



William T. Schomburg

November 28, 1939 - March 26, 2017

COLUMBIA — William ‘Bill’ T. Schomburg, 77, of Columbia, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Sunday, March 26, 2017.

He was born in Westport, Conn., on Nov. 28, 1939, a son to the late Otto and Emily (Kitchen) Schomburg. He spent his early life in Hopewell and Princeton, NJ, attended prep school at St. Francis in Spring Grove, Penn., and later attended colleges in St. Johns, Jamaica in Queens, NY, Steubenville College in Ohio and Bridgeport University in Connecticut.

He was a teacher by temperament and profession, holding jobs as a principal and grade 5-6 teacher in Ohio, New Jersey, and he also worked for Boeing Aircraft in Washington state for a while. He and his wife moved their young family to northern NH in the early 70s, and Mr. Schomburg became a beloved English teacher for 30 years at Colebrook Academy. He also worked part-time and in retirement at Stub’s Texaco, for the White Farm in Columbia, as a dispatcher for the Colebrook Police Dept., at the Speedy Chef restaurant, and for various Christmas tree farmers in the region. Bill loved to hunt, fish, canoe, go camping, and read poetry. He could often be found at one of his favorites spots – Meriden Hill, the Connecticut River, Lyman Falls, Bunnell Mountain, Lake Umbagog or somewhere in the woods.

He was proud to have hitchhiked across America. He also canoed twice from the north country to the mouth of the Connecticut River in Saybrook, Conn. He had hiked the 48 White Mountain peaks over 4,000 ft., and had canoed most of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, as well as the Long Trail in Vermont.

Bill was also civic-minded and served his communities and fellow man. He had participated in the early civil rights movement with marches on Washington, which he attended by hitchhiking, as well. He served as a Colebrook Jaycee, on the Nulhegan Gateway Assn., Columbia’s emergency management team, the Upper Connecticut Coalition, the Columbia Historical Society, and as a Columbia selectman, planning board

member and on the board of adjustment. On his Meriden Hill home farm, he enjoyed raising beef, pigs, sheep, turkey, ducks, geese, chickens, rabbits, trout, and tending to his large garden.

Bill leaves behind his beloved wife of 50 years, Barbara (Papstein) Schomburg of Columbia; three children, Aaron Schomburg and wife Erin of Princeton, NJ, Victoria Schomburg-Jones and husband Andrew of Enfield, NH, and Matthew Schomburg and wife Christina of Wonalancet, NH; five grandchildren, Rowan and Elena Schomburg, Olive August-Rain Schomburg and Ben and Elizabeth Jones; and his sister, Angela Meister of Mt. Angel, Ore.

Calling hours will be on Thursday, March 30, 2017, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook. A funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 31, at St. Brendan's Catholic Church in Colebrook. A graveside committal service will be held in the spring, 2017, at St. Brendan's Cemetery, of which notice will be given.

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to www.jenkinsnewman.com.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home, Colebrook, NH.

Cemetery

St. Brendan's Catholic Cemetery

South Main Street

Colebrook, NH,

Events

MAR **Visitation** 07:00PM - 09:00PM

30

Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home
103 Main Street, Colebrook, NH, US

MAR **Service** 11:00AM

31

St. Brendan's Roman Catholic Church
Pleasant Street, Colebrook, NH, US

Comments



“ Bill was my classmate at St Francis Prep School in York, PA (class of '59).
A finer person you could never expect to meet.
We had many laughs at our 50 th reunion.....and he will be sorely missed by those
of us remaining.
RIP, dear Prepster. You will be missed - but always with us in spirit.
Jim Purvis

Jim Purvis - November 28, 2017 at 11:11 AM



“ He was of "the few"; and now he has gone home to them, the poets and the Saints.
CA's Mr.U

Robert Unangst - July 04, 2017 at 02:17 AM



“ What a shock to come across the passing of one of my favorite teachers. I still see
him jumping up onto desks in great oratory to collect the attention of we young
minds. I last ran in to Bill in the Adirondacks embarking on his great Canoe trip on
the Northern Forest Canoe trail. We were at Paul Smiths VIC and enjoyed a nice
chat catching up. When Bill and Barbara and family first moved to Colebrook I
babysat for them. Though I haven't seen the rest of the family for a long time I did
occasionally catch a photo of one of his adventures with any one of his family. You
really had a wonderful husband and an awesome dad and I imagine an equally
awesome Grampa. I'm sure he will be sorely missed in the community. My deepest
condolences to Barbara and all your family.
Lisa Caggiula

Lisa Caggiula - May 25, 2017 at 07:30 AM



“ Out out brief candle

Jennifer Alley - April 25, 2017 at 10:03 PM



“ Bill oversaw 33 miles of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. I had the opportunity to work in the field with Bill setting up campsites and working on water access projects. I would always rib him for eating raw onion sandwiches for lunch each day. Certainly a one of kind gentleman with a contagious sense of purpose. Here is a link to a video with some pictures from projects Bill was involved with on the NFCT:
<https://youtu.be/YQeRAbi1GI0>
Condolences to all family and friends.

Walter Opuszynski - April 19, 2017 at 03:09 PM



“ So sorry to learn of Bill's passing. A dear friend of my late husband, Hank har)ow. Sending deep symoathues to Bills family, especially Barbara.
Sincerely, Jane Harlow,from Auburn, maine.

