

Mary Morrison,

October 3, 1936 - December 30, 2016

By Ellie and George Nosky

It was a sad day when we learned that our dear friend Mary Morrison had passed away. We knew how ill she was but we never like to think good friends will not always be with us.



We have been friends with Mary and Jack for over 40 years. We belonged to the same bridge group with them and four other couples. As a group, besides playing bridge, we traveled to concerts, had parties, went up to Northern Michigan for long weekends, and spent every New Year's Eve together for almost 40 years.

Mary was always active in her church. She loved bridge, jazz and most of all the Four Freshmen. She was a big believer and supporter of the young guys who formed the group over these last years. She and Jack were honored at the Louisville Convention by the Four Freshmen Foundation for their support. Unfortunately, she was too ill for them to attend.

Something some people may not know was Mary wrote great poems – many of them very funny. She wrote one for George that we have framed and we have a good laugh every time we read it.

Mary always had a smile on her face and a little giggle in her voice. We certainly enjoyed all the times we spent with her and Jack. She had many friends so we're sure they felt the same way.

The last time we saw Mary was the beginning of December. She had been home from the hospital a few days. She looked beautiful with a new haircut. She told us she had so much to say so we let her have an hour of uninterrupted talking. She told us she had a wonderful life, a great husband, children, and grandchildren. She traveled everywhere she wanted to go and did everything she wanted to do and she was at peace with dying.

She will be missed by her many friends.

Rest in Peace Mary. We love you.

Few Thoughts about My Friend Bill

by Curtis Calderon

You know, it was many years ago that I met Bill. I was about 16 or so, and was going to jam sessions trying to learn songs and how to improvise better. I got to know Polly and Kyle, a local duo that are legends around town, they form the group Small World (which was on our *Snowfall* CD). As I got to know Polly and Kyle, Polly would try and help me with chords or tips on playing songs. One night she says, "You see that guy over there, he's from the group I've been telling you about, The Four Freshmen. His name is Bill Comstock." You see, Polly introduced me to the Four Freshmen and insisted as my first record of them I get *The Four Freshmen and Five Guitars*. I met Bill and we talked briefly. This would occur every few months when he made it out to listen to music. I would see him and Sue, we would talk a bit and then say goodnight. At one point I got his address and after I graduated high school, we started writing letters here and there. He's one of the few people who still did that, and it was something we both enjoyed, putting pen to paper.



As I toured with different groups in my teens and early 20s, I might get together with Bill over some coffee or lunch, but it was about once a year if we were lucky.

Along come the Freshmen... Between tours, I happen to be playing at a jazz club in San Antonio, TX named "The Landing" (which unfortunately is no longer around). That same night the Four Freshmen were playing in town. Brian Eichenberger happens to come out to the club I'm playing at. Polly, who I was playing with again that night, introduces me to Brian and explains how he's the newest lead singer and he sounds great. We both are introduced, say hi and go about our ways. Years later I get a call from the Freshmen management. I go to Las Vegas and audition and they say they'll call me. I fly home and that was that.

At that point I was between tours and had a fall tour coming up in a few months, so I reached out to the Four Freshmen to explain that I needed an answer pretty quickly as I needed to either find a sub for my fall tour, or once we hit a point in time, I will not be able to join the Freshmen till the following year. We begin to discuss business. They liked me, but I think they also wanted to keep some options open and make sure they found the right guy. I was also asking for more than what they were offering. I was young and a cocky trumpet player, which go hand in hand by the way. The management then calls Bill Comstock and says, "Hey, this kid wants more money and he needs a decisions quicker than we'd prefer, what do you think?" Of course, during this audition time, Bill and I only spoke maybe once, and he offered some singing advice and to wish me luck, but I was never aware the Freshmen were even talking to him. Bill answers back to their question, "Give him whatever he wants, it'll be worth it." Had I known that, I surely would have asked for a suit that fit me to start the group, lol (if you have seen the early pictures, you'd known what I mean). Bill had that type of integrity. Even though he knew me, liked me and respected me as a musician, he wasn't into games and wasn't going to tell me he was talking to them or that he said to

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