



## William H. ("Bill") Shotwell

September 12, 1956 - November 26, 2009

William H. ("Bill") Shotwell passed away Thanksgiving (November 26, 2009) night at 11:59 p.m, at Bronson Methodist Hospital. Bill was born September 12, 1956 at Borgess Medical Center, the son of Rachel and Cecil "Fred" H. Shotwell. He was a life-long resident of Kalamazoo, MI and graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School. Bill was well-respected in his community and a very active member of the 12-Step Recovery Program. He enjoyed traveling to different conventions to speak about his nine year journey for sobriety. Bill was a real people person--he loved people and people loved him. He left a lasting impression on everyone he met. One of Bill's passions in life was being a part of the 12-Step Recovery Program. He would visit high schools and colleges encouraging others with his life's testimony of his success through the 12-step program. He will truly be missed by all. Bill is preceded in death by his father, Cecil "Fred" H. Shotwell.

He is survived by, his wife of 10 years, Leslie M. Shotwell; his children: Shelby Lamar Johnson; Yalanda Y. (Carl) Washpun; Nakia M. James; LaTeai M. (Anthony) L. Goring; Angela Michielle Johnson; Antwan Marvelle Johnson; Christina (Aki) Nichols; 3 grandsons, Dwayne M. Powell ("Big Man"), Anthony Goring Jr. and Devon J. Johnson; 2 granddaughters, Akiria and Amirah Nichols; his mother, Rachel A. Shotwell; his sister, Darlyn "Marie" Lewis (Isiah); his brothers: Michael H. ("Dino") Shotwell; Steve, Duane and Kenny Shotwell; his niece, Monica (Dave) Taylor; and 3 great nieces, Cheraine,

Sierra and Ariyanna Allen-Taylor. Also, a host of family and friends. "ONE DAY AT A TIME"

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 3. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home Inc.  
521 Douglas Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

## Service

DEC 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel  
521 Douglas Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Missing you Dad. Love your Princess* 💕💕

Nakia White - October 25, 2025 at 10:15 PM



“ *William H. ("Bill") Shotwell*

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ *William H. ("Bill") Shotwell*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ *Today would have been my dad's 66th birthday! Wow! I would have loved to see him at 66. I love and miss my dad so much! Thank you God for allowing him to be My Earthly Father! 13 years later and he is missed more! Love Your Princess!* 💕💕

Nakia - September 12, 2022 at 10:52 PM



“ *BILL I MISS YOU BUT I KNOW YOU ARE SAFE AND PAIN FREE. SO I KEEP THAT IN MY HEART. LOVE YOU MOM##imported-begin##MOM##imported-end##*

June 20, 2010 at 10:14 PM



“ *To My Brother,  
I try so hard to make it through the day without the tears but they still keep falling. The pain of losing you has and still is unbearable even though I know you are in a better place and are in no pain you are free.  
Your picture is on my cell phone and everytime I use it I talk to you and tell you how much I love.  
I just wish I could have hugged you one more time and tell you how much I love you and how proud I am of you but because I did not get a chance I'm telling you now I love you bro and I'm so proud of you, and here is a long and very tight hug.  
Until we meet again I love you Bill  
Your Sister.##imported-begin##Darlyn Marie Lewis  
(Sister)##imported-end##*

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December 10, 2009 at 01:17 PM



“ *Uncle Bill,  
You will be truly missed. Love you.##imported-begin##Bobbi Jo Abrams##imported-end##*

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December 08, 2009 at 11:38 PM



“ *It's a shame we lost touch. I Guess I'll just have to treasure the memories.##imported-begin##Bob Aldrich##imported-end##*

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December 08, 2009 at 05:14 PM



“ Thank you Bill for helping me "hang in there." Your encouragement and "straight forward" advise helped me stay alive. Even when I didn't seem to appreciate your advise, you were relentless in the message that you carried. I will be forever grateful for your sternness and kindness. It is an honor to share the same sobriety date with you - April 30th. I will respect my feelings of loss and remember to "hang in there" when things look bad. I now have more happier days than sad, more loving memories than not. God Bless##imported-begin##Diana Harkness##imported-end##

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December 04, 2009 at 11:46 AM