Jane Harlow - April 17, 2017 at 01:53 PM



“ Dear Schomburg Family, We just learned of Bill's passing; we are very sorry. While we weren't lucky enough to have the pleasure of knowing Bill well, we always enjoyed running into him out in the woods or saying hi as we passed your home on the way to our peaceful haven. A frequent discussion among ourselves was how self sufficient he seemed to be and a part of nature; hiking for miles, shoveling his driveway, stacking his wood. We've always enjoyed reading/hearing about his conservation efforts as well. Thank you Bill for all you did for Columbia and the North Country. Based on the tributes here, you were obviously a wonderful teacher and man! Hold close the wonderful memories. W. David & Lisa Meffert

W. David & Lisa Meffert - April 06, 2017 at 01:44 PM



“ Barbara, I have missed you and Bill at the Rec Center, knowing he was not well, but hoping to see you both again. My sympathy goes out to you and your family. I will miss Bill's forceful ideas and thoughts on so many subjects. Please stay well, gain your strength and come back to a new routine when you are able. I am here in Errol if you would like to come and have lunch one day. Sharon Miller

Sharon Miller - April 05, 2017 at 09:29 AM



“ To the Schomburg family,
Thank you for sharing Mr. Schomburg with so many school kids, who are now adults.
Any person that went through Colebrook Academy during the time he taught there,
will NEVER forget his name or something he taught us.
Thank you Mr.Schomburg for caring so much for all of us.

Bonnie (Larssen) Noble (C.A. Class of '81)

Bonnie Larssen-Noble - April 02, 2017 at 09:41 PM



“ But yield who will to their separation,
My object in living is to unite
My avocation and my vocation
As my two eyes make one in sight.
Only where love and need are one,
And the work is play for mortal stakes,
Is the deed ever really done
For heaven and the future's sakes.

— Robert Frost, Two Tramps in Mud Time, st. 9

Dan Hicks - April 01, 2017 at 08:13 AM



“ Mr. Schomburg engaged each and every student in his classroom in a personal and
inspiring way that remains in the conscience and guides throughout each of their
lives. That is the most honorable of legacies.
Condolences to all who loved this wonderful man.
With sad sincerity, Sherry

Sherry Hardy - April 01, 2017 at 07:36 AM



“ Mr. Schomburg;; you were not only a teacher but a mentor;; even though i was sooo
not wonderful in class;; in all the teachers that i had; you and mrs. Allen made me
laugh;; you called me sherm a few times;; we had to write a diary; which you sooooo
told me you kept and was in awe; and hope someday to get that text back;; you were
such an awesome teacher; til we meet again

helene lescault - March 31, 2017 at 08:13 PM



“ He was the most amazing teacher I ever had. I became a teacher later in life and taught high school English trying to give to my students the love of reading the classics that he gave to me and bring the great spontaneity to my class that he brought to ours. He made a lasting impression and I have a great respect for him as a teacher and as a person. I am sorry to hear he is gone.

Paula Chapple - March 31, 2017 at 02:34 PM



“ The North Country has lost a wonderful community member in Bill. I worked with him - and others - to create the Northern Forest Canoe Trail route through NH. I loved working with Bill: his energy, compassion, sense of community, love of the outdoors, and so much more. He was a rare gem believing in people and doing the right thing. It was an honor to know Bill. My sympathies to the Schomburgs and all who were touched by him.

Lelia Mellen - March 31, 2017 at 11:48 AM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Lelia Mellen - March 31, 2017 at 11:43 AM



“ With Love, Molly and DHART Crew purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William T. Schomburg.



With Love, Molly and DHART Crew - March 30, 2017 at 05:56 PM



“ One of my heroes, Bill wasn't intimidated by the Northern Pass or any of their bigwigs. He stood up against them all, and I followed in his footsteps... well, a little behind... I'm still learning to get my words - he always had the right words. So grateful for his fight. So thankful for being named beside him in the battle. We're winning. Thank you Bill. Thank you Schomburg family. You are all amazing.

Julie (Orange) Moran

Julie Moran - March 30, 2017 at 04:50 PM



“ Thank you for sharing all of the memories that you have written on this tribute wall for our dad and husband. From the Schomburg Family.

Schomburg - March 30, 2017 at 03:37 PM



“
Neil Malloy - January 24, 2020 at 08:37 PM



“ Bill was one of the kindest, most grounded people. I met him in his capacity as volunteer extraordinaire for the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, but came to know him as smart and engaged in so many different ways, from poetry to campsite construction. I often thought of him as the Wendell Berry of the north country, and as such he was and remains one of my guideposts for how to live a life well.

Kate Williams - March 30, 2017 at 12:31 PM



“ I met Bill twelve years ago while working on the Monadnock Mountain fire tower restoration project. He was incredibly supportive of that effort. Since then, I've had the good fortune to going hiking with him on several occasions, including a daring ascent of the big chimney on Black Mountain in Averill, VT. He will be missed by so many of us. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to his family. Peace to all of you.

[https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.726192274124796.1073741877.100002020919769&type=1&l=a1d1644953)

[set=a.726192274124796.1073741877.100002020919769&type=1&l=a1d1644953](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.726192274124796.1073741877.100002020919769&type=1&l=a1d1644953)

Kevin Williamson - March 31, 2017 at 01:37 PM



“ My heart hurts to imagine the world without Bill Schomburg. My favorite memories of him are floating down the Upper Ammonoosuc in a canoe under the blaze of fall foliage, checking paddler campsites, hoisting picnic tables into the trees for the winter so the spring floods wouldn't wash them downstream. I loved sharing poetry with him, and hearing him recite his favorites. He was a hero of the North Country in my book, and I will remember him fondly.

Jen Lamphere Roberts

Jen Roberts - March 30, 2017 at 11:48 AM



“ What a terrific human being Mr. Schomburg. Your smile, made me smile. Your compassion for life and seizing the moment will live on. Thank-you for being a special part of my High School days. Until we meet again my friend. Much LOVE goes out to all his family and loved ones.

Katrina - March 30, 2017 at 11:38 AM



“ My favorite teacher. May he rest in peace.

