



William Charles "Bill" Ramsay, 86, died Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at his home in Washington, DC, after a long battle with cancer.

Bill was born November 6, 1930 in Jamaica, New York, to Claude Barnett Ramsay and Myrtle Marie (Scott) Ramsay. He grew up in Forest Hills, New York, and then attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he met and married Bertha Thomas in 1951. He earned his bachelor's degree in English Literature in 1952. After a stay Honduras, Bill decided to become a physicist, so they moved to Los Angeles. He and Bertha had Alice, John, and Carol while they lived in LA. He got his doctorate in nuclear physics from UCLA in 1962, did post-doctoral work in La Jolla, and then was an assistant professor in Santa Barbara. In 1965 he and Bertha divorced. He married Margaret Hupp in 1966. Next he worked on system analysis, and eventually grew interested in the economics of energy use. He and Margaret became the parents of David and then moved to Washington, DC in 1972, where Bill worked at the Atomic Energy Commission, Nuclear Regulatory

Commission, Resources for the Future, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He wrote several books on the economics of energy use and when he retired, he was able to pursue the writing and composing that he had always longed to do. He and Margaret were divorced in 1980, and he married Charlotte Kidder in 1987. Several of Bill's plays were produced in DC theatres. After Charlotte's death, he and Jane were married in 1997. In 2001, they moved to Santa Barbara, CA, where many of Bill's musical compositions were performed and appreciated. He also edited an online fiction magazine and self-published some novels.

Bill was always proud of his Scottish heritage, so when he learned of the Clan Ramsay Association, he joined right away in 1982. When he found out about the Scottish Christmas Walk of the Clans in Alexandria, he joined in with the Clan Ramsay contingent organized by Nancy Harding, bringing as many of his kids with him as he could. When Nancy was no longer able to carry out this task, Bill took the mantle on his shoulders. For the first few years, Ramsays walked with the Gaelic League group, but Bill got them a slot of their own starting in 1992. Sometimes the group stopped by the Ramsay House and would chant, "Ramsay! Ramsay! Rah, rah, rah!" at Bill's behest. The Clan Ramsay has continued to be a presence in the Christmas Walk, the tradition carried on by his son David and a group of fellow Star Wars fans.

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Jane Evans (Coutant) Ramsay; his daughter, Alice Ramsay and her husband, Tony Kordyban (Lombard, IL); his son, John Ramsay and his wife, Evette (San Marino, CA); his daughter, Carol Ramsay-Scott and her husband, Bob Scott (Gilbert, AZ); his son, David Ramsay and his wife, Kimberly (Binghamton, NY); five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He was also survived by his first wife Bertha Thomas (Boulder, CO) and second wife Margaret Ramsay (Tucson, AZ).

He was predeceased by his third wife, Charlotte in 1995; and his sister, Jean Claudia (Ramsay) Bower in 2014.

A memorial service is planned for February in Santa Barbara, where a concert of his compositions will be presented. His ashes will be committed at sea the following day.