



# William Ross Wright

October 25, 1939 - January 7, 2026

## A Life Lived Abundantly

Affectionally known as William-Ross or Ross, to his family, and Bill to most, William Ross Wright was born in South Hampton County Virginia on October 25, 1939. Bill spent his early days attending school, playing with his younger siblings, and helping out in the family store. He later married and moved to New York, where he started a family and resided until his retirement.

Because of Bill's innate analytical and critical thinking skills, he quickly became a manager for an electrical appliance manufacturing company. However, not wanting to move when the plant relocated, he began his career with the NYPD. He worked his way up to Detective 2nd grade and decided to retire a few years after being injured in the line of duty. Bill loved spending time with his family on their boat and was looking to retire in a home with private access to the water. He found the perfect place and settled in Chesapeake, Virginia in 1994.

With the freedom of retirement came the opportunity to explore other loves. One of those was O gauge trains. He started visiting Mike's Train Land and things took off from there. He became a member of the Eastern Division Train Collectors Association in January 1995. His fellow members held him in high regards. They described him as, the man with unbeatable knowledge, gifted, and a mastermind at the electrical components for this class of trains. He will also be remembered as kind and willing to help any and everyone. Bill spent many years traveling with the group to conferences, making custom layouts and running the trains for local events.

The Nottoway roots instilled in him by his maternal grandmother led him to research and reclaim his Nottoway heritage. Lineage was important to him; he would assist others in researching their tribal roots and opening the pathway to becoming tribal citizens. As War Chief for the Nottoway Indians of Virginia, he and the Tribal Council members proved the bloodline of the tribe still existed and gained State recognition on February 26, 2010. Until his death Bill remained the War Chief and assisted the tribe in true lineage growth by helping others trace and reclaim their Nottoway heritage. The tribe now has a Community House (Surry, VA), a

website ([nottowayindians.org](http://nottowayindians.org)), holds annual Powwows (the 3rd weekend in September), has published three books and have plans to seek Federal recognition in the future.

William Ross Wright, - Sunrise, October 25, 1939, Sunset, January 7, 2026 - is preceded in death by his mother, Thelma B. Sexton, father, Rufus Wright, stepfather Henry Sexton, Sr., wife, Jeanette G. Wright, brothers James D. Wright and Nathaniel Wright, and stepbrother Henry Sexton, Jr. He leaves six children to cherish his memory, Wanda R. Wright, Lynell A. Wright, Quintin D. Wright (Sheila), William R. Wright (Sabrina), Teresita T. Harness (Perry), and Ross W. Smith (Gabrielle); seventeen grandchildren, seventeen great grandchildren, two sisters, Angela Mullen and Renee Wright, three brothers Herman I. Sexton, Anthony Wright and Tracy Wright, a stepsister, Elaine Ward, a loving partner, Jacqueline Smith, and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Our dad was very special to us and showered us, and our children, with an abundance of love.

Our memories include, him attending Girl Scout Father Daughter dances, attending Peewee

Football games, unexpectedly picking us up from school, teaching us how to write checks and

track our finances, watching him solve the latest puzzle game in record time,

spending time

sitting on his pier crabbing, fishing and listening to him share stories of his life, and of course

going to see him operate the trains at a local event. Dad/Pop loved flowers, plants and trees.

If you desire, please plant a tree or flowers in remembrance of him.

We love you and miss you. Coukkii, Lynell, Quincy, Billy, Terri and Pop

# Cemetery Details

## Greenlawn Memorial Gardens

3920 Airline Blvd  
Chesapeake, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 20.** 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.  
Chesapeake, VA 23323  
(757) 487-3700  
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com  
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

## Service

**JAN 21.** 11:00 AM (ET)

J. T. Fisher Funeral Services Chapel  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy  
Chesapeake, VA

# Tribute Wall



“ *J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of William Ross Wright*



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - January 20 at 03:57 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Life Celebration of William Ross Wright*



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - January 21 at 02:22 PM



“ *The H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Ross Wright.*

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**The H.** - January 21 at 01:17 PM

VW

“ Bills kindness and generosity always made me feel welcomed and apart of the family from day one . We always looked forward to our visits to Virginia . We would spend hours eating crabs and catching up . Kayla and Kyra were blessed to have him as a grandfather as I was to have him as a father n law . We will have memories to cherish forever . My thoughts and prayers are with The Wright , Sexton and Smith families today and always . My Sincere Condolences , Violetha Wright 🙏🕊️🌺



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**Violetha Wright** - January 21 at 09:54 AM

WA

“ 3 files added to the album NITOV



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**wanda** - January 21 at 05:49 AM

WA

“ 4 files added to the album Family



wanda - January 21 at 05:42 AM

WW

“ Wanda W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Ross Wright.

