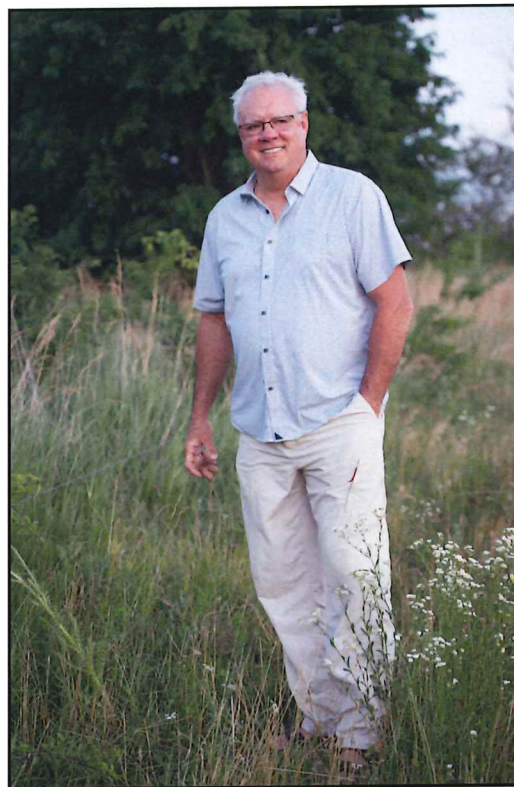


## WILLIAM “BILL” WELDON CUNNINGHAM, III

**B**ILL WAS BORN TO THE LATE MR. AND MRS. CUNNINGHAM ON NOVEMBER 24, 1954. BILL WAS A 3-sport star at Carbon Hill High School and graduated in 1973. His athletic ability garnered him an Honorable Mention All-State award as the Bulldog Quarterback in 1972. Perhaps the highlight in this season was a brilliant performance in the 27-0 victory over Marion County. Their only loss in 3 seasons. In the recruiting period prior to his senior basketball season, Bill faced a huge challenge of choosing between Alabama, his favorite team, and Auburn who was willing to allow him to play basketball and football. In the end, Coach Shug Jordan’s willingness to allow him to play basketball was the deciding factor in Bill becoming an Auburn Tiger. After this choice, he was



ready for his senior basketball season. The season was highlighted with him scoring 19 points in the Bulldogs triumph over Dora in the County Championship game. Bill was selected as a member of the state basketball Super 12 players in 1973. With all these awards in hand, he moved to Auburn and played on the JV football team in his freshman season. After this he became a special teams “head hunter,” punter protector and occasional snapper. His career concluded with him starting as a safety his last season on the Plains. He was loved by his teammates and was selected game captain on many occasions. Bill graduated from Auburn with a degree in Electrical Engineering and finished up the last 25 years of his working career as investment banker. Bill had a 3-purpose goal in his life. The first was a master to serve and that was Jesus Christ. The second was a woman to love and that was his spouse, Michele, and this also included their family of 5 children and 9 grandchildren. Lastly was a hill to die on or in other words stand up for what is right. Bill lived his entire life with this mindset until his battle with Covid-19 ended on March 21, 2021. Bill and Michele helped start the Campus Outreach at both Montevallo University and Troy University. So, in the end, Bill will be much more remembered as a life servant and not as a football star.