R.(Biron) Germain - March 30, 2017 at 10:57 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Bill's passing. This is a loss for the whole North Country where he had a large presence. Bill was a no-nonsense friend and partner who was fiercely loyal to the northern woods and waters he called home. He always had wise advice and had a knack for showing up at opportune moments, as if he knew something was going on and he wanted to be part of it. His support for NorthWoods Stewardship Center and our collaborative efforts to improve the Monadnock Mountain Trail, Connecticut River, and the communities of northern Vermont and New Hampshire was extraordinary. His was a driving force that will be sorely missed. Thank you for sharing him with us.

Most Sincerely,
Luke O'Brien

Luke O'Brien - March 30, 2017 at 10:37 AM



“ My condolences to the Schomburg family. He influenced so many lives including mine for which I am grateful. Mr. Schomburg always challenged students to think.



Deborah Carrigan McGuire - March 29, 2017 at 05:10 PM



“ Nothing Gold Can Stay... Thank you Mr. Schomburg for allowing us to be individuals. We may interpret a poem differently than yourself but you always made our thoughts worthy of hearing. Nothing was cookie cutter in his class. He would often show us his lunch which included many different fruits and vegetables grown in his home garden. A true man of the earth and a steward to the land. Thank you for making English class a rewarding experience.

Bridget Cross - March 29, 2017 at 02:30 PM



“ Mr. Shomburg was a wonderful person and a great teacher. He inspired students to reach for their dreams and to be themselves. He shared his love of books and showed students the joy of reading. He taught generations of families, mine included. He will long be remembered and truly missed by everyone he touched. I will keep him and his loved ones in my thoughts and prayers.

Tammy Thivierge - March 29, 2017 at 12:25 PM



“ Our condolences to all the students, family and friends of Mr. Schomburg. Francine & Andre Champagne



Francine - March 29, 2017 at 12:08 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William T. Schomburg.



March 29, 2017 at 11:19 AM



“ My condolences to the Schomburg family. I don't think Mr. Schomburg realized how many people's lives he touched. I am a better person for having known him. Kerry Haynes class of 1986.

Because I could not stop for Death –
He kindly stopped for me –
The Carriage held but just Ourselves –
And Immortality.

We slowly drove – He knew no haste
And I had put away
My labor and my leisure too,
For His Civility –

We passed the School, where Children strove
At Recess – in the Ring –
We passed the Fields of Gazing Grain –
We passed the Setting Sun –

Or rather – He passed Us –
The Dews drew quivering and Chill –
For only Gossamer, my Gown –
My Tippet – only Tulle –

We paused before a House that seemed
A Swelling of the Ground –
The Roof was scarcely visible –
The Cornice – in the Ground –

Since then – 'tis Centuries – and yet
Feels shorter than the Day
I first surmised the Horses' Heads
Were toward Eternity –

Kerry D Haynes - March 29, 2017 at 08:07 AM



“ I will be forever grateful for all the life lessons that Mr. Schomburg taught me. He inspired me to have passion in whatever I do, and I have followed that in my life. He was the best teacher that Colebrook Academy ever had, and I was blessed to have been taught by him. My heart felt condolences go out to Barbara, Vicky, Aaron and Matt and their families. Thank you for sharing him with us all these years. God Speed

Paula(Thibeault)Doyon.
Class of 1984

Paula Doyon - March 29, 2017 at 07:19 AM



“ My Heartfelt Sympathy to Mr. Schomburg's family! He was a truly gifted teacher! He became a part of all of us and will live on in us and his family. Our Class of 1974 dedicated our yearbook at CA to him. We wrote, "To you, William Schomburg, we, the Class of 1974, dedicate our yearbook as a tribute to your sincere interest in students, your wealth of knowledge, and your unique sense of humor." This says it all! I pray that, as time goes by, all your memories of time spent with him will make you smile. We were all Blessed when he and your family came to live in our area back in the 1970's. One of his quotes in our yearbook said, " All men cannot be the best, but every man can be his best." And Mr. Schomburg certainly was! Peace to you all!