Wanda W. - January 21 at 12:15 AM

SW

“ We offer our heartfelt condolences, Wright family.  
He was a father-in-law and grandfather to us, and he will always be remembered.  
May he rest in perfect peace.

Selena, Courtney, and Shannon Wright 🙏🕊️🙏❤️

Selena, Courtney, and Shannon Wright - January 20 at 07:51 PM



“ 32 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - January 20 at 02:23 PM



“ 4 files added to the album *Family*



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**Wanda** - January 20 at 05:05 AM

WA

“ 5 files added to the album Family



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**Wanda** - January 20 at 05:02 AM

“ A Letter from Quintin

*I'd like to say thank you to my sister Wanda and my brother Ross for being there with me during the planning of this service. I don't think I could have done it without you. The support and love I felt from them while in that room, is something I will always remember. I love you both.*

*I know at this time it's hard for anyone to smile, in this room, but I know two people that are smiling right now, my dad and my grandma. On January 7th at 2:07pm my dad's soul left his body and on January 7th at 2:08pm his soul was sent to heaven to be with her. He arrived at the door with a smile on his face knowing who was behind it. He knocked and the door opened and there she was, waiting with a smile and open arms to greet him. They went inside and sat at a table. On that table was newspaper and on that paper were crabs, something they both enjoyed. So as they sat there cracking crabs with Dad talking and Grandma stuttering back to him and he understanding every word she said. This is something I was not always able to do, understand what my grandma was saying. When I was young, I would sometimes ask Dad, "What did Grandma say Dad?" He'd look at me and say, "Grandma said to close her refrigerator and stop swinging on it until you know what you want out of there."*

*So now they sit at this table just talking and catching up. They're going to be there for a long time. Not just because they got a lot to say but also because Grandma is so excited to see Dad again that she's stuttering really bad and just taking longer to say it.*

*RIP Grandma  
RIP Dad*

*P.S. Save some crabs for the rest of us!*

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Wanda - January 17 at 07:34 PM

WA

“ 5 files added to the album NITOV



Wanda - January 17 at 06:28 PM

WA

“ 3 files added to the album Family



Wanda - January 17 at 06:25 PM

WA

“ 1 file added to the album Family



Wanda - January 17 at 01:34 PM

WA

*Four generations at great-grand's t-ball game.*

**Wanda** - January 17 at 06:21 PM

WA

“ 1 file added to the album NITOV



**Wanda** - January 16 at 06:49 PM

WA

“ 4 files added to the album Family



**Wanda** - January 16 at 06:34 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Ross Wright.*



January 15 at 12:47 PM

CA

“ Chief Lynette Allston planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Ross Wright.

Chief Lynette Allston - January 15 at 12:47 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Ross Wright.



January 14 at 11:56 AM

RR

“ Richard R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Ross Wright.

Richard R. - January 14 at 11:56 AM

RM

“ To Jacky & Family..... We are so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. We go back to the 90's for our friendship with Bill. He was one of the original members of the Train Club. My son & I joined the club then, Bill was so helpful to Chris and I. He was the ' Shell Answer Person ' in the club. Always made himself available to help anyone in the club either needing repairs or teaching. I had the pleasure of meeting his wonderful wife Jacky, a special lady. Please know that Sharon, I and Christopher will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. And know if we can support you in anything just call us. We luv you guys. Rest in peace Bill and get those trains running upstairs!

*Richard, Sharon Lee & Christopher Miller*

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**Richard R Miller** - January 14 at 11:51 AM

CH

*Sorry to hear about my cousin a wright family member  
Don't remember my grandmother sister grandson William ross  
To the family! Know that God love him he resting in peace ! Lot going  
on in this country .! He in heaven  
With angles ! Peace*

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**Claudette wright Hughes** - January 14 at 08:29 PM

AA

“ To Family of War Chief Bill

*The soul of the red man is like the heart of the warrior."  
"We must look for the beauty in life, even in death, for it is all part of  
the journey."*

*Alice Artis-LaBorn  
Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia*

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**Alice Artis-LaBorn** - January 14 at 11:12 AM



*To Family of War Chief Bill Wright*

*I am sorry for your loss. War Chief Bill Wright was such a great person.  
He will live on in our memories forever.*

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**Alice Artis-LaBorn** - January 15 at 02:39 AM