



William Lyle Sergeant

NOV 27, 1938 - AUG 11, 2023



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William Lyle Sergeant

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William Lyle Sergeant, 84, of Springdale, went home to be with his Lord, August 11, 2023.

He was born in Marshalltown, Iowa, November 27, 1938 to Lyle Allen Sergeant and Grace Lang Sergeant and moved to Southwest City, MO in fourth grade where he graduated from high school. He attended Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, MO, Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, OK where he earned a Bachelor's degree, Wichita State University where he earned a Master's degree and Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX.

He and LaVeta Pierce met at college and were married in Belle Plaine, KS in 1960 and enjoyed 63 years together. They were appointed in 1970 as missionaries with the Foreign Mission Board, SBC. They served in Taejon, South Korea four years where he was athletic director, coach and teacher at Korea Christian Academy, a school for missionary children, and served Korean churches. Subsequently they served in Taichung, Taiwan at Morrison Academy where he was also athletic director, coach and teacher. He managed their swimming pool and was an Instructor Trainer of the American Red Cross, Far East Region. He deeply impacted hundreds of students during his 30 years on the mission field.

He was a founding member of Yoido International Church in Seoul where he served as a Sunday School teacher, deacon and bus driver. He later helped start Li Syang Gwo Baptist Church in Taichung, Taiwan and taught English Bible study in a Taiwanese Baptist Church.

His hobbies were travel, SCUBA diving with his two sons and running races including 7 marathons and 7 triathlons.

They retired to Springdale, AR in 2001 and he was a member of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville.



Obituary

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He was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings: Dorothy Kirk and her husband Stanley, Jeannie Peterson and her husband Alfred, and his brother Gerald Sergeant and his wife Helen.

Survivors include his wife, LaVeta, two sons Curtis and his wife Debra of Dadeville, AL and Terry and his wife Becky of Abilene, TX, four grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Visitation will be at 10:00, Saturday, August 19, 2023 at First Baptist Church, Fayetteville. The Memorial service will follow at 11:00 a.m. To sign the online guestbook, please visit www.bernafuneralhomes.com. Arrangements are by Nelson-Berna Funeral Home in Fayetteville.

In lieu of flowers, if anyone desires to give a memorial gift, it can be given to MetaCamp, a ministry of Curtis Sergeant. Checks can be made out to "MetaCamp" and mailed to 40 Greenview Lane, Dadeville, AL 36853. Direct deposits can be made to Valley National Bank account (UPIC #) 90348687, routing number 021201383.

The service will be available for live stream on First Baptist Church Fayetteville, AR Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/1stFayettevilleAR/>.



Events

William Lyle Sergeant

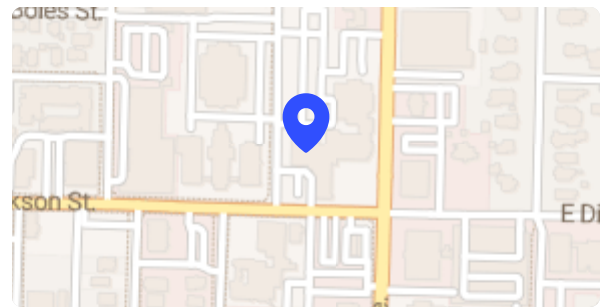
NOV 27, 1938 - AUG 11, 2023

Memorial Visitation

 **Saturday**, August 19, 2023

 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT


 **First Baptist Church**
20 E. Dickson Street, Fayetteville AR 72701

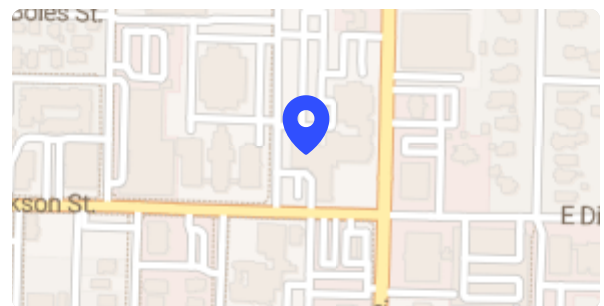


Memorial Service

 **Saturday**, August 19, 2023

 11:00 AM CT

 **First Baptist Church**
20 E. Dickson Street, Fayetteville AR 72701





Tribute Wall

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Eric Lin posted:

I had the privilege of knowing Mr. Sergeant when I had started attending Morrison Academy in 6th grade. My first impressions of Mr. Sergeant as my physical education teacher were that he was a very straight forward, direct but not intimidating, disciplinarian. Even though he projected a hardened facade, I always remembered that he never passed up a chance to crack jokes or to roast people when we least expected it. His laugh was very unique, the kind you knew belonged to only one person. One memory I have of Mr. Sergeant is he helped me with my gym locker combination lock, as it was my first time using one. He took time out of his schedule to sit down and practice with me using multiple combination locks, then when I got the hang of it and memorized the progression, he let me choose which one was the easiest. At the end of the school year, when I went to return the combination lock, he told me, "Keep it. For the amount of time we spent practicing on that thing, you earned it!" You will be missed, Mr. Sergeant! Eric W. Lin, Class of 2002

