



William E. Telasky

December 6, 1936 - July 17, 2022

Rensselaer-William E. Telasky, 85, passed away on Sunday, July 17, 2022 at St. Peter's Hospital. Born in Albany, he was the son of Francis and Dorothy Telasky.

Bill was a graduate of Philip Schuyler High School and George Washington University. He was a teacher and basketball coach at CBA followed by 33 years of teaching at Columbia High School up until this past June.

He is survived by his beloved son Danny and his loving companion and best friend for over 43 years Elizabeth. Along with many friends both young and old and near and far.

He loved his summer trips to Maine and adored his kitties Penguin and Rosie.

Abiding by Bill's wishes there will be no viewing hours or service.

If one wishes they may make a contribution to the Marginal Way Preservation Fund and or to please extend an act of kindness to a neighbor, friend or stranger in memory of Bill.

To leave a message for the family please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *William E. Telasky*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *The Telasky Family,
My deepest condolences during this difficult time.
Coach Telasky was always educating whether it was in the
classroom, on the court, or just around town. He was my teacher at
Christian Brothers Academy, my supervisor one summer when I
worked as a city lifeguard, and always a friendly face when I saw
him out in Albany.
May his memory be a blessing.
Best,
Kenny Bruce, CBA Class of 1979*

Kenny Bruce - November 14, 2022 at 02:19 PM



“ *To Liz and family: So sorry to hear of your loss the other evening
when I saw you. May the beautiful memories you all shared stay in
your hearts forever.
God Bless. Mary Lou*

Mary Lou Bartolotta-Connolly - July 27, 2022 at 03:54 PM

FR

“ Like the singer Tony Bennett, Bill's that rare person who's humble yet seems larger than life. Bill was so integral to Columbia High School, not just as a consummate substitute for teachers like me, but also as a friend to all. I remember how when he popped into my classroom last month to say hello that all of my students lit up with smiles that matched his own. Bill always had a smile on his face, didn't he? I'll miss his self-effacing humor, zest for story-telling and critiquing of today's style of basketball, and benevolence to anybody in need. May his family and countless friends cherish a myriad of wonderful memories of this gentleman, and follow his example for how to live with a sense of purpose and fun. Thanks, Bill; may you rest in peace.

Fred Rudofsky - July 25, 2022 at 09:38 PM

MP

“ Coach T, at the height of his powers was a Giant in the basketball arena. For many people, including myself , he is in the Pantheon of influencers in one's life. I cherish all of the basketball memories; the highs and the lows that we shared together. To those of us who "chased the game" basketball was important and to have Bill as your coach was a treasure. He passed on his high basketball intellect and philosophy and his ultra-competitiveness to his players. He was a great motivator and we celebrated together the joy that came with winning but also the misery that came with losing.

T had a unique skill set to convey what he wanted to teach in a very efficient and effective way. He was a master at changing cadences. He could talk to you in such a way to instill self confidence. He could be verbally combative if you and the team were not playing up to your capabilities. You wanted to please him and play the correct way; unselfish, error free with great intensity, efficiency and confidence.

In the next sphere of his life as a multi decade substitute, I was pleased that so many non-players were equally impacted through their interactions with Bill.

And speaking of courts, young people do not ever underestimate what a great, tough and relentless player he made himself into. He had a funny line describing his player profile;" hostile, mobile and agile" He was very proud of these player achievements, although he never was boastful about it.

Liz and Danny, on behalf of the Platt family we extend our deepest sympathies. May the holy spirit give you strength during this difficult time of Bill's passing. Rest in peace, Coach and thank you.

Mark Platt

Mark E. Platt - July 25, 2022 at 05:12 PM

TB

“ To Dan, Liz, and all of Bill’s Family:
How blessed I was to really get to know Bill during his many years at Columbia High. He was everyone’s number 1 choice as a substitute teacher. He was meticulous in following plans and left everything in perfect order so it was so easy to return from an absence. The kids loved and respected him. More importantly, I had many, many discussions with him. I learned much and came to truly admire him.
Be assured of my sympathy and prayers.
RIP Bill!
Tom Bacher

Tom Bacher - July 25, 2022 at 02:19 PM

JT

“ Now and then, I would recognize Bill dining out and enjoying retirement. He was forever affable, patient and tolerant if I stopped by.
I did not inquire of teaching or coaching assignments, rather reminding him how often I watched him at Hackett Junior High, the “home court” of Philip Schuyler High School. The memories did seem to decidedly please him.
Wish I could recall the entire roster, but he, Arnie Busold and Teddy Mecedies (sic) formed the nucleus of just another Larry O’Neill coached dominant team. They would press from the first jump ball, a plan Mr O’Neill often used to disarm. Bill executed and learned so well.
Bill and that team always provided exciting and winning basketball. I thanked him for the entertainment and experience. From his earliest days, Bill was a true credit to our community.
Rest In Peace, Bill Telasky

