

How does one capture a lifetime in a few short paragraphs? It is not possible, especially considering the immense contributions that Bill Lamb made to our community.

Many of Bill's close circle have stories that go back further and have more detailed knowledge of all his projects and contributions. My stories date to shortly after I moved to Charlestown in the late 1990's. I am honored to have known Bill as a fellow architect, Charlestown Preservation Society member, Design Review Committee member, Charlestown neighbor, community advocate and friend.

My first community involvement in Charlestown was attending the Central Artery North Area Parcel development meetings. These were Charlestown Neighborhood Council meetings held at the old Knights of Columbus building, and it was at one of these meetings I heard Bill Lamb speak for the first time.

Bill's comments were always thoughtful and carefully crafted. He had a quiet, gentlemanly manner, but he was a fierce advocate working to protect our community, its fabric, culture and architectural character. I have a vague recollection of introducing myself to him at one of these meetings: me as an excited newcomer and Bill as a pillar of the community standing up for the architectural heritage and cohesion of Charlestown.

Bill loved the community that was his home for his adult life and where his business was located. His life's work shaped or influenced much of what has been built (or not built) in Charlestown in the last forty-plus years. It was rare that I attended a community meeting where he was not in attendance. As the longtime chair of the CPS Design Review Committee, he dedicated significant time, wrote countless letters, attended numerous zoning hearings, Boston Landmarks Commission and other meetings and worked tirelessly with project proponents, all in the name of improving our community.

Bill was kind and respectful to all and the ultimate professional. His work for the community was far beyond volunteering: it was a personal passion. We owe a huge debt of gratitude for all he has done. I was fortunate to host Bill and his wife Carol in my home and lucky enough to be part of a special 75 birthday celebration for him that seems like yesterday. In the time since Bill's passing, when I come home to Charlestown I feel the emptiness: part of the soul of Charlestown is missing.

The architect Ludwig Mies Van der Rohe is famously quoted for his line, "God is in the details." In Charlestown, when you look at the details on countless projects, renovations and planning, Bill is in the details. His professional hand and heart will live on forever in Charlestown. My deepest sympathy to his friends and family. We have lost one of the great ones.

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