

Obituary of H. William "Bill" Isaly, former President of Isaly Dairy Company

Isaly's Dairy & Klondike Bar History ·

From the Isaly family:

H. William "Bill" Isaly (July 8, 1931 – February 3, 2025) was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he attended Shady Side Academy. He graduated from Denison University in 1953 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and spent a year as a graduate student in the Dairy School at Penn State University.

After serving two years in the U.S. Army at Fort Meade, Maryland, Bill joined the Isaly Dairy Company, a family business which manufactured ice-cream and dairy product and sold them through a network of 300 of their own retail dairy stores in Western Pennsylvania and Ohio. Isaly's was a true Pittsburgh institution, renowned for their chipped ham, Skyscraper ice-cream cones, and Klondike Bars. Bill was President of the Isaly Dairy Company when it was sold to outside investors in 1972. However, he remained part of the management team that was responsible for expanding the Klondike Bar (an Isaly family creation) into national distribution and prominence.

Bill, his wife Judy, and their daughter Jenny moved to Florida in 1982, when the Isaly Klondike Company moved its corporate offices to a new manufacturing plant in Pinellas Park. Two other Klondike plants were built in Hanover, Pennsylvania and Ontario, California to handle the rapidly increasing sales across the country.

In 1993 the Isaly Klondike Company was purchased by Unilever, and Bill opted to take an early retirement to spend more time playing tennis with his "King of the Hill" group, boating on his trawler "Amy," soaking up rays at the Countryside Country Club swimming pool, and attending events at the Dunedin Fine Art Center.

While living and working in Florida, Bill headed up many community efforts, including stints as Chairman of the Pinellas County Arts Council, President of the Board of Directors of the PACE Center for Girls, Inc., and Chairman of the Board of Governors at Countryside Country Club. In addition, he served on Boards for many other organizations, such as the Dunedin Fine Art Center, the Science Center of St. Petersburg, Pinellas Park Chamber of Commerce, and Very Special Arts of Florida. Full of charm and charisma, Bill earned the nickname "Mr. Wonderful." He was loved and will be missed by so many. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Judy, their daughter Jenny (Kurt) and granddaughter Bailey, in addition to his children Jeffrey (Sheryl), Jamie (Traci), and Jill (Leon); grandchildren Jacqueline, Keelia, Keegan, Alisha, Ruby, Eli, Brooklyn, Isaly, and Garland; and nine great grandchildren. Bill and Judy's dog, Missi, will also miss special head scratches from her dad.