



William "Billy" Conigliaro

August 15, 1947 - February 10, 2021

William M. "Billy" Conigliaro, of Beverly, formerly of Revere, on February 10, 2021 at the age of 73. Billy was born in Revere to the late Salvatore and Theresa (Martelli) Conigliaro. He was a graduate of Swampscott High School (Class of '65), and immediately thereafter, at the age of only eighteen (18) years old, became the first ever draftee of the Boston Red Sox when he was drafted fifth overall in the first ever MLB First-Year Player Draft. He served his country in the US Army as a marksman rifle crewman, being posted at Fort Knox, in 1967, before beginning his lifelong dream of playing professional baseball for the local Red Sox. He played with the Red Sox for three years (two of which were with his brother Tony) before being traded to the Milwaukee Brewers. He finished his MLB career in 1973, winning a World Series Championship with the Oakland A's. Billy was loved by all who knew him, and his passion and love of life were contagious and inspired others to pursue their dreams, just as he pursued his own personal dreams post-baseball. He enjoyed astronomy and photography, even opening his own camera and photography shop. He was also a skilled helicopter pilot, having obtained his pilot's license and owning his own helicopter. However, one of his biggest passions in life post-baseball, was giving his time to children's causes. Whether it was participating in baseball clinics for children, or giving his time by visiting ill children in the hospital, he was a loving individual with a heart of gold. He is survived by his loving wife, Keisha, of Beverly, whom he was married to for eighteen (18) years. Also among his survivors are his brother Richard Conigliaro; nephews and nieces Billy, Tony and Cayla Conigliaro, and Abby Ellis; and the Martelli Family.

Due to the current restrictions with Covid-19 all services were held privately for the immediate family. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations for the creation of a foundation dedicated to raising money for assisting underprivileged children to attend baseball camp. The fund will be established in Billy Conigliaro's name sometime later on this year. If interested in donating, please contact his wife. Thank you. Keisha:
billycfoundation@gmail.com.

Comments



“ My dad and I knew and talked with Tony C. on his trips to Baltimore from the time he came into the American League until his horrific accident, as well as, after his return. We went to see Billy play the York White Roses in York, Pa. while he was a member of the AA Pittsfield Red Sox, York being only about 50 miles from Baltimore. Well, dad has long ago passed on, and I am now 71 years old myself. I can look back now on our memories of telling each brother about our visits with the other. It seems like only yesterday....in reality well over 50 years ago. Sending condolences and prayers to Billy's family!
Peggy Reinke Ruley

Peggy Ruley - February 22 at 01:12 AM



“ Keisha, we love you and are here for you, always! Praying for peace and comfort.

Jillian Storr - February 20 at 03:31 PM



“ Charlie Cotter lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Conigliaro



Charlie Cotter - February 18 at 11:46 AM



“ Growing up in Swampscott, everyone knows the Conigliaro family. That's why it was such a pleasure to get to know Billy soon after I met his wife Keisha. Billy was always humble and modest about himself and really lit up when he was focused on Keisha. My memories are when I sat next to Billy at Keisha's graduation from Endicott College as well as "Alumni Day for the Red Sox at Fenway Park" on one of the hottest days in the summer. We also were together at Tony C's for a birthday celebration where I met family and friends of Keisha and Billy. The warmth and love can't be spelled out in words however I felt like I was a part of the family. I know I'll have time to be with Keisha soon to continue the love which will never stop. Billy has given so much to his wife, the community, his friends and family as well as the Red Sox. I feel blessed to have known him and will never forget his kind soul. Much love,
Roberta Chadis

Roberta Chadis - February 16 at 12:51 PM



“ Keisha and Richie - My condolences - This is so sad and I'm so sorry to hear this news. I have so many fond memories of Billy and wish we could have reconnected. I thought of him just last week and wondered if I could visit sometime post-pandemic. RIP Billy, I will always remember you.
Dennis Palazzo

dennis palazzo - February 15 at 01:36 PM



“ I met Bill in the early 90's when I approached him about writing a book on Tony. I live in Ohio, so we had many phone conversations about it and eventually I flew to Boston and spent time with him and Teresa gathering information for what would, in fact, lead to publication. I never knew Tony, but felt it an extreme privilege to consider Bill my friend. I saw his humor, his kindness and compassion and his extreme devotion to his family. One memory that stands out: During one visit to his home in Nahant he was teasing his mother about the fact that she had so many knitting projects started, but never finished any of them. He went to get the box to show me and came out wearing one knitted cap that was covered in sparkling spangles. It was something that caused us to laugh and I remember it fondly. Our loss is Heaven's gain. The ultimate Field of Dreams.