August 31 at 9:30 AM



Gordon Alexander posted:

In August of 2022, I was fortunate enough to join the class of '82's 40 yr class reunion, in Nashville TN. To my thrill, Coach & Laveta were there. I went over and hugged him, and had to tell him that I have referenced him (Coach) @ least once, every years since leaving Morrison in 81.I've always shared Coach's strategy to winning a track race, "You start out, as fast as you can.....then you slowly speed up." Thank Coachps. I will continue sharing with everyone.Gordon AlexanderClass of 1981

August 30 at 4:47 PM



Lee Gammage posted:

Bill Sergeant was one of my 'missionary uncles' in Korea with whom I never used that affectionate title, but it was not because there was any lack of affection or admiration. Just seemed, somehow, inappropriate for our hard driving coach. It was 'Mr.' or 'Coach' for him. He impressed us with the truth that Christ's call to loving meekness was not incompatible with a warrior's aggressive efforts on the basketball court. Doing all things as to the Lord and not unto men was the mandate there too. Because of that and his good strategies, the Dragons did a lot better against schools much bigger than Korea Christian Academy than we might have expected to. Thanks, Uncle Bill, for your example running the Race, and for encouraging so many of us to follow Christ's lead. Lee Gammage, Class of '78.

August 27 at 8:49 AM



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GM

Greg Meeks posted:

Bill was the most disciplined man I have ever known. He was dedicated to fitness and he made it a priority. He was faithful in his work at Morrison Academy and he was respected by his students and colleagues. I remember his grin and chuckle after he found something amusing. He was Christian role model to his sons and his students. He will be missed.

August 25 at 5:35 AM

GS

Garey Scott posted:

LaVeta, our hearts broke when we read this notice from the State IMB group. I know we have been praying for you guys for some time, but we must have just dropped our contacts. We pray you will adjust to being without your loving husband and partner, Bill. We love you and we cherish your friendship.

August 19 at 9:18 AM

BB

Betsy Brittain posted:

I can't think of Uncle Bill without picturing him in the Morrison gym as Coach Sergeant. He loved what he did and poured himself into his students and team members. And he especially loved his family and was so proud of his boys, and rightly so. We love you all and will continue to pray for each of you in the days ahead. Tim & Betsy

August 19 at 6:02 AM

RH

Robin Delano Hamilton sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Sergeant family.



August 17 at 3:43 PM

RH

Robin Delano Hamilton planted a Memorial Tree in honor of William.



August 17 at 3:43 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Sergeant family.



August 16 at 6:07 AM



Steven Chen posted:

Coach Sergeant seemed larger than life when I moved to Taiwan in 7th grade. At my first PE class I couldn't help but notice he was the epitome of a PE teacher with his extremely fit physique and bulging muscles as he led our class in calisthenics and stretches. Come to think of it, this was probably the third or fourth time that day for him to do so. I can still hear his voice calling out cadence for our warm-ups. ("One! ... Two! ... Three! ... Four! ... One! Two! Three! Four! OneTwoThreeFour! OneTwoThreeFour!") A few years later I had the pleasure of having him as our lead track and field coach as he led from the front in 3 and 5 kilometer runs around the Morrison Campus and through the rice paddies whether it was cold and rainy or hot and humid. He was also my first boss as I worked on the pool maintenance team the summer between my Sophomore and Junior year. Coach knew the workings of the pool inside out. He even brought a few of us to the underground machine shed where he showed us how to unclog the filters and add chlorine and other chemicals. I don't remember if I ever saw Coach Sergeant again after graduating but I consider him, and many of the teachers and staff at Morrison, as true Legends. That generation gave a lifetime of service to us and represented Him in their sacrifice as they served decade after decade. Thank you, Coach, and I can't wait to hear your voice calling out cadence when we see each other again. Steven Chen (Morrison '88)

August 15 at 8:43 AM



Debbie Wolf posted:

Mr. Sergeant gave from a foundation of love in action; he encouraged excellence in us to reach our potential. Heartfelt gratitude for his life, and the many wonderful memories from high school years in Taiwan. I also deeply cherish the weekend connecting with Mr. & Mrs. Sergeant last summer in Nashville at our class's 40th reunion. Love and prayers, Debbie Lee Wolf (Morrison '82)

August 15 at 12:32 AM



Tribute Wall

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John M Townsend, Phd Edd posted:

My first job, out of college, was teaching two years at KCA, in Korea. I was/am not an athlete, but Bill made me an assistant coach the second year. In 1975, he and LaVeta were our "chaperones" on, my now wife, and my first date in Ft. Worth, TX. We pray for God's comfort and peace for the family during this time of grief. John & Sharon Townsend

August 14 at 1:42 PM



Anonymous sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Sergeant family.



