



## William Thomas Bekeza

April 26, 1950 - February 5, 2022

William Thomas Bekeza, 71, of Pueblo West, CO, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 5, 2022. Bill (Zeke) was born in Howell, MI on April 26, 1950 and moved with his family to Chicago Heights, IL in 1954. He was preceded in death by his parents Lewis & Kay Bekeza; his brother, Pat Bekeza; and his sister, Doreen Bekeza. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Jackie; his 3 daughters, Jayde (Joe) Easton, Taylor (Tom) Clarke, and Laycee (Travis) Rexroth; 6 grandchildren, Beck (Lindsey) Easton, Lexi Easton (Leroy Mora); Graycie and Maddie Joe Easton, Saydie and Sophie Rexroth, Jayce Clarke; 3 great grandchildren, Easton Mora, Samuel and Stella Easton; his sister, Barbara Carter and brother, Mike Bekeza. Bill graduated from Bloom Township High School in Chicago Heights IL in 1968 and then went on to college at (SCSC/USC) CSU-Pueblo CO. He was inducted for basketball in the Hall of Fame at CSU-Pueblo with the team of 1971-72. Bill has always been an avid golfer and has won several tournaments including City Park Championship and Canon City Open many times. He was a member of the Pueblo West Desert Hawk Golf Course Men's Club for many years and successfully won several of their tournaments. Because of his love of golf, he was always willing to mentor the younger up-and-coming golfers in town. He loved playing golf with anyone and everyone. He was a railroad engineer for Missouri Pacific and then Union Pacific Railroad until his retirement in 2005. He always enjoyed gambling in Cripple Creek and going to Las Vegas. He married Patricia (Taravella) Bekeza in 1971 and had 3 daughters. Together

they owned the Dairy Dutchess and Bekeza's Gift Shop for a short time. After his divorce, he met Jacqueline (Doyle) Bekeza back in Chicago at a Class Reunion. Bill and Jackie were friends since the 6th Grade in 1961. They were married in 1994 in Pueblo West. In 2001 they purchased the Tumbleweed Tavern in Pueblo West until they sold it to their daughter and son-in-law, Taylor & Tom Clarke in 2016. There will be no viewing. A celebration of his life will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, February 20, 2022, in the Desert Hawk Golf Course Cart Barn (dress appropriately because of no heat). Paster Beck Easton, Bill's grandson, will be officiating the service. Following immediately, there will be an "Irish Wake" at the Tumbleweed Tavern. There will be an open mic at the Tumbleweed and we would appreciate you sharing your stories about Bill (Zeke). In lieu of flowers or those who desire to make a donation, we support the Sangre de Cristo Hospice, 1207 Pueblo Blvd. Way, Pueblo CO 81005. Their employees were the first angels Bill met on his journey to Heaven.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

FEB **20**. 3:00 PM (MT)

Desert Hawk Golf Course Cart Barn  
251 McCulloch Blvd  
Pueblo West, CO 81007

# Tribute Wall

JE

“ To my friend, my father-in-law, and my golfing buddy.... You will be missed... but never forgotten... I will miss you...a life well lived....RIP.

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**Joe Easton** - February 20, 2022 at 11:04 AM

LC

“ My thoughts and love go out to Jayde and her sisters and their families at the loss of their daddy and papa. I first met Bill when Jayde was at Central and both her parents were great people and just a joy to be around. I am sad for their loss. Good man, who loved his family, was a helluva golfer and a joy to know, in any capacity, whether for a few moments or, as for many, a lifetime. Again, my deepest condolences and most sincere sympathy.

*Lois Conatore-Houpe,  
aka "Ms. C" from Central*

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**Lois Conatore-Houpe** - February 19, 2022 at 02:57 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of William Thomas Bekeza.



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February 18, 2022 at 09:18 PM

BS

“ My condolences to the Bekeza family. I have a ton of memories of Bill and golfing stories! Rest in peace my friend, you will never be forgotten.

