



Jerry Preslie Hill

April 16, 1939 - April 4, 2023

Jerry Preslie Hill of Dallas, TX, born April 16, 1939, died on April 4, 2023. He was 83 years old and had lived a long and meaningful life that touched many. Jerry was born to Viola Youngblood and William Preslie Hill in Gilmer, TX. He grew up in Gilmer in a loving family where he was the youngest of four children. He distinguished himself in high school with a keen intellect and a talent for acting. He later earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Texas at Austin. Jerry was somewhat unusual in that he had a knack for language, literature, and mathematics. He considered math "simply another language" and once one understood the rules, he would sometimes say, it could be applied similarly.

Jerry would go on to earn a double-masters from the University of Southern California in both mathematics and English in the early 1960s. He did this in part due to federal grants enacted by the Kennedy and Johnson administration that expanded programs for teaching math and science.

Earning this degree gave Jerry an enormous advantage as a teacher as it allowed him the rare flexibility to teach at the high school level in either field, thus doubling his opportunities. Over the years, his expertise in teaching mathematics became highly coveted by multiple school districts.

He also taught Greek mythology and SAT preparatory courses for high school seniors.

Towards the end of his career, which spanned well over 50 years, Jerry taught in lower-income neighborhoods working with economically challenged children

in "second chance" programs. He worked tirelessly to help some of the neediest and most vulnerable in his community graduate and improve their lives. It is no understatement to say that Jerry's efforts enriched countless people, thus enabling and inspiring thousands to reach their full potential. He taught so many people over the years that on occasion he would have his name called out, "Mr. Hill!" while shopping in a store in Dallas. To his surprise, he'd then be greeted by an ex-student that had recognized him and wanted to thank him.

After college, Jerry married Sonia Lynn Holcomb and moved to Los Angeles, CA, in the late 1960s where they started a family and had two boys. In 1977 they moved to Singapore where both taught at the Singapore American School from 1977-1980. In 1980 they returned to the United States separately and after a short stint in California Jerry moved back to Texas so he could be near his two sons, who were then being raised by their mother.

Jerry took an interest in photography in the late 1970s and had some of his work published in professional travel magazines. Over the course of his life, he printed and framed several of his favorite photographs, which spanned locations across nearly every continent. He was a deep believer in the power of travel to expand one's understanding of the world and its peoples. Jerry believed such experiences were a powerful tool that promoted peace and understanding across cultures. Next to his teaching for over half a century, his world travels were one of his proudest and most cherished achievements. That, and his family.

Jerry is survived by his sons Garth and Eric Hill; his grandchildren, Ellis Jackson, Olivia, and Graham Hill; and his sister, Gwen Keel.

Private arrangements are under the direction of McWhorter Funeral Home. Please visit Jerry's online registration book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.

Tribute Wall

GK

“ jerry, we never knew you on a one to one basis, however we do know your son, Eric and his family, well. We know that you saw math in everything and the importance of it in our everyday human lives and mathematics and its language and its lifelong lessons are important to the flow of knowledge. We honor your memory to a life lived on your terms and the legacy you have left , the Eric Hill family , your son , his wife Miranda, and his Childern Olivia and Graham . They will carry your name and heart into the future and will regard your life and you will live on in their memory. They will say your name and you will be heard again and again... walk in peace and in love into your next adventure. Go in harmony and bless you .
Gordon and Sydney Ann Kee

Gordon and Sydney Ann Kee - April 20, 2023 at 09:20 AM


LeAnne
Oliver

“ LeAnne and I are so sorry for your loss. Jerry was my father's (Roy Oliver) first cousin. Prayers for the family, James Marcus Oliver

LeAnne Oliver - April 12, 2023 at 09:04 PM

AG

“ I agree with Robin! I couldn't wait for Uncle Jerry to visit! He always brought us the most beautiful gifts, especially the ones from Singapore! I also loved to listen to his stories. He was so smart and had been everywhere! We all loved him and will miss as him very much! Hugs and prayers to everyone especially Garth, Eric and my Aunt Gwen! Love you all! Angie❤️

Angie Green - April 11, 2023 at 09:39 PM

RS

“ Uncle Jerry was brilliant, interesting, handsome, and gave me the very best gifts as I was growing up: dress with a huge petticoat, a purple dress, books, and a gorgeous tablecloth as a wedding gift. I know it was probably Aunt Sonia (Holcomb) who really was the best gift-giver, but she let me believe it was Jerry. I loved both of them very much. Prayers and love to you, Garth and Eric.

Robin Hill Studdard - April 11, 2023 at 12:51 PM

AG

I'm agree with Robin. I always loved to go see Uncle Jerry. He brought us the most beautiful gifts! Especially the ones from Singapore. I loved to listen to him tell stories. He was so smart and had been everywhere! We will all miss him so much! Hugs and prayers to everyone, especially Garth, Eric and my Aunt Gwen! Love you all!❤️ Angie

Angie Green - April 11, 2023 at 09:17 PM

SC

*I will remember Jerry as a kind and caring person, and most of all his lovely genuine smile.
Our sincere condolences to Garth and Eric.
David and Susan*

Susan Choa - April 20, 2023 at 01:00 AM