



# Mr. William Nelson Cessna

APR 11, 1938 - APR 11, 2023



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# Mr. William Nelson Cessna

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**M**r. William Nelson Cessna, 85, of Lewistown, MD passed away on April 11, 2023. He was the loving husband of Janice Cessna, his wife of 60 years.

Born April 11, 1938 in Cumberland, MD, Bill was the son of the late Charles N. and Edith Bucy Cessna. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Frostburg State Teachers College and earned his Masters in Education from Union College in New York State. He taught Science his entire 31-year career at Thurmont Middle School, and enjoyed woodworking, gardening and nature conservation. He loved canoeing and collecting fossils, rocks and minerals of all kinds.

In addition to his loving wife, Mr. Cessna is survived by two sons, Nelson Cessna and Jeffrey Cessna & wife Beth Hilkemeyer.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Potomac Conservancy ([potomac.org](http://potomac.org)), American Rivers ([americanrivers.org](http://americanrivers.org)) or The Nature Conservancy ([preserve.nature.org](http://preserve.nature.org)).



## Tribute Wall

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TK

**Tracy Kuhn** posted:

Mr. Cessna was always one of my favorite teachers. His passion for science and his amazing way of communicating that passion to his students is something that I will always remember.

April 26 at 12:22 PM

CL

**Connie Labtush** posted:

Bill Cessna and his wife Janice were amazing adventurers and conservationists. I haven't seen them for a long time, but remember them for the adventurous things they did and places they went. They always had strength that many did not. Bill was a great teacher and lover of Science. Their plants were beautiful and reflected their love of Nature. May Bill rest in peace knowing he cared for Mother Earth with so much passion and respect. Love, Connie LaBrush ❤️

April 26 at 11:18 AM



**Kate Ahlers** posted:

We've had the privilege of knowing Bill's son, Jeff, and his wife Beth for years. We've never known a couple more "in tune" with nature and the world around them. In life, we know the "apple doesn't fall far from the tree." Clearly, Bill was the apple of Janice's eye, a wonderful tribute after 60 years of marriage. But Bill's passing of his passions to his children meant that his touch will continue to inspire others forever (as it has also done for others who've provided tributes). What a legacy! Warmly, Kate Ahlers, Patrick Pendas & 9-Year-Old Sophie

April 24 at 8:00 AM

JA

**John Albert** posted:

Bill Cessna was a kind and good man and I used to love seeing his collections at their beautiful home. He passed his love of the natural world to his son and my best friend, Jeff. He was a life long learner and someone to admire.

April 22 at 11:26 AM

BG

**Bing Garthright** posted:

Witty, helpful, and many other virtues, but also outstanding: the man was wonderful company. Always added delight if he was present. Our loss. Bing Garthright

April 20 at 10:13 AM



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**Jeff Burr** posted:

I was saddened to read of Bill's passing in the paper. He was one of those guys that, once you met him, you would never forget him. I met Bill in the late 80's when I was a young and inexperienced 7th grade science teacher at Thurmont Middle School. Bill, already an old salt at that time, sort-of took me under his wing and helped me navigate the difficulties of the teaching profession. While I didn't make teaching my profession, I never forgot how he helped me out. On my last day at TMS, Bill gave me a large slab of shale with dozens of fossilized ferns embedded in it. He knew I liked it but I had no idea he would generously offer it to me. I still have it in my man-cave and am looking at it now as I write this. The world is a little poorer with Bill's passing. RIP

April 19 at 7:24 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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