Joe Tierney - July 25, 2022 at 11:01 AM

KC

“ Thinking of Coach Telasky as I read all of these well deserved tributes to him. Bill was a loving member of our family as he was married to my sister, Barbara, for several years during which time they became parents to Danny. We were proud of all of his accomplishments and were happy to have him as a family member. As Barbara Bogle Telasky and Danny survive him I know they and our family will cherish the fond memories he leaves. He always had our respect. Rest In Peace Bill

Kathleen Bogle Clements - July 25, 2022 at 09:04 AM

DM

“ Continuation..My dad (and always had the most respect for Coach Telasky.) He (coach) gave everyone his life lessons to his students.

Daniel McCol - July 24, 2022 at 11:59 PM

DM

“ I will always remember Coach Telasky, he reminded everyone to be respectful of each other. I remember when he asked me to talk to my classmate who was having trouble with a class and was a member of the basketball team. He asked me to encourage him to ask for assistance from the guidance counselor, he knew that he would not accept the suggestion from a faculty member. I do not know if anyone knows...is that he was drafted into the NBA (1959), in the 5th round (3rd pick) to play for the Philadelphia Warriors. I think I remember him being asked to be an assistant coach for the original Albany Patroons.

Another memory that will always stick in my mind...When we (CBA basketball team 1983) won the Sectional title at the Glens Falls Civic Center and they were announcing the members of the team..The announcer said my name (first) and for one moment I hesitated..Todd Holloway (this was the first game that he actually dunked the basketball on a fast break, he was one of the shortest players on the team.) gave me a shoulder push, and I looked over my shoulder and Coach Telasky nodded. Imagine a 17 year old student, who always had a problem with being the center of attention and having to walk to center court (and standing alone at center court with the crowd over 5,000) as the announcer continued with the rest of the team.

*Just a fun note all of the team was listed 6'+ (even though some of the team were not)

Another side note...When I returned to New York (after 12 years in Florida), I began to work at the DOH ITS help desk. (2 coworkers went to CBA and remembered Coach)

My father was a familiar face at games...And he was very vocal (knowing some of the refs) knowing that his comments would not penalize the team.

Daniel McCol - July 24, 2022 at 11:02 PM

TC

“What a sad day it was to hear of your passing Bill. You were a great neighbor and friend for 37 yrs. A void is left in our neighborhood. You will surely be missed. Sleep with the Angels. Condolences to Danny & Liz.

The Coyle's - July 24, 2022 at 02:44 PM

BH

“He was the Best substitute teacher I've ever had he was always fun to hang out with and he was so nice and my thoughts and prayers are with the family

brandin hughes - July 23, 2022 at 08:56 PM

TF

“Mr. Telasky” was my science teacher at CBA and what a great teacher he was. Always engaging and caring. My condolences to all who loved him. —Tom Frieberg, CBA Class of '79

Tom Frieberg - July 22, 2022 at 02:12 PM

JD

“Liz and Danny, Please accept my condolences on the passing of your partner and father. As you can see by all the remembrances and stories listed here and on social media, "T" impacted the lives of so many people-former players, students, work colleagues, families, and a slew of friends-all in such a positive and unique way. He was one of a kind and I was honored to be one of his former student/players who had the opportunity to learn from him. May you find strength from all these tributes in this most difficult time. Rest in Peace, Coach T!

John Dieckelman - July 22, 2022 at 12:22 PM

KB

“ Mr T was one of my substitute teachers at Columbia High School. I remember the first time he was my substitute and as he took attendance he called my name and said “Kait the Great”. From that moment he always remembered my name and always lit up the hall with his smile. Thank you Mr. T for making my days in high school better and for being such a great person. I will miss your basketball stories and you’re famous saying “one two three look at Mr T”. Rest in Peace 🙏

Kaitlin Brown - July 22, 2022 at 11:25 AM

EA

“ Bill was a great friend, neighbor and teacher. He not only knew the kids by name, he knew what was going on in their lives. He would ask "how did you do on that test. Have you decided on a college or congrats on making the team". Bill had a calling to be a great teacher and he certainly lived up to that calling. The world needs more Bill Telaskys now more than ever. Columbia High and the neighborhood will not be the same without Bill. RIP, Bill.

