 YEARS

The Bill Sugra Memorial Fund
c/o St. Thomas More Catholic Church
1040 Flexer Avenue
Allentown, PA 18103

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The Bill Sugra Memorial

GOLF TOURNAMENT NEWS

Editor: Erik Ridley Designer: Debra Martin Summer 2016

Starter's Shack

You probably have heard the song *Seasons of Love* from the Broadway musical *Rent*: "525,600 Minutes ... How do you measure a year? In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights..." As I sat down to compose this newsletter that song came to my mind.

We never ever thought we would have survived a moment, a day, a week, a year and now 15 years later we are still here. Thanks to each and every one of you for your love, caring, compassion, phone calls, letters, your stories of our Bill, your tears and sadness, understanding, financial support, and most of all, your prayers!

The song continues.... "How can you measure the life of a woman or man? How about love? It's time now to sing out, the story never ends. Let's celebrate, remember a year in the life of friends. Remember the love....". Well, we remember the love and THANK YOU!

We have had so many happy times with Bill and even though 15 years have passed we still miss him more every day. Our family have had so many beautiful memories that we cherish with Steven, Tracy, Reagan, and Tripp but we always know someone was missing. We will never understand why someone so young and had so much to offer was taken away from us. He was a wonderful son, brother, and friend.

We have to accept that we will never be able to live life with our son anymore or to share openly our love for him. So, as always, we cling to those memories that help to give us some peace and some laughter.

One story that made us laugh recently came from Marc Whitken, a young man Bill had worked with at Cantor Fitzgerald. Bill talked about him often and looked up to Marc as a friend and mentor. Fortunately for Marc he was let go from Cantor Fitzgerald on September 10, 2001. We have kept in touch with him over the years, and I asked Marc recently to share some memories of Bill. He told us that Bill was having the time of his life living in NY and sharing that with his girlfriend Suzanne.

The other thing that stands out was Bill's shoes. He was very proud of them. They were a standard looking pair of black leatherish looking dress shoes. What made them unique, or what gave Bill a sense of pride about them, was how long they lasted. He used both tape and crazy glue to keep holding them together. He knew it was silly and knew he was a bit too thrifty, but I think he enjoyed the challenge. I hope this brings some happiness to your memory of Bill, I can't help but tear up just writing it.

Love, Marc



THE BUTTERFLY...

The leaves of autumn are covered by the snows of winter-but the leaves will return in the spring. The waves of the sea break upon the shore and then slide back into the sea to become waves once again. There is nothing in this life that is without its cycle of life, death and rebirth.

The butterfly is one of God's finest images of the gift of new life, emerging from its dark cocoon to its new splendor and glory, beautiful to behold and symbolizing the magnificent mystery of springtime that out of seeming death comes new life.

The memory of Bill Sugra is very much like the butterfly. He loved life and he loved each and every person whose life he touched. He helped us all to emerge from our gray moments by the light he spread with his smile and his caring and his love. Because he cared, he lifted us up.

We chose the butterfly as a symbol on our brochures and letterheads for the Bill Sugra Memorial Fund because of his memory we strive to bring the hopeless to hope, the discouraged to confidence and the depressed to new life.

Well, we look forward to seeing you this August 26 at Green Pond. As the years go by, we realize that we are so blessed with each and every one of you. You are like family to us and we thank you for helping honor our son's memory and helping those in need. Bill's gentle spirit lives on because of YOU! We will never forget! THANK YOU.

God Bless,
Bill, El, Tracy, Steven, Reagan, and Tripp



Tracy, Steven, Reagan, Tripp, Bill and I also went into New York to see the *Lion King*. The kids sat in front of us in the theatre and we loved watching their expressions and how they clapped at the right times. There are no words to express how we enjoyed our time with those kiddies and once again, enjoying the thrill and excitement of first-time adventures through their eyes.

Oh yes, Bill and I had a private audience with the Pope! (ha ha)



encourage, support and assist
GIVING 15 YEARS

Friday, August 26, 2016
Green Pond Country Club

Bethlehem, PA



MEMORIAL FUND MISSION STATEMENT

The Bill Sugra Memorial Fund was established in memory of Bill Sugra, a compassionate, caring and loving young man whose life was tragically taken by the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center in New York City.

The purpose of the fund is to encourage, support and assist the needy and disadvantaged to improve their lives during times of difficulty, regardless of location, race, religion, or gender.

HOW YOU CAN HELP...

Please send contributions to:

The Bill Sugra Memorial Fund
c/o St. Thomas More Church
1040 Flexer Avenue
Allentown, PA 18103

For information:
esugra@cs.com

The Bill Sugra Memorial Fund is a section 501(c)(3) charity and contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you!



Mike N., Dan S. Sr, Dan S. Jr

Golf Outing News

As the weather heats up, so is our planning for the **15th Annual Bill Sugra Memorial Golf Outing on Friday, August 26, 2016** at Green Pond Country Club. We recently met with Green Pond GM **Rodger Zellner** and Food and Beverage manager **Brian Drake**. These two make it happen and we thank them for all of they do to make this event such a success.



Rodger Z., Bill S., Brian D.



The popular junior event will be back again this year. Kids from **Embrace Your Dreams** and the **First Tee of the Lehigh Valley** will arrive in the morning and will first be given some breakfast, supplied as always by **McDonald's of Hellertown**. We have been blessed with their support ever since the beginning with the kids' event. We are so grateful to them and the kids love the food. It is an awesome way to start the morning. After the great breakfast, the kids receive some instruction from the golf pros and then head out on to the golf course for some fun.

