



# SHIFTING SANDS



## Grand Commander's Message

### The Passing of a Legend

As you know, Porto #104 lost a great friend and avid supporter when Bill Fuchs died at the age of 98 on Saturday, January 6, after a lengthy illness. I hope everyone had the opportunity to read the various emails that circulated about Bill's passing including PCI President Leo Alonso's touching memory of Bill.

Bill did a wonderful job of supporting Porto #104 during his 42 years of membership. Bill served in several positions on the Grand Divan and he served as Grand Commander. Bill also made numerous contributions to the Order of Alhambra especially when he served as the national Supreme Vizer.

I met Bill many years ago when he served as an usher at St. Leo the Great Church. Bill was always the well-dressed usher that had a smile for everyone and was willing to help any parishioner who had a problem. I was impressed with Bill's positive energy even though our relationship was limited to a quick acknowledgement at the end of Mass.

Our relationship changed the first Sunday that I brought Meagan to Mass. We were anxious about bringing Meagan to church since we were not sure how she would react to the

crowds. Our fears were realized when Megan began to fuss during Mass. I decided to take Meagan to the back of the church and I passed Bill as I was exiting our pew.

Bill approached us after Mass and I was concerned that he was not happy with the small commotion that Meagan had caused. To my great surprise, Bill told me that everything was fine and that he simply wanted to congratulate us for having such a beautiful baby. While I didn't realize it at the time, Bill had recognized that Meagan was special, and he wanted to offer whatever support we might need.

Our weekly ritual quickly became speaking to Bill after Sunday Mass with Meagan giving him a weekly hug. Bill was always interested in Meagan and followed her development over the years until his health began to decline.

I relate this story to illustrate that Bill always cared about people especially those with developmental disabilities. His random act of kindness years ago to a young family with a special needs child left a lasting impression on us. He will be missed.

*Grand Commander Bill Mundy*