

Funerals and Memorials



Billy Theodore Sterzing

Bill Sterzing, age 88, a well known Austin native resident left our earthly world on November 4, 2002, while enjoying his favorite pastime of a good game of dominoes.

Bill was the first-born son of Grover and Jennie Sterzing. Bill married his high school sweetheart, Golda Mae Miller, on February 2, 1935. Their loving union brought three children into this world: Nancy Kay, William Duane, and Sandra Sue. They enjoyed 67 happy years together as a shining example of "a man shall leave his mother and father and marry his wife and the two shall become one". Goldie has truly been broken in half.

Bill was a dedicated Austin Police Officer for 41 years. He joined the police force on March 24, 1936, after receiving one of the top three scores on Chief Thorp's first written exam. His training consisted of meeting out at the old Mueller Airport with a training officer, Sergeant Bill Healing. He showed them a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and told Bill to drive it down the runway and back. Apparently Bill passed the muster because he was immediately sent "down to The Avenue" (Congress Avenue) with all that traffic and congestion. The two years he spent as a motorcycle patrolman were to be remembered as his favorite duty. As one of eleven motorcycle patrolmen, he worked twelve hours a day with two Sunday's off a month for the goodly sum of \$104.00 per month. No overtime was paid! Bill then became a Sergeant in the Detective Bureau. In 1936, the department received its' first car, a 1931 Model A Ford, officially known as the Wreck Investigation Vehicle. After some time, he was promoted to Lieutenant of the Criminal Investigation Division over the Burglary Detail. He was then recruited by Chief Thorp to organize and develop the newly formed Auto Theft Detail. Bill and his nineteen men spent many years in pursuit of all facets of vehicle theft. Bill retired December 31, 1977.

Bill was involved in many civic and career organizations. They included: Founder and life member of the International Auto Theft Investigators Association; Life member of Capitol Area Law Enforcement Officers Association; Life Member and past President of the Austin Police Association; Past President of the Austin Police Department Little League; Current President of the Retired Police Officers' Association; 57-year member of the Masonic Order, Hill City Lodge 456 (many of those years as a 32nd degree Mason); 40-year member of Sangerrunde (A German social club and bowling association); 36-year member of Elks Lodge 201, where Bill spent the last moments of his life.

Bill had a beautiful smile, twinkling eyes, and a winning personality. He loved to have fun. His many close relationships are a testament to his good and caring nature. He outlived many of his good friends and missed them terribly. His family knows that one day they will be reunited again. What a blessing that will be.

In recent years, as Goldie became more infirm he took care of her with love and patience. After 66 years he began cooking and managing their finances. He did a valiant job, especially for an 88 year old who has never experienced this kind of work in his life. The love Bill and Goldie have for each other is truly inspiring. Goldie buttoning his clothes, Bill helping her dress, waiting on each other as needed in this difficult time. There is a true love affair that has lasted 67 years.

Bill was preceded in death by his father, Grover Sterzing; mother, Jennie Sterzing; and his younger brother, Charles Thomas Sterzing along with many other relatives and friends.

Bill is survived by his devoted wife, Goldie Sterzing; daughter, Nancy and husband, Larry Walker; son, Billy Duane and wife, Shirley Sterzing; daughter, Sandy and husband, Darrell Thompson; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family will receive guests between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 7th at Harrell Funeral Home.

A Police Honor Guard Funeral will be held Friday, November 8th at 10:00 a.m. also at the funeral home. Interment will follow in Forest Oaks Memorial Park in Oak Hill with a Masonic graveside service under the auspices of Hill City Lodge 456.

Those desiring may make memorial contributions in Bill's memory to: Elks Lodge 201, 700 Dawson Road, Austin, TX 78704; the Austin Police Benevolent Fund, P.O. Box 689001, Austin, TX 78768-9001, the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 15186, Austin, TX 78761.

Arrangements by Harrell Funeral Home, 4435 Frontier Trail, Austin, TX 78745 (512) 443-1366