August 14 at 11:03 AM



Peter Lee posted:

I'm not sure how many hundreds or perhaps thousands of kilometers we have run with Mr. Sergeant over our high school years. For a while some of us had him in PE class, then Running class as an elective, and Basketball afterschool all in the same day. He taught us how to swim in kindergarten, then as we got older, he trained us to be life guards. He showed us how to run basketball plays, and led us to a Far East Championship. Our Morrison memories would have a deep void with out a drill sergeant like Mr. Sergeant. What an appropriate name. When I read that he came from a town called Marshalltown, it all made sense :). Mr. Sergeant was the most gentle of gentlemen, until.. it came to game time. I recall him pulling me out of a game as I made several turnovers in the first few minutes of the game. I sat on the end of the bench and he slammed the bench next to him and yelled "Peter! Sit over here!". He didn't say a word after that but sent me back in. He believed in us that we can get the job done. My last memory of Mr. Sergeant was at graduation. He had tears running down his face. Not a normal sight for us, but it showed his heart for us all. We are all better athletes, and better human beings after so many formative years with him. Our deepest condolences to Mrs. Sergeant, who always greeted us with a beautiful smile, even though we were returning overdue books in the library. And to Curtis and Terry, who were inspirations to us younger folk, as they broke athletic records with humility. Love to you all from all four corners of the world. Peter Lee (Morrison '89)

August 14 at 10:23 AM



Lewis Codington posted:

Good memories of the Sergeants at KCA 50 years ago. He enjoyed wearing pencil thin ties on Sunday...which the guys all thought were very cool even though the style at that time was the wider the better. Very sorry for your loss. Lewis Codington '74

August 14 at 8:17 AM



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Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Sergeant family.



August 14 at 6:18 AM



Linda Hudson posted:

LaVeta: Jim and I sent our sympathy and love to you and the boys at Jim's death. It seems such a long time ago that we both served in Korea. Jim and I are in a retirement center now. My God's love surround you and give you peace as we wait for His Appearing soon!!! Love, Linda and Jim Hudson

August 13 at 3:55 PM



Terry McGill posted:

I've worked at Morrison for the past 35 years and attended school here for all but one of my years of undergrad education, enjoying my high school years under the tutelage of Coach Sergeant. I now serve here at Morrison in Alumni relations. I share all this data to establish that I have legitimate status to make the claim that few if any Morrison faculty are mentioned and remembered by Morrison Alumni more than Bill Sergeant. Coach was organized, vigilant, firm, and personable. This is an impressive combination. It's memorable when someone can challenge and love at the same time. Bill Sergeabt did that and i and my peers were fortunate to share in that experience and have the privilege of taking away lifelong learning from this example. Praise God for the life and lingering impact of Coach William Sergeant!

August 12 at 4:58 PM



David Schorr posted:

You were and are a true example to all of us, Mr. Sergeant. Thank you for giving to the Lord.

August 12 at 8:42 AM



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John Hansen posted:

One of the first people I met from the Taiwan Baptist Mission. I always admired his discipline and quiet mature faith in Jesus Christ. I true titan of the Faith.

August 12 at 8:35 AM



John Hansen August 12 at 8:34 AM

Should be a true titan of the Faith.



Ruby Gentry posted:

We have so many happy memories of Bill and the family during our time together in Taichung. He was certainly very special for our son, Jay. We will continue to remember all of you in our prayers and send our love along with prayers for God's special blessings to all of you during this time. Jack and Ruby Gentry

August 12 at 5:42 AM



Laquita And Wendell Powers August 12 at 10:03 AM

Laveta, Curtis, Terry and all your families, We have just learned about Bill's going home to be with the Lord. We enjoyed being at Morrison during the same time with Bill and Laveta, sharing many rewarding times as teachers and living on Faculty Row and having our children in school together. Bill was a fond part of all our girls as each one participated in aspects of the sports he directed. We all appreciated their whole family as we shared many experiences over the years we served at the same time at Morrison. Our family is praying for each of you in these coming days as you adjust to the loss of Bill as husband, father, g'father and dear family member. May our Lord continue be very real to each one of your whole family in this time of loss. Our love to each one of you, Laquita and Wendell Powers, Minneapolis, MN.



Sande W. Day posted:

So sorry to hear of Uncle Bill's death. Will always remember social studies class at Morrison! David and I are keeping your family in our thoughts and prayers. Sande Wilson Day

August 12 at 2:59 AM



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Mary Blair Mceachin Robbins posted:

My family was blessed by the way he showed his faith in caring for and loving his students. He will always be in our memories. Praying for his family. Love them, also.

August 12 at 2:06 AM



Anonymous sent a Lord's Prayer 44" Sonnet to the Sergeant family.



August 11 at 7:39 PM



Karolyn Farrell posted:

He will be missed. A great Christian man. Don and Karolyn Farrell

August 11 at 12:47 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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