A grateful student,
Darlene Klebe Cote'
Class of 1974

Darlene Cote - March 29, 2017 at 07:12 AM



“ Bill and I served for a brief time together on the Board of Directors of the Cohos Trail Association and Bill was a committed and contributing member of the board. He was a fine man, always with a helpful suggestion to offer, a kindness to say, and first in line when there was a job to be done. It was so good to know him.
~~~Mary Sturtevant

Mary Sturtevant - March 29, 2017 at 06:50 AM

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“ Bill was the kind of volunteer that inspires others with his passion. He was a key steward for the Upper Connecticut River, serving for many years as Vice Chair of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions Headwaters Subcommittee, and played a lead role in both the Connecticut River Paddlers Trail and the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. The work he did will live on for the benefit of future generations.  
Tara Bamford, CRJC Subcommittee Coordinator

Tara Bamford - March 29, 2017 at 06:31 AM

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“ His memory will live on in all of his students.

Roger Silloway - March 29, 2017 at 04:59 AM

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“ Chandra Cameron lit a candle in memory of William T. Schomburg



Chandra Cameron - March 28, 2017 at 10:31 PM

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“ The best of the best! An inspiration to all! A man who cared about all students and made an ever-lasting positive impression on each and every one. Colebrook Academy was full of life when he were there. My heartfelt condolences to the Schomburg family. Thank you for sharing this wonderful man with all of us. You are all in my thoughts and prayers! Fly on Eagles wings Mr. Schomburg. You will live on in this earthly world through many. Until we meet again, keep on keeping on kind sir!  
Julie

Julie Daley - March 28, 2017 at 09:07 PM



“ he "was" there.

Julie Daley - March 28, 2017 at 09:10 PM

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“ I loved Mr. Schomburg. I will miss seeing him down at the river. He always came by to say hello and take a dip. Irving built his chimney the year before he died, Mr. Schomburg and I reminisced about that often. Nice man. Good teacher. Even when he'd hollar "Irving the Terrible" and look right at me, and then jump up on the desk!! I fell asleep once in his class and he woke me up...with a fist on the desk next to me. He hated slim jims. RIP.

Heather Leighton - March 28, 2017 at 07:28 PM

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“ Fruit Abounds was purchased for the family of William T. Schomburg.



March 28, 2017 at 05:08 PM

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“ Renee Cross lit a candle in memory of William T. Schomburg



Renee Cross - March 28, 2017 at 04:08 PM

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“ Tricia E. Ellingwood lit a candle in memory of William T. Schomburg



Tricia E. Ellingwood - March 28, 2017 at 03:57 PM

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“ Dear Aaron and family, The Flory's are thinking of you.

How I go to the woods

"Ordinarily, I go to the woods alone, with not a single friend, for they are all smilers and talkers and therefore unsuitable.

I don't really want to be witnessed talking to the catbirds or hugging the old black oak tree. I have my way of praying, as you no doubt have yours.

Besides, when I am alone I can become invisible. I can sit on the top of a dune as motionless as an uprise of weeds, until the foxes run by unconcerned. I can hear the almost unheard sound of the roses singing.

If you have ever gone to the woods with me, I must love you very much.”

— Mary Oliver, *Swan: Poems and Prose Poems*

**Pamela Flory** - March 28, 2017 at 03:50 PM

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“ I had the honor of working with Bill on the Upper Connecticut Valley Community Coalition for quite a few years. Bill always brought a new perspective and a terrific sense of humor to our meetings. He was quiet, but when he spoke we listened carefully because his few words were important and thoughtful. We didn't always agree, but he was graceful and kind in all interactions - He had a wonderful presence. I will miss seeing him in his red and black plaid coat, khaki pants, and knit cap. Heartfelt sympathy to Bill's family. This is a loss in which many of share deeply.

**CEC** - March 28, 2017 at 03:08 PM

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“ Dear Mrs Schomburg, Vicky, Andrew, Ben, Elizabeth and family,

Words are never adequate in moments like these. We will say though, that our hearts go out to you all. Please know that you all remain in our prayers during this difficult time.

With heartfelt condolences,  
Gregory and Kimberly Jones

**Gregory and Kimberly Jones** - March 28, 2017 at 03:00 PM

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“ Mr. Schomburg: I don't really know where to start. Maybe by saying that you will be sorely missed and that I am so blessed to have had you in my life. I am so happy that I got to see you working with Andre' in the trees a few years ago. I must say your loss is right up there with Mr. Irwin. You too were a great man. I think back to my nights in detention with you and wonder who enjoyed it more, me or you. lol I also think about when you first started at C.A. and you bored me (I was young) with your MacBeth. As usual, I had fun with it, wearing your s.kicking boots and dancing to it. I am cracking up just thinking about it. You also cracked me up when you took my M&M's and made me teach the class while you sat in my seat and popped them into the air to catch in your mouth. I taught you well! I am so happy that you were close enough to us to join us at some of our class reunions also. When we have a special teacher it is always nice to keep in touch. You have used your special talents to influence many a young person and I am proud to be one of them.

I will always have fond memories of you, and yes I have led a successful life even though you probably wondered, back then, how that might happen.

To the family, I send my deepest sympathy. May he rest in peace and may you also enjoy the memories he leaves you with.

Georgie "Poulin" Johnson

**Georgie** - March 28, 2017 at 01:38 PM

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“ Dear Mrs. Schomburg, Aaron, Vicki, and Matt,  
Please accept my condolences at this saddest of times. I can't find the words to express the feelings I had upon hearing of Mr. Schomburg's passing. Please know that you are not alone as you mourn your husband and father as he meant so much to those whose lives he touched. Mr. Schomburg's zest for life and his love for literature were apparent to all who had the honor of sitting in his class. I can only imagine the conversations he will have with the great writers he loved to teach about. He will be truly missed by all who knew him.

Cheryl-Leigh Neary - March 28, 2017 at 01:28 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William T. Schomburg.



March 28, 2017 at 01:25 PM

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“ Whether he inspired students to become English teachers, like me, or to live their lives with eyes open a bit wider and minds more curious, Mr. Schomburg was an extraordinary teacher and exceptional human being. I notice and wonder and contemplate the world differently because of him. On a long backpacking trip last summer, this verse floated into my mind and I heard his voice....

