

April 22, 2022

Dear AIR John Stecklein Distinguished Member Committee,

Your notification of Bill being given the AIR John Stecklein Distinguished Member Award has simply overwhelmed me. It is with deep gratitude that I accept this honor on behalf of my late husband, William Knight. Bill would have been deeply moved by the respect and affection displayed in his AIR colleagues' numerous letters of support. I don't think that Bill was aware of just how much his integrity, support, leadership, and friendship meant to so many people.

I am looking forward to recognizing and celebrating Bill's accomplishments during the 9:00 am closing ceremony of the AIR conference on June 9, 2022. I would like to express my appreciation for the support that AIR has extended to make it possible for me to attend. Bill always shared when the call for conference proposals would go out. He often discussed his thoughts on topics for his presentations, who he would be partnering with, and which forum or panel discussions he was participating in with me. Bill was in his element. His love of teaching, focus, quiet authority, innate ability to make everyone feel important, and a drive to see a change in the institutional research and effectiveness field made Bill a unique individual. Bill's birthday is June 6 at the start of the conference. There is no other place Bill would rather be, which I think is quite fitting.

This letter has been emotionally challenging to write, and it is difficult for me to express what your kindness means to me. I wish that Bill was able to accept this well-deserved honor himself. One of the worst fears to have as a surviving significant other is that your loved one will be forgotten. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for remembering my Bill.

My Best,

*Adriene Knight*