

"Meritorious Service"



Bill Williams, Sr. was born in Lancaster, Ohio and is the son of Delno and the late Elizabeth Williams. He has been married to Alene Williams for 40 years. Bill has two sons, Bill, Jr. and his wife Paula, and Scott, and his wife, Jen. He has four grandchildren, Brandon, Nicholas, Kearstin, and Alaina. Bill retired from the Army in 1988 at Aberdeen Proving Ground and

currently works for the Army as an Electronics Technician.

Bill graduated from Carroll High School in Carroll, Ohio in 1965, where he bowled in his high school bowling league in an eight lane house. It was a country setting with all schools being from farming communities. He had several bowlers he looked up to – one being Janet Stover, a classmate who averaged 165 and rolled the ball harder than most boys. She appeared on a black and white TV show in Columbus, OH, known as Bowling for Dollars. Another person he looked up to was Bob Cosgrove, a kid from Pickerington, Ohio who averaged 180. This is where he secretly fell in love with the game of bowling.

After graduation from high school, Bill left for an electronic school in Louisville, Kentucky. His training there prepared him for a career in electronics when he joined the U.S. Army in November, 1966. While assigned to Ft Bliss, Texas, Bill joined a military league there remembering how much fun it was in his high school league. It was there he spent \$2.00 for a chance to bowl with the pros when the PBA came to El Paso. The rules were simple - whoever bowled the most pins over there average the second game would win a paid entry into the local pro-am tournament. Bill wanted to win this spot. He knew he had a chance as he was averaging 122 at the time. He rolled a 244 in the second game and the rest is history as they say. Bill bowled with three different pros, one he doesn't remember, and the other two were Skee Forminsky and the other was an up-and-coming new kid named Mike Durbin.

Bill was transferred to Torii Station, Okinawa and that is where he started his service to bowling. He was elected as Secretary/ Treasurer of the Thursday Night Men's League there and had a dilemma right from the start. Torii Lanes only had four lanes and Bill had eight teams signed up. Bill fixed the problem by suggesting that his eight teams be scheduled so that four teams bowled early and the other four teams bowled late. That put double duty on Bill and it was always late when they finished. Bill left Okinawa for Ft. Riley, Kansas and got involved with the American Junior Bowling Congress (AJBC), became a certified coach. After Ft. Riley, Bill and his wife ran the

youth league at the post lanes at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts.

Later in his career, Bill was assigned to a little post in Karlsruhe, Germany. They did not have a youth program established there and Bill and his wife volunteered to be the youth leaders there. The bowling center was in an old converted WWII building. It was rather unique as there were eight lanes on each side of the building. It was a good thing they were young in those days as they had bowlers on both sides of the building and as you know kids are very demanding. All the records were kept by hand – no computers in those days. Many long nights were spent entering and typing the standings and awards for next week. Bill would drive 50 miles to Heidelberg to the ABC Europe office to submit the awards so the kids would get their awards during the season. He also coached the travel team from Karlsruhe on Sundays, often driving the teams and/or members to different Army posts in their bowling regions. Bill kept up his youth work by recertifying with Young American Bowling Alliance (YABA) when the name was changed from AJBC.

He continued working with kids until he left Germany in 1987. During his career in the military he was an active board member in many different bowling associations. His last assignment was here at the Aberdeen Proving Ground where he was contacted by Joe Wheeler during the summer of 1988 and was asked if he would serve as Secretary/Treasurer for the Thursday Night Men's League at the post bowling center. Of course he willingly agreed to take on the service responsibility and continues to this day, even though the league has moved to Harford Lanes and is now known as the APG Men's League which bowls on Wednesdays at 6:00 P.M.

Through this service he became familiar with the local men's association and was asked to fill a vacancy for the remaining 1994-95 term. He has been serving continuously either as a director or vice president. He served on the audit, bylaws, fund raising, and lane certification committees, and is active in supporting the VAMC at Perry Point and anything he can do to promote the sport of bowling.

For his dedication to the sport of bowling and many years of service, the Cecil-Harford USBC Bowling Association is proud to induct Bill Williams, Sr. into its Hall of Fame under the category of Meritorious Service.