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
And I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep."

I am so sorry for all of you that his long sleep has come so soon. But how very blessed we all were to have known a man who saw the world so clearly, loved it so deeply, and left such a rich legacy behind.

Amy Samson - March 28, 2017 at 12:38 PM

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“ My sincere condolences to his family and friends. He was a genuine and kind soul. He will be missed. May warm memories bring you comfort in the difficult days ahead.

**Barbara Allen Beauchemin** - March 28, 2017 at 12:37 PM

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“ “Out, out, brief candle! Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and is heard no more. It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.”

— William Shakespeare, Macbeth

Always will remember that quote. Deepest sympathy to Mrs. Schomburg and family. He was one of my most favorite teachers.

**Cheryl Lynch Dube** - March 28, 2017 at 12:16 PM

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“ Princeton Day School Colleagues purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of William T. Schomburg.



**Princeton Day School Colleagues** - March 28, 2017 at 11:41 AM

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“ Dear Matt and family,

Our deepest sympathies go out to you and your family. May God give you the peace that you seek.

Love, Jenny and Craig Young

**Craig Young** - March 28, 2017 at 11:02 AM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William T. Schomburg.



March 28, 2017 at 10:50 AM

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“ Hi Matt and Family,  
So sorry to hear about the passing of your Dad. Thinking of you and will catch up with you once I am back in New Hampshire. Take care. Tom Moore

**Tom Moore** - March 28, 2017 at 08:09 AM

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“ To Mrs. Schomburg, Aaron, Vicky and Matt my sincerest sympathy on the loss of your husband and dad. Too often as kids growing up we don't understand what an impact one teacher can make in our lives. To so many students from CA that teacher was Mr. Schomburg. He did this in his own unique way whether getting your attention at the beginning of class by playing his records of wolves calling or quoting some piece of literature, he made an impact on us all. His memory will be cherished by those of us who had the privilege of having him as our Teacher. David Collins

**David Collins** - March 28, 2017 at 07:15 AM

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“ Mr. Schomburg, You were such a unique and inspirational teacher and person. You will never be forgotten by the many lives you have touched. You shall live forever in their memories. Thank you for being you...one in a million. Our deepest sympathies to your family.

**Sara Placey Rouleau** - March 28, 2017 at 07:05 AM

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“ Thank you Mr. Schomburg for being one to provide an opening to a different thought process... "Brother to the Rock". You inspired many. Sympathies to your family.

**Cindy Roy** - March 28, 2017 at 06:28 AM



“ My heart leaps up when I behold a rainbow in the sky.  
So was it when my life began; so is it now I am a man;  
So be it when I shall grow old, or let me die.  
The Child is father of the Man;  
And I could wish my days to be  
Bound each to each by natural piety.  
~Williams Wordsworth

Anyone who had the distinct privilege to have a class with Mr. Schomburg knows this poem by heart. To this day, I find myself reciting this poem whether I am seeing something for the first time with my boys (the Child is father of the Man) or when trudging through everyday life (wishing my days to be bound each to each by natural piety) and especially when I see a rainbow in the sky. Mr. Schomburg was funny and charismatic. His personality was electric and influential. I am saddened to know of his passing, but am happy to have know such a great man. He will always be remembered by those who have crossed paths with him and greatly missed.

**Eddie Riendeau** - March 28, 2017 at 06:18 AM



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**Neil Malloy** - January 24, 2020 at 08:42 PM



“ TABULA RASA is how he described our minds and each day. To be taught and influenced by Mr S. is still a very vivid memory. He taught with such passion, excitement and energy and is one of my most memorable teachers. I am sorry to hear of his passing. My sincere condolences.

**Natalie Marquis** - March 28, 2017 at 05:09 AM

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“ My heart goes out to Barbara and the family upon hearing this incredibly sad news. “Mr. Schomburg” was probably the single most important teacher I had growing up, and his spark, kindness, humor, and passionate love of poetry deeply influenced my own path as a teacher, artist, and human. Though I’ve not lived in Colebrook for decades, I’ve been lucky to count him as a friend, and always looked forward to our annual conversations peppered with poetry and local politics, held in front of the Library on the Fourth of July while waiting for the parade to begin. The last time I saw him I shared some Emily Dickinson; he bid farewell with William Cullen Bryant’s exhortation from *Thanatopsis*, “Go forth, under the open sky, and list/To Nature’s teachings!” (We had to partially memorize that poem in his class, “To him who in the love of nature holds/Communion with her visible forms, etc.”.)

Thank you, Bill, for Shakespeare, Donne, Blake, the Transcendentalists, Wordsworth, Whitman, Dylan Thomas, Cummings, and the rest. Thank you for your grit and wit and twinkling wisdom; your stories; your generosity; for making high school in the late 1970’s bearable and enlightening; for your activism; for sharing your old ramshackly sheep’s hilarious saga with me and my city kid daughter one beautiful rare summer day at your farm; for caring so much. You will be sorely missed. You are dearly loved.

I hear your voice, like Longfellow's banner borne Excelsior-like, proclaiming:

Earth, that nourished thee, shall claim  
Thy growth...  
So live, that when thy summons comes to join  
The innumerable caravan, which moves  
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take  
His chamber in the silent halls of death,  
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,  
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed  
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,  
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch  
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.  
(--from *Thanatopsis*)

**Renee Bucciarelli** - March 28, 2017 at 01:05 AM

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“ I feel honored to know such a great teacher and friend ! He was a great inspiration to all that knew him ! RSP Bill Hugs for his family. Janet Heath CA Custodian

**Janet Hart** - March 27, 2017 at 10:27 PM

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“ Mrs. Schomburg, Aaron, Vicki, and Matt,

