

celebrity-obituary
Aleigha Hamilton
4/11/16

William Henry Cosby, Jr., who was best known as “Bill Cosby” to the public, spent his last days with close loved ones in his Massachusetts home on January 25, 2016—his marriage anniversary date. He was 78 years old when he passed.

Bill was born on July 12, 1937, in Philadelphia, PA. He was the eldest of three brothers; Russell Cosby, Robert Cosby and James Cosby who are the sons of mother Anna Pearl Hite and father William Henry Cosby, Sr. He leaves behind his loving wife Camille Cosby and four of five children; Erika Raneé Cosby, Ensa Cosby, Evin Harrah Cosby and Erinn Chalene Cosby. His only son, Ennis Cosby, is deceased. He also leaves three grandchildren.

Not only was Bill a dad to five, but he became a dad to America during his most successful and long-running work, *The Cosby Show*, where he portrayed a sweater-wearing, pudding pop eating doctor, married to a lawyer who shared five children—four girls and one boy. The show was inspired from his real life, and the characters from the show favored his real-life family. The sitcom ran for eight years, having high ratings and great reviews. The man behind the character of Dr. Heathcliff Huxtable inevitably became “America’s Dad.”

Before the success of *The Cosby Show*, Bill followed his father’s footsteps by serving in the U.S. Navy, where he received his diploma after dropping out of high school, and then went on to college to play football and run track, but later left to pursue comedy full-time. Although he quit school, he still found his way to get his Ph.D in Education and give his God-given gift to the world.

Bill married the love of his life, Camille Olivia Hanks—now Camille O. Cosby, on January 25, 1964. This was two decades before *The Cosby Show* made its debut. Camille went on a blind date with the then 26-year-old Bill while she was in college. The two got engaged shortly after they began dating and are roughly seven years apart in age.

Some of his hobbies included football, basketball, baseball and running track. He began acting in middle school but focussed more on sports throughout high school and college. His gift, however, was the ability to make people laugh. “If you can find humor in anything, you can survive it,” he would say.

Within everything Bill did, he used his gift. He possessed many accolades from the use of his gift. He received two Golden Globes, seven Emmys, nine Grammys and so many other respected awards and honors have been granted to him during his lifetime. He also became the first Black actor, on television, to star in a dramatic role for the TV series *I Spy*.

As Bill got older, he grew wiser and knew that life wasn’t meant to be taken too seriously. Nearly 30 years ago, in 1987 during his 49 stand-up, he talked about being 49 years old, getting older and the life experiences that came with it. He explained about coming to the realization of how old he really was based on the things he was going through at the time. “This life is very funny to me now,” he stated at the beginning of the standup. “It’s the only way I can look at it because if I become deadly serious about it, I would have to reconstruct myself.”

All of Bill’s career work, such as his stand-up comedies like *Bill Cosby Himself* and most popular projects *I Spy*, *Fat Albert* and *The Cosby Show*, matched what was done at home—he lived to make people laugh, and that’s what his family, friends and fans will remember the most about him.

In the later years of his life, his career was tarnished due to sexual assault allegations.

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With the many homes you've entered by using the gift God gave to you and the many lives you've touched simply by allowing us to embrace you, we'll always carry your memory and the time we've spent, in our hearts.

Prayer: You can shed tears that he's gone, or you can smile because he has lived. You can close your eyes and pray that he'll come back, or you can open your eyes and see he has left. Your heart can be empty because you can't see him, or you can be full of the love you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember him and only that he's gone, or you can cherish his memory and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back, or you can do what he'd want, smile, open your eyes, love and go on.