“ When I heard of Bro Bills passing I thought of two things: First, how every angel in heaven was waiting with open arms for this wonderful man of God. Second, who's going to help me with those dogs, Grits & SoSo,  
Be at peace, my brother.##imported-begin##Katie Hairston##imported-end##

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December 04, 2009 at 10:35 AM



“ During these times, it is especially important to draw close to God through prayer. It is also a time to reflect on the promises He has given us through His Word concerning the hope of seeing our loved ones again. I hope that you find comfort as you reflect on these scriptures. John 5:29,29; Revelation 21:4; Psalm 37:29. My caring thoughts and sympathy to your family.##imported-begin##Cherrieann##imported-end##

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December 04, 2009 at 09:27 AM



“ A brother and heart felt friend, in life and beyond.##imported-begin##Steve Shotwell##imported-end##

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December 04, 2009 at 08:00 AM



“ My condolences to the Shotwell family and friends...I will miss Bill's "look" and how he laughed with (or was it at? :) me through my days of recovery. He was and still is a pillar to the 12 step recovery program. Love to you, Bill, may you rest in peace.##imported-begin##Jackie##imported-end##

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December 04, 2009 at 01:10 AM



“ I am blessed to have known Bill for the time I did and I will never forget him or the things he taught me. Bill gave me hope and helped me and countless others to find recovery, and for that I am forever grateful.##imported-begin##Brian E##imported-end##

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December 03, 2009 at 07:37 PM



“ I never knew Bill in person, however I feel I knew him Very well thur his mother Rachal. She was so proud of all the work Bill did helping his fellow man. I remember the first day Bill went to AA Rachal was so proud of him , she knew he was on the right track of recovery. Bill is at rest now in Gods hands, he is free of pain and is resting in peace,

Thanks be to God

Mary Leveque##imported-begin##Mary Leveque##imported-end##

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December 03, 2009 at 06:46 PM



“ *Bill, you will be missed by us all. I love you and will never forget your smile, your compassion and your great message in the rooms. Please watch over us all and send us a little sign every now then letting us know you are with us in spirit, we will be looking for it and of course we will keep movin on...Don't worry I will never stop believing.##imported-begin##Gary I##imported-end##*

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December 03, 2009 at 03:04 PM



“ *love u man.  
RIP.*

*Your Bubba##imported-begin##David Taylor##imported-end##*

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December 03, 2009 at 01:36 PM



“ *To The Shotwell Family:*

*May God give you all that peace that passes all understanding. God Bless You. Your family is in our prayers. The Wilson Family Jo-Evelyn, Sherry, Paula and James (June).##imported-begin##Jo-Evelyn Wilson-Williams##imported-end##*

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December 03, 2009 at 11:24 AM



“ I knew Billy Shotwell as a teenager, but I really got to know him when he came to NA. Billy was special and he shared wisdom, encouragement and love with all of us.

*I will remember him always.*

*May God bless the family in their time of sorrow. I will keep you in my prayers.##imported-begin##Merry S. Battles##imported-end##*

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December 03, 2009 at 06:58 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear he has passed, I've known him for years, I knew him as Grady on the CB radio. Mike, Duane and Bill visited our home frequently. I do have some photos. I don't know how to send photos on the computer or I would gladley send a copy to the family. May the Lord be with you all, losing a loved one is tragic, my heart goes out to you. God Bless, Doris Rogers##imported-begin##Doris J. Rogers (Moonshot)##imported-end##

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December 03, 2009 at 06:57 AM



“ Bill will always be remembered as our gift from god.we will never forget his smile and his love for others.We lost a daughter 3 years ago and with all of his support it helped us alot. We know that he's flying with the angels. He has left behind a legacy of love. And we will all be together again in our heavenly home.