My deepest sympathy to you all for the loss of your beloved husband and father. I truly feel blessed to have had Mr. Schomburg as a teacher. Thank you for sharing him all these years! As witnessed by the messages on this wall, he will be greatly missed, but he will never be forgotten for he impacted so many lives. So many things come to mind when I think of Mr. Schomburg, "Shpeak to me....I'm in love with your brain cells!", "Carpe Diem", " Out, Out Brief Candle", "Ooh the Buck and Doe", " O Captain, My Captain", and many more. I can't help but smile every time I think of him. He was a special teacher and man, and we are all better for having known him. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Kathi Lawton-Haynes

Kathi Lawton-Haynes - March 27, 2017 at 10:13 PM

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“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of William T. Schomburg.



March 27, 2017 at 10:09 PM

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“ "To him who in the love of nature holds communion with her visible forms, she speaks a various language." There isn't a student of this wonderful teacher who won't remember this quote. You will be missed... RIP, Mr. S.

Betsy Foss - March 27, 2017 at 10:08 PM

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“ Scotia Jordan lit a candle in memory of William T. Schomburg



Scotia Jordan - March 27, 2017 at 10:01 PM



“ Sending prayers and my deepest sympathy to Mrs. Schomburg and all the Schomburg family

Scotia Jordan - March 27, 2017 at 10:04 PM

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“ "Piping down the valleys wild."  
the last of the genuine gypsy hearts has left the hill..  
past the dreaming spyres of balsam.  
and the weather worn sugar maples,  
past the sheep and the bears  
and the rabbits and the rivers..  
past the coy dogs baying on a full moon night  
playing a rag taggle song..  
embarking on the ultimate hitchhike ..  
out into the big blue.  
.rest easy traveler..  
you will never be forgotten.." Scotia Jordan

Scotia Jordan - March 27, 2017 at 09:46 PM

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“ A life well lived! Mr. Schomburg's teaching skills not only made English class interesting, but made it "stick" as he prepared me for my college Freshman course. Since that time, I have read in the "News and Sentinel" of his work to protect New England waterways. My thoughts are with him and his family.

Dave Olmstead - March 27, 2017 at 09:01 PM

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“ So sad to hear of his passing. He touched so many lives, and will be greatly missed. His thoughtful, dedictating teaching has helping so many gain an appreciation for Shakespeare and the written word. He was that rare teacher, the one who saw your potential and helped you to see it too.

So sorry to hear of his passing, and wishing his family good memories of "Wild" Bill.  
Hiram & Jen Jeffers

**Jen Jeffers** - March 27, 2017 at 08:26 PM

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“ My sincere condolences to Bill's family. What a a guiding light in our community - through his teaching, his activism, and his many volunteer roles. What a loss for us all, but how fortuitous that he was in our lives.

Memories of Bill will continue to teach and lead us, to encourage us to stand up for what we believe in and what we cherish, and prompt us to experience nature on nature's terms.

He lived his life actively and vigorously as urged by the words he often quoted from Welsh poet Dylan Thomas:

"Do not go gentle into that good night,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

O Rare Bill Schomberg

**E. H. Roy** - March 27, 2017 at 08:25 PM

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“ I worked with you only a few years, Bill, but those years are filled with fond memories. I still use pieces of advice you gave me when I was a beginning teacher. I will miss seeing you at the basketball games! You were such an inspiration to so many. My deepest condolences to your family.

**Tom Allin** - March 27, 2017 at 08:24 PM

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“ Saddened to hear of the passing of Mr Schomburg. He was a memorable teacher, an inspiration to all of us. My sympathies to his family and may you rest in the peace of your father.

Your former student  
Cindy Brigham



**Cindy Brigham** - March 27, 2017 at 08:22 PM

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“ Marie Rancloes lit a candle in memory of William T. Schomburg



**Marie Rancloes** - March 27, 2017 at 08:16 PM

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“ I only had him as s homeroom teacher but he never let anyone of us forget he was around and singing Penny Lane to me was a riot. You will be missed RIP Mr Schomburg prayers for the family sorry for your loss

**Penny Worrell** - March 27, 2017 at 08:08 PM

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“ This saddens me so! He was the best teacher I have ever had! He made me love Shakespeare and feel truly blessed to have had him as my English teacher! I will never forget his energy and his love for teaching! Feeling sad but blessed to have had him in my life! We are better for knowing him!

**Anne Jenkins** - March 27, 2017 at 07:55 PM

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“ Our deepest condolences to Barbara and family. We are so sorry to hear of your loss.

Gerry and Kathy Whitaker

**Kathryn Whitaker** - March 27, 2017 at 07:40 PM

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“ Our heart felt condolences to the Schomburg family!

Truly a great man and great teacher!

"Out out brief candle" rest in piece Mr Schomburg.

Wayne and Pam Frizzell

**Wayne Frizzell** - March 27, 2017 at 07:17 PM

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“ I will always treasure the memories of Mr. Schomburg, the book he gave me when I was expecting my first son, and the inscription that holds true with each passing generation. He himself was "The Little Prince." My condolences to Mrs. Schomburg and his family. He will be greatly missed.



**Casey** - March 27, 2017 at 07:16 PM

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“ From Dana and Cynthia Bartlett purchased the Rainbow Reflections Basket for the family of William T. Schomburg.



**From Dana and Cynthia Bartlett** - March 27, 2017 at 07:09 PM

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“ It was an honor to have had Bill as a friend and mentor over the years. Spending long days and nights with him paddling over a thousand miles of rivers and lakes in New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Quebec, I had the unique privilege of sharing some of his deepest emotions. He truly loved his family, his friends, and the many students whose lives he touched in such a positive way. He also loved to share his passion for the beautiful mountains and waterways of the Northeast and was willing to do more than his part in maintaining the integrity of those precious natural resources. For years to come, he will be fondly remembered as one of the most dedicated stewards of the Great North Woods.  
Dana Bartlett

Dana Bartlett, DMD - March 27, 2017 at 06:42 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers go to family and friends. Loved Mr Schomburg as a teacher he was so much fun and learned so much from him. He will be greatly missed.



DeeDee Davis - March 27, 2017 at 06:22 PM