Ednamae and Peter Arnos - July 22, 2022 at 09:26 AM

CF

“ Mr. Bill you will be forever missed on Hudson Ave West. Most nights when I took my dog out for a walk we would stop and chat or wave to each other on his way out. My dog always had to stop and get a little loving from Mr. Bill. Even she knew he was a kind and gentle soul. My condolences to his family. Hold tight to all of the good memories. Carol Ann and Eby

Carol Filmer - July 21, 2022 at 07:03 PM

TM

Mr T was my physical science teacher at CBA. He helped me ace Physical Science in College as his lessons were imbedded in my brain from 9th grade. He was also my basketball coach while at CBA. I learned so many life lessons from his leadership. No letter I in the word team. Later when I coached my own son in AAU I tried my best to emulate his lessons. He was a great man who will live on in the hearts of many. Rest In Peace coach T. Tim Moakler, 74 CBA

Tim Moakler - July 22, 2022 at 09:32 AM

MB

“ *Bill Telasky knew every kid's name and had their respect at Columbia High School. He will be missed.*

Mary Ellen Bolton - July 21, 2022 at 06:55 PM

BJ

“ *I knew Bill Telasky from CBA in 1969 -1971. He was a smart, witty, caring man. A great teacher. I remember him fondly, and am glad he lived a full, rich life.*

Bill Jasper - July 21, 2022 at 06:51 PM


Melissa Dupont

“ *Mr. T was a storyteller and gentleman. He remembered every student's name and we will forever remember him! Rest In Peace Mr. T.*

Melissa Dupont - July 21, 2022 at 05:44 PM

PL

“ *please extend an act of kindness to a neighbor, friend or stranger in memory of Bill.....the man he was.....it was an honor and a privilege.....thanks coach.....link*

peter p link - July 21, 2022 at 04:52 PM



“ Rest in peace dear friend, well deserved ! I will miss our daily "meetings" at CHS and checking in with you on the progress of the puzzle.

Ken Colloton - July 21, 2022 at 04:06 PM

BR

“ I will never forget Mr. T and how he never forgot anyone's name. Even years after I graduated high school when I saw him out, I got the same, hi Brittany, how are ya? Awesome teacher who touched some many lives. My condolences go out to his family and loved ones.

Brittany - July 21, 2022 at 03:01 PM

DR

“ Dan and Mrs. Telasky, our sincere sympathy to you and all your family in the death of William. We only met you Once but please know our prayers are With you in this time of sorrow.

Mickey & Darlene Riley



Darlene & Mickey Riley - July 21, 2022 at 01:49 PM

PE

“ *What a loss, I've known Bill since I was a teenager. He was a great coach and player. I'm saddened by his passing. Player coach of the Albany Orangemen back in the day. The times we went to Dolf Shayes camp in Lake George to play against some NBA players. The way he ran the Hoffman Park Basketball games through the summer. Nothing comes to mind but good memories when I hear his name. He will be missed by many leaving shoes that will never be filled the way he filled them. My condolences to all his loved ones. Paul Engel Sr*

Paul Engel - July 21, 2022 at 01:05 PM

DD

Liz and Danny

Words can not adequately convey my appreciation for the many lessons Coach passed along to me as both a student, an athlete, and a colleague. Coach taught all of us that five men on the floor who worked together could defeat teams with greater talent. He made us believe that we were never out of a game and that no one was to be feared. We believed that Coach would always put us in a position to win. He was always willing to share his basketball wisdom with me and I have always tried my best to pass them along to the young men who have played for me. The tenet of TEAM first was imbedded in me by him and I have tried to pass that along to my players.

Please accept the Doemel family's deepest condolences and know that so many young men have benefited greatly from their association with Coachin the classroom and on the court. I will forever be grateful for his guidance.

Dave Doemel - July 21, 2022 at 04:18 PM

SS

“ A gentleman. A word not often practiced in today’s world. The calls of “Hey Mr. T!” by the thousands of students in the halls at CHS will always be remembered.

I so enjoyed my daily visits with Bill in the office. He was a storyteller like no other, loved a good laugh, a kind soul, a true gentleman.

The angels are singing!

Deepest condolences from the Stagnitta family.

Sharron Stagnitta - July 21, 2022 at 12:43 PM

WB

“ Dan & Liz,

On behalf of the Boardman Family, we extend our condolences and thoughts and prayers to you with the passing of such a great person.