Linda Huber - February 13 at 03:58 PM



“ Keisha, I only had the chance to meet Billy for a few months but he was a great man. Beyond our professional relationship, he was eager to talk to me and was always so kind. He always took a time to give me an astronomy advice. And I had the chance to meet you, and you both were wonderful people. My most sincere condolences.

Carlos Fernandez Robles - February 13 at 03:55 PM



“ Keisha, Richie and family. I had such a crush on Billy going back to 1968. Even though we live near Youngstown Ohio, my dad took me to at least one game each time the Red Sox had a series in Cleveland. I have Billy's autograph and baseball gloves, baseballs and shirts. I know I always giggled and blushed when he would come over for autographs. One time, we sat near some flight attendants who loved my exuberance for the Red Sox. They asked my dad for my address, they said their next layover was in Boston and they would send something from there. A couple weeks later, a large envelope arrived and not only did they send a 1970 yearbook, they also sent a button with Billy's photo on it! I still treasure it just as I did then.

I'm so sorry for your loss. I feel like a family member had died even though I really never got to talk to him, I just admired all that he did. I was probably his biggest fan in Ohio, I still am.

Sending hugs to all who love him.

Cathie McAdams
Mentor OH
Ab8gv@yahoo.com

Cathie McAdams - February 13 at 01:57 PM



“ Keisha, you are such a kind and wonderful person. I also know that you have exceptional strength to get through this challenging time. I am sorry for your loss and pray that the Almighty God would comfort you during your time of sorrow. We send our love and prayers from The Bahamas, in particular the Williams/Argyle families. We thank you for allowing us to meet your amazing husband and share in just a small way in his pilgrimage on earth. Although he is gone, he will certainly not be forgotten. His legacy will live on in the annals of the history of baseball and, indeed, the country. Please convey our condolences to his brother and the Conigliaro family. Be assured of our thoughts and prayers from Mrs. Williams -Argyle, husband Sean, and the entire Williams family. We love you.

Mrs. Jacquelyn Williams Argyle - February 13 at 12:59 PM



“ I played in the minors with Billy and after my release I pitched batting practice in Fenway and became Tony's private batting practice pitcher. We became very close. Both Billy and Tony were real gentlemen. I am sorry to hear of Billy's passing.

Dick Hill - February 17 at 02:31 PM



“ Condolences from Craig and Evelyn Pinder, Freeport, Bahamas.

Craig Pinder - February 13 at 09:55 AM



“ My heart is broken that you are gone, Billy. My deepest condolences, prayers and love to you, Keisha, for the tremendous loss of your dear love. Billy was a great man and friend to me — always genuinely curious to hear what was going on, the first always to offer help and never failing to make me laugh. An amazing husband too, humble and kind. You never complained, Billy. Right to the end, you showed such grace and strength. I will miss you and will never forget you, “William”, Rest In Peace, My Dear Friend.

Vita Chiarenza - February 13 at 09:03 AM



“ I still have the baseball Billy sent for my husband's funeral in response to my request for an artifact to represent his love of sports. Just as you and I must continue on in this game of life, know your baseball star is in a peaceful space-creating "plays" for his admirers in the clouds....and for you, his eternal love...Dr. Maru Colbert

Maru Colbert - February 13 at 08:49 AM



“ Keisha, be blessed and remain strong.

Maru - February 13 at 08:50 AM



“ Dear Keisha, I, too, was widowed at an early age. There are many people out here who understand all you are experiencing right now. Do not hesitate to reach out. As long as you live, Billy will, too.

Jo Ann West Gerst - February 13 at 12:03 PM



“ My Auntie, Uncle & I enjoying each other's company ☺️



Cayla Conigliaro - February 13 at 08:27 AM



“ My godfather, my uncle. You will always be the love of my life.



Cayla Conigliaro - February 13 at 08:20 AM



“ JosephConigliaro lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Conigliaro



JosephConigliaro - February 13 at 12:03 AM



“ Dear Keisha, You know how very sorry we are over the loss of your dear Billy. We were blessed to meet you when you visited my wife and me at Dana Farber. That visit lifted my spirits during a very difficult time. In this incredibly sad time for you, please know that we'll never forget the love and kindness you both showed us, and we offer the same to you now. Our hearts ache, and we keep you in our prayers. Much love, Abby and Eric



Eric Zelz - February 12 at 09:42 PM



“ Hey cuz I'm sorry about William's passing, you we such a great couple, you have done your best and he had lived a great life my prayers are with you, this too shall pass ,ju hold on to the great memories you both shared,,love you my cousin, stay well

Donna - February 13 at 12:57 PM