

Bill Curtis



**BILL CURTIS** learned to play bridge in graduate school at Indiana University in the late sixties. He was taught the old Goren system. He played sporadically after he graduated but decided to get back into the game in the mid-nineties by taking lessons from Brad at the downtown church. Bill learned that the Goren system was not a good system other than teaching basics. Today Bill is 2.8 gold points from becoming a Life Master. Ironically, Bill almost became Brad's Latin teacher at Fairview High School in Boulder, Colorado when Bill lived and worked there.

Although born in Bremerton, Bill grew up in Tumwater. Serving as the first ASB president of Tumwater High School in 1962 and captain of the football, basketball and baseball teams and graduated with honors in 1962. He earned his Eagle Scout Badge in 1957 and was the Elks free-throw state champion the same year. After receiving a bachelor's degree in Latin at the University of Washington, Bill received a Federal Fellowship to get his Master's degree in Latin at Indiana University. A forty-one-year career of teaching Latin and History followed as well as coaching basketball and baseball (26 years), coaching Knowledge Bowl (19 years) and Academic Decathlon teams (13 years) at Capital and Olympia High Schools. In addition, Bill served 14 years as the chairman of the Washington State Latin Teachers Association.

Folk music is one of his special interests. He personally sang with Peter Yarrow of the Peter, Paul and Mary fame on four occasions. His other interests are hiking, climbing (he earned his seven peak pin through the Mountaineers) and square dancing. He is also a collector of eye cups, insulators and stamps. In 1989 he received a Fulbright Fellowship to spend the summer in Rome working on the Roman Colosseum. He received another Fulbright in 1998 to also do research in Rome and Cumae near Naples. Bill became a tour guide to Italy in 1990 and worked for a company out of San Antonio to help plan itineraries and guide tours for retired people. Bill did twenty-one trips to Italy before retiring in 2024 when his wife was diagnosed with cancer. She passed away on February 4, 2025. Bill has worked security for the past seven years at the House of Representatives at the state capital in Olympia, Washington.

*(Submitted June 2025)*