*Thank you. Dan and Jane reynolds kalmazoo,MI##imported-begin##jane &dan reynolds##imported-end##*

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December 02, 2009 at 10:57 PM



“ *The thing that struck me most about this amazing man was how full of gratitude he always was. No matter what was going on in his life, no matter how ill he was, he always spoke of gratitude. He was an inspiration to many and his gratitude was especially an inspiration to me. I think it fitting that he went to be with his God on Thanksgiving. You will be very much missed brother Bill.##imported-begin##Julie B##imported-end##*

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December 02, 2009 at 09:38 PM



“ *Our prayers are with you all. Bill was a wonderful person and a very good friend. He carried a strong message of recovery and he loved his family. He loved to talk about his grandchildren and was so proud of all of his children and the relationship that he had with them. He will be truly missed, but never forgotten. One day at a time, I pray that you all get stronger and remember his message.*

*God Bless,*

*Ramona and George##imported-begin##Ramona Lumpkin and Wilburt McMillon##imported-end##*

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December 02, 2009 at 09:05 PM



“ *my prayers go out to the shotwell family. i will never forget are friend bill. i will miss u dearly may you rest in peace bill.##imported-begin##larry adams##imported-end##*

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December 02, 2009 at 08:59 PM



“ Billy my Billy, You always could read me. No matter how long it had been since we talked. I am so glad you knew I loved you. You always had love and understanding for others. You deserved so much in life. I believe you got what you wanted here. Your family and this family here in recovery. WE all were your life and you were our life. I cant imagine life without you in it !!! You have forever made your mark on the hearts of many many people who loved you. Thank you for always being you. Thank you for being an example.... always keep coming back.. No matter what.. Dont USE!!!! You were so grateful no matter how you felt. I always loved to hear your gratitude. And to watch your face light up when you spoke of your grandson.  
My heart goes out to your family.. All my love and prayers.. see ya later my dear dear friend..##imported-begin##Patti K.##imported-end##

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December 02, 2009 at 07:48 PM



“ Oh 'my Bill'..Where to begin to tell your family of my love & gratitude for you..I only live today because of your selflessness in the past 6yrs. of yesterdays.. You loved me when I didn't, carried me when I couldn't, you held me up when I tragically lost my husband 'Tom' 3/20/09 & got me through it Sober..my 'Tom' loved you as I do because you gave him his 'wife' back and me my 'life' back..I will so miss going to Wal-mart & not dialing your cell..(that was our cue to stay in touch--when he went I was phoned & when I went he was phoned)--You find 'brother Tom' up there & continue this journey together..blessings to your 'momma' for allowing me to have a friend like you..May God hold her tight throughout the months to come and lay his gentle hands on your entire family & circle of friends..I Love You Brother Bill....ter##imported-begin##Terri Ammon##imported-end##

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December 02, 2009 at 07:33 PM



“ *EVEN THOUGH I DID NOT KNOW HIM VERY WELL, HE IS STILL MY DAD.. TO MY SISTERS AND BROTHERS, HEEP YOUR HEADS UP AND STAY STRONG. LOVE YALL.##imported-begin##Lakita (NATALIE) Burton (Daughter)##imported-end##*

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December 02, 2009 at 07:31 PM



“ *Love you brother i will miss having coffee with you in the morning.i will drink from your coffee cup every morning!*

*love your brother,  
Gary*

*Love you brother i will never forget having coffee and sharing the greatest conversations me you and Gary had i will miss you very much!*

*love your sister,  
Laura##imported-begin##Gary & Laura Gill##imported-end##*

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December 02, 2009 at 03:44 PM



“ *I will miss you dearly coming into get your morning coffee. You have helped so many people stay clean,But no more than my brother Gary,your bond with him went far behond friend, you were his brother. We all love you.##imported-begin##Lillie Gill##imported-end##*

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December 02, 2009 at 01:28 PM



“ To my brother Bill, I will miss you more than worlds can express. I will carry you in my heart forever...##imported-begin##Michael( Uncle Heavy) Shotwell##imported-end##

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December 02, 2009 at 01:07 PM



“ Bill will be greatly missed by all of his friends and family. Bill was a very special person and we will always love him. The entire Shotwell family would like to thank everyone for their kind words of encouragement in this time of sorrow.##imported-begin##Mom & Brother##imported-end##

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December 02, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ Thanks for helping us stay clean.