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“ I couldn't wait to take Mr. Schomburg's class in high school. My older brother and sister both had him as a teacher and I heard many stories about his style of teaching and what it was like to be one of his students. He was by far the best teacher I have ever had. When he had a conversation with you, he saw you. He was present, interested, and always encouraged free thinking in his students. Even years after I moved away and would come back to visit with my children, if I ran into Mr. Schomburg he would smile, wink, and ask me about my life. He was such a kind man and an extraordinary teacher. My condolences to his family and all that knew him.

Kristi Samson-Smith - March 27, 2017 at 06:20 PM

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“ Carpe diem Mr. Schomburg. We all know you'll be eating those little Debbie's up there. You're truly inspiration to many, more than you realize. Fly high and proud Mr. Schomburg. You will be missed by many. Deepest sympathies to Barb, Vicky, Aaron and Matt.  
Larry & Michele Bolton

**Michele Bolton** - March 27, 2017 at 06:08 PM

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“ My heart leaps up when I behold a pizza in the sky... Bill was a great inspiration for many students! He will be missed! My condolences.

**Steve Dinco** - March 27, 2017 at 06:00 PM

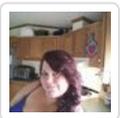
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“ Not only a great teacher but also a true gentleman.  
Our thoughts are with his family.  
Brad & Meg Sheltry & Family

**Brad Sheltry** - March 27, 2017 at 05:35 PM

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“ He was a great teacher, I'll never forget him reciting Shakespeare with great gusto. He will be missed.

**Melissa Phillips** - March 27, 2017 at 05:34 PM

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“ My deepest prayers with you at this time- Bill was the best teacher I had in two states and k thru college bar none!  
Tom Frizzell lemington vt

**Tom Frizzell** - March 27, 2017 at 05:29 PM

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“ He was the finest teacher many of us will ever know; even all these years later we can still feel his influence. I'm sorry to hear of his passing.

**Steven Bissonnette** - March 27, 2017 at 05:18 PM

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“ i remember as a little kid going to visit with Bill and Barb. seeing thr horse they had, stormy, the lambs and sheep, their retriever dogs, learning things about animals and nature without being aware i was being taught. as a child they used to take myself and my sister to lyman falls, now as an adult, its my favorite spot in the entire world. so many fond memories throughout my whole life. i am incredibly sorry for the loss this family is suffering. Bill was a kindred spirit that was an honor knowing.

"may the angels lead thee into paradise"

**Sarah Curless** - March 27, 2017 at 05:13 PM

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“ Mr. Schomburg was an amazing teacher. I had always been an avid reader but in high school this man challenged me to look deeper into what I read and to understand, to feel, to criticize, the words on the page. He prepared us not just for college but for life as well. My condolences to the Schomburg family, and please know that a legacy lives on, in all of us who read Whitman and Emerson and Shakespeare with him.

**Angela D'Antonio** - March 27, 2017 at 05:08 PM

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“ The first thing that comes to my mind about Mr. Schomburg is what a great educator he was. I was lucky that I had a few years to work with him when I was employed as library media specialist at Colebrook Schools. He was one of the first teachers I met who immediately stood out. His demeanor, personality, and love of his students came right to the forefront. I would have many professional talks with him, pick his brain, and really learn what it was like to be a top notch educator. He was lucky in that he had a long and fruitful retirement. A man who truly enjoyed the outdoors. His character will be remembered through his children since he instilled many of his values in them. I pray for his wife and know he is in a better place, looking down on us in his quiet, proud way.

**Francis Doe** - March 27, 2017 at 05:00 PM

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“ Our sincere sympathy to the family of William. One of the most respected teachers my husband and I have ever had. Could make us laugh and learn at the same time. His lessons will never be forgotten. RIP Mr. Schomburg.  
Rita and Dennis Johnson

Rita Johnson - March 27, 2017 at 04:45 PM

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“ Dear Barbara and family,  
We have only good memories of Bill as a respected teacher, involved community member, activist and all around wonderful person. Rick had many great conversations with Bill and found in him a kindred spirit. He will be sorely missed by all of us. Our thoughts are with the entire family.

Much Love,  
Michele and Rick Johnsen

Michele Johnsen - March 27, 2017 at 04:20 PM

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“ One of the greatest men I ever had the privilege to know. He was kind hearted, caring, and loving. The world has lost a truly humble, amazing soul, and will be missed by all who had the opportunity to know and appreciate him for the good man he was. R.I.P Bill. The Curless/Duval family.

Kendra Duval - March 27, 2017 at 04:10 PM

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“ What can you say about Mr. Schomburg and that is what he will always be to me is Mr Schomburg not Bill because that is the way I was brought up. Mr. Schomburg was unique and dance to the beat of his own drummer. We quoted 'Thanatopsis' and Shakespeare in his classes which we are all better for doing. The world lost an amazing individual that had an effect on all who came in contact with him. It was his gift to all of us and we never said it enough but thank you Mr. Schomburg.

Haven & Peggy Haynes - March 27, 2017 at 03:54 PM

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“ We mourn the loss as we celebrate the life. To the man who taught us what "Carpe diem" meant long before the Dead Poet's Society appeared. To the man who taught us that words matter, inflection matters, style matters. To the man known as Schommie: thank you for your wisdom and for affecting so many lives so profoundly even if we didn't realize it at the time.

**Eric Hughes** - March 27, 2017 at 03:52 PM

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“ Eva Guy lit a candle in memory of William T. Schomburg



**Eva Guy** - March 27, 2017 at 03:52 PM

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“ My deepest condolences to the Schomburg family. He was an amazing teacher who had a special way about him. My all time favorite!

**Caroline Cross Poulin** - March 27, 2017 at 03:48 PM

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“ O Captain! My Captain!  
My heart breaks for the loss of this amazing soul! So many lives touched and made so much better for having had the opportunity to know this man! I want to thank Barbra, Aaron, Vicky, and Matt for sharing him with us for all those precious years. I have never known a man with more zest for life, passion for nature, and gift for inspiring. It is my hope that you can find comfort in knowing he will live on for generations to come through the stories we, his indebted students, will share about our experiences in his classroom! We repay this debt by living our lives as he taught us....Carpe Diem! I am so sorry for your loss!  