Attending CBA was truly an honor and privilege, but it was influences such as your Dad/companion that made it so. Whether it was in the classroom or on the court, he inspired you to become better and wanted you to maximize your abilities. You hoped for that big smile/laugh from him, but appreciated that “raised eyebrow/palms out” look knowing he was pushing you. Of course when he called a time out and you were not “following the game plan to a T” there was another look/discussion those that played for him remember...but still appreciated...afterwards of course! It is no surprise that his amazing journey as an educator touched so many lives in the Capital District, and I am truly grateful to have been taught and coached by him.

Rest in peace and thank you Coach.

Ace Boardman

William Boardman - July 21, 2022 at 11:44 AM

NJ

“ Best substitute teacher of all time! "1, 2, 3, look at Mr. T" will forever live rent free in my mind. He never forgot a name and he always made you feel special. My thoughts are with everyone, he was a great man.

Nicole D. Johnson - July 21, 2022 at 11:34 AM

HG

“ Dear Yohoo and family
So sorry for the loss of Bill he was one of a kind for sure
God Bless may he RIP

Helen Graves - July 21, 2022 at 10:49 AM

TT

“ I want to send my condolences to the family and love ones of Coach Telasky. Coach T was a man of integrity, wisdom, intelligence, humility and honesty. My memories of coach T was a fierce competitor when it came to basketball coaching. As a player of Albany High School, I would have sleepless nights knowing we were going up against CBA. Once coach T figured out his opponent, that was pretty much a loss for that team. I admired and tried to emulate his example as a coach and human being. Coach job well done, may you rest in power on the basketball courts in eternity

your admirer

*Troy Turner
AHS '81*

Troy Turner - July 21, 2022 at 10:07 AM

VD

“ I have been blessed to know Bill in my varied walks of life. As a teen, Bills dad would buy his sandwich at my dad’s shop, in his way to CBA to watch Bill’s games. He was so proud! He would go on and on about Bill’s accomplishments. Later in my work in parks and rec, Bill was the cheerful, enthusiastic, motivating senior games coordinator. Then when I transitioned to teaching, Bill was an amazing support and advice giver! He was truly inspirational and he will be truly missed. I am forever grateful to have had him in my life.

Vicky DeJulio - July 21, 2022 at 09:23 AM

NI

“ Mr. T was the most memorable teacher Columbia has had from my experience ! He always remembered our names which blew my mind after years of seeing him at swiftys regularly over the years. My heart goes out to Elizabeth and his family ❤️

nina - July 21, 2022 at 09:10 AM



“ My heart goes out to Bill's family and especially to Liz. I am lost at words right now but the one thing I will miss the most is talking to Bill almost everyday when I get home from work and he would come to my car to talk about what he did that day and I will dearly miss seeing him sitting on the front porch with Liz.

Tina Marie - July 21, 2022 at 08:25 AM

JE

“ To Liz and Bill's family,

My heart is broken for you! Bill has been a neighbor of my family for over 18 years with Liz. Both him and Liz have watched my daughter and my niece grow up and are known as "Alligator" to them. It isn't going to feel right coming home or even going outside and not seeing him.

I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers. Bill was such a wonderful man.

Jenn

Jennifer - July 21, 2022 at 08:22 AM

SR

“ So sorry to hear of Bill's passing. He enjoyed working at CHS and very proud of the number 6.RIP

Sheila Reilly - July 21, 2022 at 08:15 AM

KS

“ Bill, you always had that. special way of making others feel special in your presence. A genuine laugh, smile, and conversation. An overall wonderful individual. Your presence on this earth will be missed.

Always, Karen

Karen Sommers - July 21, 2022 at 08:01 AM

FS

“ Great coach and great man. Appreciate his knowledge of the game and his sharp wit. Coach T touched many lives and I am grateful to have had him as a coach and teacher.

Fank Stewart - July 20, 2022 at 11:08 PM

SR

“ *Mr. Telasky my heart breaks to hear of thy passing...You were such a ray of light on my LIFE...It was my honor to be a player, student and friend....*

God Speed to the healing of all your Family and Friends...

The world has lost a legend!