Thanks to our dynamic and beautiful duo of **Jen & Geri**, we always have fabulous photos from the outings. Our family is so grateful for their love and support and all of the wonderful memories they have captured over the years from the

outings. Everyone enjoys the pictures in the newsletters! Golfers, feel free to bring some props and dress-up clothes for your photo shoot.

Golfers will have an opportunity this year to win **\$10,000** at the **Hole-in-One Contest**, sponsored by **Paul & Barbara Eifler**. We are so blessed with their love and generosity. Thank you so much! We have had two lucky winners in the 14 years of our golf outings. Will there be another this year?

We are so pleased to have on board **JB Reilly** and **Joe Topper** as our honorary co-chairs along with **Father Gambet**. Our family is deeply touched and inspired by their continued love, support, and caring. Thank you!



JB Reilly and Joe Topper



Our family and Father Gambet

After a round of golf, participants are invited back to the clubhouse for a cocktail hour, silent auction, buffet dinner, awards presentation, and a short program. We will also have a dynamic guest keynote speaker.

If you have not registered yet, please do so. Space is limited. You can register online to golf, sponsor, or just come for dinner by going to the website (www.billsugramemorialfund.org). We welcome all to come to the dinner; you do not have to golf with us. You would not believe what a great dinner Green Pond Country Club provides and it is only \$35. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to give us a call at 610-776-4039.

Alex Spatz



We asked our website designer Alex if he would write something about himself since we wanted our readers to know a little bit about him. He is a dear friend and has been so dedicated to Bill's website. This year he even made a mobile-friendly website. We are so blessed with his love, dedication and friendship.

"I had been managing the St. Thomas More Church website for a couple of years when Bill & El asked me if I would be interested in building a site for the Bill Sugra Memorial Fund. There had been a board meeting and when the idea came up to build a website, Msgr. Murphy suggested my name. I was honored to be asked and, of course, gladly accepted. Pictures and text documents were gathered and the site was launched in the Fall of 2007.

I started working at St. Thomas More School in 2006 and have worked with Tracy Sell since the first day. We have a close partnership in managing the computers, software, and other aspects of technology in the school. In the nine years I have been managing the billsugramemorialfund.org site, I have gotten to know Bill and El Sugra very well and I consider it a privilege to contribute to their organization and the outstanding work they do for so many people. I look forward to continuing our association in the years ahead." hope, and wonder.

IUP Scholarship Recipient

We also asked our IUP scholarship recipient for an update:

My name is Marc Colón and I am a Spanish/English bilingual and bicultural Puerto Rican from North Philadelphia. I am currently a senior finance major in the business honors program with a minor in economics at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. As a member of the IUP community I took it upon myself to be involved throughout the campus. I have participated in many activities and organizations such as Caring About Latino Student Achievement (CALSA), an organization within the Mid-Atlantic Addiction Research and Training Institute, where I currently work as a program associate to develop and implement strategies for community outreach and student professional development. For the past year, I have led the Industrial and Materials Sector in the Student Managed Investment Portfolio team; as a team we currently manage a little over \$750,000.

Currently, I am a Board of Governors Scholar and a McNair Scholar where I have been working on research in behavioral economics and utilizing the framework of game theory.

To the Sugra family:

Much of what I have accomplished throughout my undergraduate career has been made possible because of individuals and families like yours. I can honestly say that without the assistance of scholarships and sponsorships, I likely would not have attended college. As a result of your contribution I have been enabled to receive a strong education and remain competitive as a young aspiring professional. Beyond supporting me, you have also motivated me to work that much harder. I understand that I owe it to you that I try my best to succeed and pay it forward to others. Knowing that there are people like yourselves, willing to contribute to the lives of young students without any obligation to do so but merely because you want to, really brightens my outlook and perspective of what can be accomplished within our society.

As you may have already read and inferred from my brief biography, I did not know what to do once I arrived to college, which really created a lot of room for self-doubt. I couldn't be entirely certain of what college was or what it really meant to matriculate. In my hometown, attending college was never really the trending topic of discussion, much less was graduating from a four-year institution. I'm sure many thought about it, and some were probably more informed than others...we just didn't discuss it. I often questioned myself and whether I actually belonged or even deserved to be pursuing a finance degree at a business college like Eberly. I can only hope that you understand just how much your contribution has helped reassure me in my decisions and achievements thus far. It is because of you that I have the opportunity to see just how far I can actually go. It goes without saying that I owe it to you to put my best foot forward and aim for continued growth.



I aspire to someday do for others what you have done for me. Thank you very much for supporting me, my education, and my growth.

Warm regards, Marc

Family update

As I always say, no newsletter would be complete without a family update. I could fill up the whole newsletter with pictures!



We have had a fun-filled spring filled with activities and celebrations, including **Bill's Big Birthday!** We had lots of fun.



It is hard to believe, but **Reagan** will be graduating from kindergarten and **Tripp** will be finished at Hope Nursery School and moving on to kindergarten at STM.

Reagan is still in dancing school at Accent School of Dance and this will be her 4th year dancing. **Tripp** is in soccer and yes, he scored a goal or two. They are also both playing t-ball and really enjoying it. I think they get that gene from their daddy.