Rachele

**Rachele Thivierge** - March 27, 2017 at 03:38 PM

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“ Mr. Schomburg was someone whom I looked up to... When I first started at CA Mr.Schomburg was my homeroom teacher.... He was always smiling and joking with the students... He made me feel comfortable and accepted in his room... He was my English teacher that same year... He and I spent countless time talking about Hamlet and Robert Frost and his poems.... I remember him telling us Seniors about the bears getting into his trash.... He asked us who were in Wood shop if we could build a box for his trash.... We all smiled and said yes... As he was a BIG influence in our lives and we wanted to help him out.... I miss him already... Prayers and thoughts with his family... Carpe' Diem.... Life is a gift.... Do not take it for granted.....

Leroy Cass - March 27, 2017 at 03:29 PM

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“ A special thank you to a special and thoughtful man. Thank you Bill for all your help, and caring enough to help us as soon as I called you,and for continuing to get things done. God Bless all the family and cherish your memories <3.

Debbie & Josey Bedard - March 27, 2017 at 03:23 PM

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“ Debbie & Josey Bedard lit a candle in memory of William T. Schomburg



Debbie & Josey Bedard - March 27, 2017 at 03:17 PM

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“ My sincere condolences to your family. I heard today of Mr Schomburg's passing. He was one of my favorite teachers in high school. He was Such a great teacher and one of the greatest influences on my world view and philosophy.

David Woodbury - March 27, 2017 at 03:10 PM

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“ Barbara and family, We are so sorry for your loss. Sam and Joan Bird

**Sam and Joan Bird** - March 27, 2017 at 03:05 PM

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“ My sincere condolences to your family. I heard today of Mr Schomburg's passing. He was one of my favorite teachers in high school. He was truly gifted as a teacher and had something special that I can't even begin to explain. Thank you for sharing him with the community and the school. I am sure his life touched many lives, one of them mine. Teaching was not just a job for him. He was truly interested and had the gift for teaching . I'm sure he will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.  
Sincerely, Norine (Parkhurst) Sabine

**Norine Sabine** - March 27, 2017 at 03:03 PM

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“ My sincere condolences to the family. I will miss our morning chats however brief they may have been. A true gentleman and outdoorsman.

Rest on high Bill

Jil Donovan

**Jil Donovan** - March 27, 2017 at 02:51 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the Schomburg family at this very sad time. Bill was a teacher my son never forgot, and when I'd see Bill in the grocery store on Wed. mornings we'd always say Hi, and he often - 30 yrs. after my son graduated - ask "and how's Mike?"

May he rest in peace, and never be forgotten.

Ginger Jannenga

**Ginger Jannenga** - March 27, 2017 at 02:43 PM

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“ Dear Mrs. Schomburg and Family,

Please accept my deepest condolences at the passing of your husband and dad.

His reputation precedes him, thanks to the many students whose lives he touched as a beloved teacher!!! I did not know of all the wonderful things that Bill accomplished and I can say that he lived a truly worthwhile life.

Sincerely,

Fatima Polo Laperle

**Fatima Polo Laperle** - March 27, 2017 at 02:26 PM



“ Goodbye Mr. Schonberg,

You will definitely be missed. I sincerely believe there was not a student you could not reach and inspire. I cannot say that of any other single teacher in my life. You had a very special gift and shared it freely.

**Emilie Langford** - March 28, 2017 at 05:26 AM

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“ Ironic to me that this great man, who seemed to embody the wisdom of the world .. chose our small community, to enrich our minds with dreams of the world, and the universe. Bill made me know my importance in a time when I thought I did not matter to anyone. to this day this poem is a part of me because of him.  
'No Man is an Island'

No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.  
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

#### Olde English Version

No man is an lland, intire of itselfe; every man is a peece of the Continent, a part of the maine; if a Clod bee washed away by the Sea, Europe is the lesse, as well as if a Promontorie were, as well as if a Manor of thy friends or of thine owne were; any mans death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankinde;  
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee.

#### MEDITATION XVII

Devotions upon Emergent Occasions  
John Donne

Rosa Olsen - March 27, 2017 at 02:15 PM

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“ Stacey Campbell lit a candle in memory of William T. Schomburg



Stacey Campbell - March 27, 2017 at 02:06 PM

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“ Jan And Phil lit a candle in memory of William T. Schomburg



**Jan and Phil** - March 27, 2017 at 02:02 PM



“ Words can not even begin to express what a wonderful influence you were in so many young lives, including mine. You were truly an inspiration to all of us. Rest in Peace, my friend and God Bless your family.

**Jan and Phil** - March 27, 2017 at 02:04 PM

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“ Dear Barb and family. IWe. are so very sorry for your loss. Bill was a truly remarkable man, and we treasured his friendship. We will always remember his kind and generous spirit. Much love to all of. You.

**Sue fuller** - March 27, 2017 at 01:52 PM

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“ A very sad farewell to one of my favorite teachers. He made a huge impact on all of his students, and was well liked, and admired. Bob and I both really enjoyed his classes. Our sincere condolences to all of the family.

Bob and Lisa Vashaw



**Lisa Vashaw** - March 27, 2017 at 01:52 PM



“ Dear Barbara, Aaron, Vicky & Matt; so sad to hear of your loss. Bill was one person who had the respect of everyone he met. My children had him as their English Teacher and just loved him, especially Donna, who would always send him her Christmas list every year and he would answer her. He always asked about Donna & Allen and was interested in what was happening with them. Bill you will be sadly missed and thought of for your wonderful teaching, caring for your students and your poems. We know you must be in heaven quoting your favorite authors to everyone who will listen. RIP Bill.

Always

Ron & Linda Beloin

**Ron & Linda Beloin** - March 28, 2017 at 12:34 PM



“ Our deepest condolences to the Schomburg family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May the Lord give you grace and comfort in the days ahead. He will be missed.

**Bob and Pauline Charest** - March 29, 2017 at 05:59 AM