The New Bee Boys miss you.##imported-begin##John M.##imported-end##

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December 02, 2009 at 11:34 AM



“ Bill, You were and will continue to be, an inspiration to many inside and out of the recovering community. You will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Lynn Powell##imported-end##

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December 02, 2009 at 09:59 AM



“ Bill, I remember the first day I meet you, you were a hand full, you grew so much over the years and were happy to pass on the message to anyone who would listen. You will be deeply missed and never forgotten. My prayers and thoughts with your family in this time of need. Love you Brother.##imported-begin##Sue W.##imported-end##

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December 02, 2009 at 09:37 AM



“ Many prayers and blessings to you and your family. You will be truly missed for all the marvolous things you did and said. We were truly blessed to have you in our lives and make the impact that you did on each and everyone of us. Your calls to say "where you at"? will never go unheard. Thank you and your family for the part you played in so many peoples lives, especially I thank you for the part you played in Marc's.##imported-begin##Marc & Kirsten Hairston Family##imported-end##

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December 02, 2009 at 09:27 AM



“ Bill will be truly missed by all. God Bless all of the family I will keep you in my Prays. Love you Bill and will miss you.

God Bless ,Your cousin  
Peggy##imported-begin##Royce & Peggy Wilson  
Cawthon##imported-end##

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December 01, 2009 at 11:02 PM



“ Our prayers are with you. He may be gone from our site, but will live in our hearts and our minds forever.  
Love Nancy###imported-begin###Nancy & Raymond  
Wilson###imported-end##

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December 01, 2009 at 10:20 PM



“ To the Shotwell family,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.  
Gone but will never be forgotten.  
RIP Bill###imported-begin###Phines and Pat vaughn###imported-  
end##

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December 01, 2009 at 05:38 PM



“ I also met Bill @ Gilmore and was so taken by his message. It was always a pleasure seeing Bill. He has been an inspiration to me in more ways than I can express and will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with the Shotwell family and I know that Bill is now at peace. Love you Bill!!###imported-begin###Michelle  
S###imported-end##

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December 01, 2009 at 02:12 PM



“ Love ya lots like tater tots Shot! Friends til the end. I miss my "road dog!" Trips to Walmart just won't be the same. "Keep it Movin."###imported-begin###Julie Dekker###imported-end##

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December 01, 2009 at 09:32 AM



“ Bill- I miss you so much already!! You've been there for me through up and down, thick and thin for almost 8 years, and I've enjoyed every minute of it...just miss the funny things you used to say to cheer me up, talking at Kalamazoo Central won't be the same without you! I know you're no longer in pain and are smiling down on us. You will be deeply missed and you've helped so many people, I can't even begin to imagine how many.....love you always!##imported-begin##Megan McGuire##imported-end##

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November 30, 2009 at 11:23 PM



“ To the Shotwell Family , We are so sorry to hear about your lost. May God Bless you through these times, Wishing you comfort in your time of sadness and hoping you know that even though there are no perfect words to ease the pain in your heart, there is caring in every thought of you. The Brashers Family##imported-begin##Linda Brashers##imported-end##

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November 30, 2009 at 10:59 PM



“ I meet Bill in 2003, his impression on me and my life will live forever. I have never meet a person who was so free from self and willing to give to all those in need. He will forever be in my heart and mind. Bill's message and work has touched so many- too many to even count. He served his dues here on earth and now he has been released unto the after world and he shall not suffer any more. My love goes with him on his journey and I know he will always be looking down from above. WE ALL LOVE YOU BILLY!##imported-begin##Anita Hickman##imported-end##

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November 30, 2009 at 10:06 PM



“ Greetings,  
*Bill was a dear friend and an inspiration to me as well as many others. He is loved and will be greatly missed.*  
*My condolences to all family and friends. You will all be in prayers.*###imported-begin###Dominick Gladstone###imported-end###

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November 30, 2009 at 10:47 AM



“ *Bill was an awesome man. He was there for me through many ups and downs. Rest in Peace and you will be missed and you will always be in my heart.*###imported-begin###LINDA###imported-end###

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November 30, 2009 at 09:48 AM



“ *I met Bill when I was a resident at Gilmore. He was there for a outdoor evening meeting. He was the first person I called after I got out, and he has been a major presence in my life ever since. He was one of the most fundamentally decent human beings I have ever known.*

*There will always be a "Bill-shaped-hole" in my heart.*###imported-begin###Kent Baldner###imported-end###

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November 29, 2009 at 11:56 AM



“ *Such a good man - a person who spoke with a powerful voice and a message. I'll remember you with respect.*###imported-begin###Jenny###imported-end###

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November 29, 2009 at 02:09 AM