

William Topolsky Obituary



William Topolsky, born in 1932 in Pittsburgh, PA, passed away on March 12, 2024, in Rockville, MD with his beloved wife, Linda, at his side. He is preceded in death by his parents, Morris and Henrietta Topolsky, and brother Boris Tarpell. Surviving are his wife, Linda Pryor; her children Howard Pryor and Gesine Pryor-Azevedo (Jason); brother David Topolsky (Susan), sisters Joan Sweet and Frances Santore (John); sister-in-law Noreen Tarpell, and a host of cousins, nephews, a niece, great-nephews and great-nieces.

Bill was an alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh and American University, and lived most of his adult life in Washington, DC working for the State Department's Agency for International Development (USAID) and Institute of International Education (IIE) as a Program Officer writing the programs for and often escorting visiting Fulbright and other scholars during their tours of the U.S. In the sixties, he also taught English to Congolese at the Universite' Lovanium in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Bill was culturally curious, linguistically focused, fluent in three languages with knowledge of many, a voracious reader and had an acerbic wit. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Though Bill traveled widely for his work and in retirement with his wife Linda, he always considered Pittsburgh his home, and it is fitting that he returned there for his last voyage, where he was interred on March 15, 2024.

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