Bill Schroeder - February 14, 2022 at 11:12 PM

KM

“ Bill was such a light and good friend and golf buddy! We are so sorry for your loss. Sending prayers and hugs ❤️👍



Keith Matic - February 14, 2022 at 08:22 PM

RI

“ One of the golf icons in Pueblo who was always so supportive of anyone he played with in tournaments. Nicest person I knew, along with all the other brothers. Always looked forward to seeing ZEKE, when I went to golf course.

Ron Ivan - February 14, 2022 at 02:19 PM

MM

“ To Jackie and the Bekeza family, please accept my condolences for your loss. Bill and I were best friends during our high school years, even going as far back to junior high in Chicago Heights. A gifted and superior athlete in his teenage years. His athleticism was only exceeded by his friendship and loyalty. His memory will never be forgotten.

Michael Marczyk

Michael Marczyk - February 13, 2022 at 02:01 PM

MB

*Thank you for you kind words.*

**mike bekeza** - February 14, 2022 at 12:02 AM

SS

“ *Bill was one of two big brothers to one of my best friends, Mike Bekeza! Bill was a great guy, a great athlete, and a great brother to Mike, Pat, Barb, and Doreen. I loved, and love, the Bekezas (including Mrs. Bekeza and Lew-Da Boo-Da Koo.) He is already much missed.*

**Steve Small** - February 12, 2022 at 09:49 PM

MB

*Such kind words. God Bless you and yours!*

**mike bekeza** - February 14, 2022 at 12:01 AM

MS

“ *I always think of the tall lanky guy with the great smile and laugh when passing by Idlewild and Glenwoodie country clubs and when hearing the song It's a Beautiful Morning which we always sang on the ride to golf outings. Also remember fondly a second shot he hit on the par 4 11th hole at Glenwoodie. It was destined for the water when it hit a large tree and ended up in the hole for an eagle 2! Always enjoyed our happy times together with Jackie and Bill at the reunions. Many thanks to Jackie for her love and care during Bill's illness. We know how much she loved him. Heartfelt condolences to Jackie and Family. Much Love,*

*Mickey and Taffy*

**Michael Scrementi** - February 12, 2022 at 01:17 PM

MB

*Thank you Mick! Will miss him dearly.*

**mike bekeza** - February 13, 2022 at 11:59 PM

TS

“ *Bill Bekeza was part of the most proficient brother combination in Colorado State University Pueblo basketball history. Bill Bekeza followed his brother Pat to then-Southern Colorado State College in the late 1960s to become the first brother combination to play together at the school during the 1968-1969 season when the then-Indians captured the inaugural Great Plains Athletic Conference title.*

*A four-year letterman at SCSC, Bill Bekeza teamed with Dan England, Steve Kidd, Cal Tatum and Jim von Loh to lead the school to the NCAA College Division ‘elite eight’ finals in Evansville, Ind., after the Indians won the West Regionals at Massari Gym by defeating UC Irvine and Seattle Pacific.*

*Bill Bekeza scored 46 points in the three 1972 NCAA games highlighted by a 28-point effort in his final collegiate game as SCSC was defeated by Akron 92-77 in the Evansville quarter-finals. He finished his senior season by averaging 15.5 points, 5.2 rebounds and 3.0 assists a game.*

*Playing on SCSC teams that posted 14-10, 13-12, 15-10 and 19-9 records, Bill Bekeza scored 933 points and grabbed 318 rebounds in 79 games during his four-season career at SCSC. Combined with his brother’s points, the Bekeza scored 2,207 points in 164 games (13.4 points per game).*

*RIP Bill and I know you and Pat are now chatting with "The Chief"! Both Bill and Pat left us way too early. Two hard-nosed competitors, but more importantly, good friends. Tim Simmons*

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**Tim Simmons** - February 12, 2022 at 01:41 AM

MB

*Funny, the last college games they played, both had their best games against stellar competition.*

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**mike bekeza** - February 13, 2022 at 11:55 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Thomas Bekeza.*



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February 11, 2022 at 07:20 PM