The Ries Family

Stephen M. Ries - July 20, 2022 at 08:12 PM

JB

“ *Dear Family Members, It's always sad hearing that a good friend has passed on to the next world. Bill was a personal friend of my husband's, Arnold Busold. We went to high school together and Bill & my husband were pretty competitive on the basketball court during those years. He was always a very nice person and someone we spoke of so often. Arnold passed away 5 years ago so I know how difficult this is for you. My dearest sympathy to his son, Danny & Liz .Keep those memories of the good times forever in your heart. .They're much too precious to forget. My thoughts & prayers are with you. It's so difficult but know that you have many people who are praying to help you through this difficult time..*
Sincere condolences, June Busold

June Busold - July 20, 2022 at 06:43 PM

LT

“ *Mr. Telasky was my ninth grade science teacher at CBA. I will always remember talking about the varsity basketball game, in class, on Mondays and Wednesdays. A terrific sense of humor, a truly wonderful man. I only ran into him once after graduation, at The Fountain. And though it was 15 years later, he remembered me as I walked up to him. He will never be forgotten. So many young men learned life-long skills from Mr. T. Please accept my sincere condolences.*

*Len Tollerton
CBA Class of 1981*

Len Tollerton - July 20, 2022 at 04:07 PM

PB

“ *Danny and Liz,
Please know how many people share your feelings of loss at Bill's passing. He was a wonderful person with great spirit and compassion that has been felt by so many. Coach T influenced and shaped me as a person, teacher and coach without my awareness ... but with my adoration and respect. My heart swells for his family, loved ones and the Columbia & CBA communities that he touched with his goodness. Live, Bill, in our hearts, forever!*

PAUL BEARUP - July 20, 2022 at 03:58 PM

FD

Danny and Liz, my deepest condolences on Coach's passing. His influence on my life as a young man growing up without a father was immeasurable. He taught me how to stand tall, and always be accountable. I'm so thankful for the time he spent in my life. RIP Coach!

Frank Dyer - July 20, 2022 at 07:09 PM

GS

My condolences to the family----met Bill summer of 1957 at Lincoln Park basketball courts and played hoop with him and against him for many years----great competitor and one of the best ever to come out of the Capital District-----also enjoyed his company socially where we would talk about the good old days----a great guy---will miss ya Bill----
Greg Spencer

Greg Spencer - July 21, 2022 at 07:49 AM

HK

I worked with Bill for many years at Columbia High School. There are very few people who received the universal respect from staff and students alike. He always had a smile and spark of happiness about him. His memory for students and their names was uncanny, absolutely amazing. I will always remember him fondly.

Henry Kolakoski

Henry Kolakoski - July 21, 2022 at 08:27 AM

RJ

To the family and the friends of William "Bill" Telasky I offer my condolences on his passing. At Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) in Albany he was an outstanding role model, teacher and coach who made a positive and lasting impression on his students and his athletes. May you be comforted during this time of sorrow by many happy memories of him in life. - Robert G. Conway, Jr., CBA Class of 1969

Robert G. Conway, Jr. - July 21, 2022 at 10:32 AM

GH

Fond memories of having Bill as a teammate on the Albany Athletic Club in the early 60's, great player, teammate and friend. First met Bill while playing in a men's league fall 1960. We had a jump ball situation ,which Bill was not happy about, the ref tossed the ball and Bill promptly hit me in the face with his forearm as we jumped. We eventually played together as guards and enjoyed many many successes. He was famous for never taking the ball out of bounds after a basket so he could receive the in bound pass!! Just a great competitor, may he RIP.

Gerald Hisert

Gerald Hisert - July 21, 2022 at 11:13 AM

SG

*Danny and Liz,
So sorry for your loss and my deepest condolences. I'm fortunate to be forever linked to coach T as he guided the team through our magical championship season. I cherish the fond memories of stopping on the way to Glen Falls for refreshments, and the crazy locker room that followed. RIP coach,
Till we meet again,
Sergio Garufi*

sergio garufi - July 21, 2022 at 09:27 PM

PR

To the Telasky family, please accept my condolences on the passing of Mr. Telasky. Mr. T was a great teacher and I remember to this day my first day as a CBA Freshman when I first introduced myself to him as he was my Earth Science teacher and he asked me "Reuss, I know that name, are you related to Bill, Peter or Mark Reuss?" I replied, "yes I sure am and I know they all graduated from here" with a big grin on my face. So Mr. T responds, "Barely. You might want to consider going back to Shaker!" Of course, he did so with that laugh of his and I loved having him as my science teacher. He taught me a lot about the weather which to this day, I still follow daily. Rest in peace Mr. T, you were a great man. Thanks for encouraging me to stick with hockey and as a fan at CBA basketball games! Touche sir! - Pat

Patrick Reuss - July 22, 2022 at 11:58 AM

DB

*Dan and Liz
When my daughter informed me of Bill passing it took me by complete surprise.
I immediately thought about all the young men he touched in his life and how lucky they were to learn so many life lessons from him.
I have great respect for him and enjoyed our friendship.
He will be missed but not forgotten.*

Coach Don Bassett

Don Bassett - July 27, 2022 at 12:34 PM