

## William Welch

April 13, 1931 - March 22, 2020

On March 22, 2020, the Lord called Bill home. He passed away at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Bill was born on April 13, 1931 in Detroit Michigan. He served 2 years in the Army during the Korean War Conflict. He was the last surviving founder of Hollywood Super Markets. The grocery store chain is currently run by the second generation of family members. Bill's wife Dee preceded him in death and he has 3 surviving children: William (Melodi) Welch, Kim (Zip) Harlan, and Kelly (Tim) Blett. He was the proud Papa of 3 grandchildren: Alexandra, Sydney and Olivia.

He was a caring person with a big heart, a loving family man, a loyal friend, a caretaker, an artist, an incredible leader, a hard worker, a massive giver, community leader, a handyman, a patriot, a relentless entrepreneur, and was often referred to as "Mr. Wonderful."

He loved his sweets, working in the yard, and playing golf (then cards) with his buddies. His last words were "no more sorrow, no more sadness, live your life."

A memorial service will be held at a later date. He would love any and all donations to go to the WWII Legacy Memorial: [www.michiganww2memorial.or](http://www.michiganww2memorial.or)

g.

# Tribute Wall

KL

“ *Kris Laicu lit a candle in memory of William Welch*



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**Kris Laicu** - April 20, 2020 at 02:57 PM

SC

“ Dear Bill, Kim and Kelly,  
I am at a loss for words at this point. My most sincere condolences to all of you.

I feel that the loss of your dad is a personal loss for us as well. Since I began teaching at Barton so many years ago, the Welch family has been a significant bright spot in my life.

Years pass, career careers change, but when we catch up it's like no time has passed. We always seemed to draw our thoughts to the present, and not surprisingly back to that old beloved Junior High. I always welcomed meeting your mom and dad during conferences, and always kiddingly, that I was the protector of Kim and Kelly from my vantage point on the second floor facing “The Alley.” We all had a good laugh about my overprotectiveness and we'll continue to do so in our future.

The beautiful words in the tribute warmed my heart. “Mr. Wonderful” was all that and certainly more. Your dad's last words “No more sorrow, no more tears, live your life.”

It is obvious to me that he built a family on a foundation of respect, honor, courage and integrity and most of all love. These virtues will always remind me of my years with the Welch's. May your dad Rest In Peace.

Stay safe, be strong and be well.

Stan and Cheryl Chodun ❤️

Please let us know of the memorial.



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Stan and Cheryl Chodun - March 31, 2020 at 01:24 PM

WH

“ Gave me my first part time job at Lincoln & Campbell , let me work hours around my college schedule .My parents shopped there . Bought a house on S. Wilson off Lincoln , we shopped there and he always knew my name and my wife's .

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**William Hemp** - March 29, 2020 at 10:01 PM

GS

“ Bill Welch Jr. So sorry to read of your DAD's passing. We lived in the same neighborhood in Royal Oak and my family shopped at the Hollywood Market. Wishing you and extended family, Prayers!

*Grant G. Skomski*

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**Grant G. Skomski** - March 29, 2020 at 08:53 PM



FM

“ Me gourmet ,  
How do I start !! I will start by saying you were  
the word amazing and everything that it  
means.



You were a wonderful husband, father to  
three awesome kids, a friend, a neighbor, and boss.

You were the kindest and most caring man I ever met and you  
made the best gourmet dinners I ever ate 😊. I was truly blessed to  
have you in my life and for you to treat me like family I was honored  
to take care of you on yours and dees final days.

I remember the flowers you had delivered to my birthday and how  
you joined us all 25 of us at fifth tavern 🍷🍷🍷 which I was a hour  
late to my own birthday dinner you had a wedge 😊 I could go on  
and on for hours about just how special you were.

Life will not be the same without you my bill I will miss you for many  
days to come may you rest in heaven I knew you were going there  
100 times over ❤️❤️ Golf your ass off billy bob !!!

