



Bill Resch with Sister-in-law

Bill Resch was one of our very best buddies at Campbell High School. He passed away on August 7, 2014. Bill's call to Buccaneer fame was as a legendary trumpet player in Campbell High's widely acclaimed Saints Stage Jazz Band. Bill was a quiet, unassuming person with a great sense of humor, but heads turned when he picked up his horn. Reading jazz music is a challenge for most musicians and only the very best survive to reach professional status. Bill was all of that, yet took his extraordinary skills a step farther. He possessed the unique talent of being able to improvise on trumpet solos better than anyone I knew in high school, including the many fine musicians attending other secondary schools in the San Jose area. We often equated him with Miles Davis, who was Bill's idol as a musician. Always connected to the driving chords of a jazz piece, his special gift--without question, Bill's most precious talent--was that he could add every ounce of his soul to the music he virtually created with his improvisations. By the time he graduated from Campbell High, he was so good at this that he joined the musician's union to play professionally with various jazz groups and in support of a number of notable celebrity performances as the lead trumpet at San Jose's Performing Arts Center. Bill graduated from SJSU with a baccalaureate degree, received his teaching certificate and then taught music in the San Jose Unified School District until June 2006. He instructed young people to play all of the usual band instruments, from guitar and strings to the brass instruments. He also served as the music coordinator for Broadway, San Jose. In that role he hired musicians for a large number of local productions. For over 37 years, Bill was an active member of the American Musical Theatre of San Jose. As he now closes his chapter in the Book of Life, the world of music already misses him. We, his classmates and friends for life, offer our deepest condolences to Bill's loving wife, Pamela.

Craig Bradford
Buccaneer
Class of 1962

