



Mr. William "Bill" Douglas Brittain

AUG 31, 1929 - JUN 24, 2016



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



Mr. William "Bill" Douglas Brittain

AUG 31, 1929 - JUN 24, 2016

Bill Brittain (William D. Brittain) a prominent Nashville broadcaster for decades passed peacefully in the presence of his family on June 24, 2016. Born in Jordonia, Tennessee on August 31, 1929 he was a 1949 graduate of East High School.

Following army duty in the Korean War he studied at the Southeast Radio and Television Institute where he later was an instructor. Acting roles in plays such as "Our Town" and "Pygmalion" paved his path into a long and notable career in radio. After stints announcing and managing radio stations in several Tennessee cities Bill became a mainstay of the major Nashville broadcast outlets, working over the years at WSM, WLAC, WMAK, WSIX, WENO, WZEZ and finally as a big band host on WAMB. Both in his music programs and as a reporter, Bill's graceful style stood out in memorable interviews with celebrities like Johnny Cash, Nancy Sinatra, Gene Autry and many others. A highlight of his reporting was coverage of large scale rioting at the Tennessee state prison. His rich baritone was also familiar to thousands, indeed millions, as the longtime voice greeting arrivals at the Nashville International Airport.

Beyond broadcasting Bill made a lasting mark as the editor who launched Music City News toward its wide success as a staple of Nashville's key industry. His subsequent career as editor and writer brought close collaboration with Willie Nelson at Pamper Music, as well as extensive contributions to "Nashville Scene".

For 12 years Bill was an elected member of the Sumner County Commission, working diligently to strengthen the County budget, infrastructure and educational system. As he moved into retirement he perfected his craft as an artisan in wood, founding Significraft Pens to fashion writing instruments from historic woods he salvaged from the Hermitage, Ryman Auditorium and elsewhere. As a knowledgeable guide at the auditorium his fascination with Thomas Ryman led him to embark on a biographical screenplay about the riverboat captain whose religious conversion prompted him to found the Dixie Tabernacle, later to become an enduring landmark bearing his name.



Obituary

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Bill is survived by his wife of 61 years, Mollie Vinson Brittain, daughters Helen C. Webb, Melodie Harris, Bonnie Webb and Tracy Mims, brother Alton Frye, 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.



Events


Mr. William "Bill" Douglas Brittain

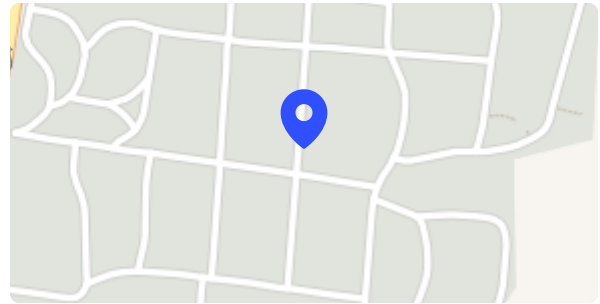
AUG 31, 1929 - JUN 24, 2016

Visitation

 **Sunday**, June 26, 2016

 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM CT


 **Spring Hill Cemetery**
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216

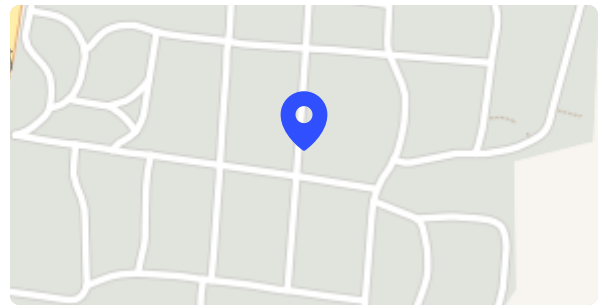


Memorial Service


 **Monday**, June 27, 2016


 2:00 PM CT

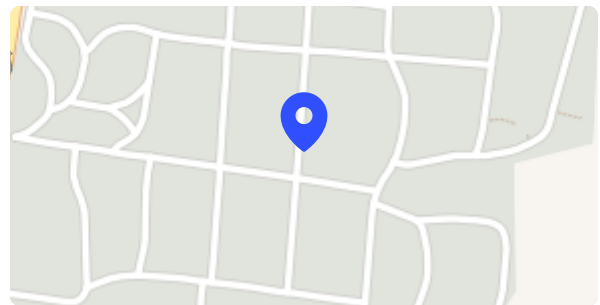
 **Spring Hill Funeral Home**
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216



Cemetery Details

 **Spring Hill Cemetery**
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216

 **615-866-1419**





Tribute Wall

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Brandon Cross posted:

I never had the opportunity to meet Mr. Brittain, or even to hear him on the radio. I actually had no idea who he was until I stumbled across one of the pens he made on eBay recently while searching for a birthday gift for my pastor. It's a beautiful copy of a Parker Duofold fountain pen, but it's made from the walnut stock of a WWII Springfield Rifle. It includes the story of how Eisenhower had insisted that his own Duofold pen be used to sign the document ending WWII. Given the superb craftsmanship as well as the story behind why the pen was made, I had to find out whatever happened to Mr. Brittain. I was saddened to see that he has been gone for nearly a decade now, but I'm also delighted that one of his pens will soon be making its way to Alaska. I'll be including information about Mr. Brittain with the pen he made.

March 16 at 5:34 PM



Anonymous sent a Small Garden Dish to the Brittain family.



June 27 at 6:48 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Brittain family.



June 26 at 3:43 AM



Tracy Mims posted:

My Dad; He was a renaissance man. So talented in so many areas. He had a career in radio for over 50 yrs. Later when he retired he became a woodworker, making pens from wood from historic places. He was a veteran and served his community as a county commissioner for over a decade. But most of all he was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Our hearts have a huge hole and we will miss him everyday. Rest in Peace Daddy with your sister and your mother. We will be together again one day. I love you always.

June 25 at 1:05 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William "Bill" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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