Until we meet again friend

And also I want to thank Kim, Billy, and Kelly for treating me like  
family and allowing me to be apart of the family and care for there  
parents love you guys xoxoxoxo

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felisha miracle - March 29, 2020 at 03:07 PM

FM

“ To Billy, Kim and Kelly:

*Your parents were always super to me and I am saddened by your dads passing just like I was saddened by your moms passing in 2015. They were an anchor in the neighborhood and it seemed like I was over every Friday night and saying hello to your parents and then talking and then forgetting we were over to pick up their son, Billy.*

*They were just the nicest people and certainly raised three great children who to this day I consider my friends.*

*What a loss but what a great man.*

*Fred McMann*

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**Fred McMann** - March 29, 2020 at 11:22 AM

KC

“ *My first job was with Hollywood Supermarket (#2) on Main Street in Royal Oak. I worked there from 1971-76. Worked with son Bill, and daughters Kim and Kelly. Your father was always a very nice man who treated all employees very well. I never saw him angry and he always had time and a hello for one and all. My condolences to the family.*

*Kevin Cosgrove*

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**kevin cosgrove** - March 29, 2020 at 06:49 AM

GW

“ Bill Welch was a fine boss at the Hollywood Stores. He was a kind and caring man, employer and after a while, a friend. Hollywood was my part time job after high school and full time during the summers and back to full time after college.. Bill was accommodating to school age employees even with their hectic social schedules, sometimes making that a little difficult. I worked at the #2 store from 1969 until 1990 where Bill had a small office away from the #3 stores head offices, so we got to know one another quite well over the years considering the "boss/employee" relationship. I look back fondly at my time at Hollywood, even after all these years, and Bill Welch is a big part of why. Kim, Kelly and Bill Jr. - you have my sincere condolences and I wish I could have conveyed those condolences in person but with this virus and all..... You had a terrific Dad and it shows through you three.  
Greg Wiles

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**Gregory Wiles** - March 28, 2020 at 05:03 PM

RH

“ Bill was an excellent employer. A friend, a leader, we shared many conversations during my time as a store manager from 71 until 84. When I left the only store I had not worked at was Troy. Bill gave me my first chance to run Campbell road. Then off to Auburn. Bill was very fair, cared so much about those around him, his life was making sure the five stores were running properly. Bill gave me many opportunities for success. After I left for my car promotion business it was great years later when he reached out to me for help with his new classic car toys. Bill was a family guy. I remember well the three young kids 1966 at Main street running the store. I know Bill is proud. Your Mom was a super lady always to me. Bill, Kim, Kelly from the Haney family I thank you for the time I shared with your Dad. We will keep you in our family prayers.  
Ralph Haney

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Ralph Haney - March 28, 2020 at 01:06 PM

CL

“ My mother, Betty Jo Smotherman Mullins, worker for Hollywood Supermarket for 28 years. She worked at the Campbell Rd Store for years then transferred to the Auburn rd store after moving to Troy. My younger brother and I both worked out way through high school (Royal Oak Dondero) and college at the Campbell Store. We knew all of the Welch brothers and greatly appreciate them for the opportunities of employment. My mother just pasted away this last August at the age of 89. May God bless the Welch family.

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Carolyn Lemaster - March 28, 2020 at 10:47 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of William Welch.*



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March 28, 2020 at 10:41 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of his passing. I am writing on behalf of my brother, Bill Dwyer, who worked at Hollywood Market on Main Street for close to forty years. Bill Welch and family were wonderful to their employees, always treating them fairly, with kindness and compassion. He will be greatly missed. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his entire family.*

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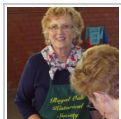
**Sandra Navratil** - March 28, 2020 at 10:17 AM



*He was such a charismatic, charming, caring, kind man. He will be missed, RIP*

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**DShader** - March 28, 2020 at 10:27 AM



*Bill was very kind and generous to the Royal Oak Historical Society Museum...he will be remembered fondly by many in town.*

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**Muriel Versagi** - March 28, 2020 at 10:46 AM



“ *To a very dear friend, I will miss you. 💕💕*

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**June Nicoletti** - March 28, 2020 at 09:44 AM



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**Maryann Nicoletti** - March 28, 2020 at 09:41 AM