

# BILL STANFILL

DEFENSIVE END DOLPH

'One of the greatest linemen to ever play the game'

# BILL STANFILL

As is the case with his beloved Georgia Bulldogs and Miami Dolphins, William Thomas "Bill" Stanfill will always have a special place in his heart for Merry Acres Inn.

That's where he met and courted the young woman, Gail Dozier, who would become his wife.

#### BILL STANFILL

Born Jan. 13, 1947, Stanfill was a football, basketball and track-and-field star at Cairo High School, where he led his team to three region championships and was selected as Georgia's Class AA lineman of the year as a senior. He also was led Cairo to the state basketball championship and was named state tournament MVP, and won three state titles in discus and shot put.

#### BILL STANFILL

From 1966 to 1968, he dominated the college gridiron as a defensive tackle for the University of Georgia. The Bulldogs had a 25-6-2 record, went to three bowl games and won two SEC titles. Stanfill was voted all-Southeastern Conference in 1966-68 and in 1968 he was team captain, team MVP, All-American, Academic All-American, and was awarded the Outland Trophy as college football's best interior lineman. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from UGA

#### BILL STANFILL

Vince Dooley, Georgia's esteemed coach, said of Stanfill: "He was everything you'd want in a defensive tackle. He combined speed, size, range, quickness and competitiveness to make him one of the greatest linemen to ever play the game."



#### BILL STANFILL

Stanfill played defensive end for the Miami Dolphins from 1969-76; in his rookie season, he recorded eight sacks and returned two interceptions for touchdowns, earning a berth in the 1969 AFL All-Star Game.

Over the next two seasons, he had 12½ sacks, leading the vastly improving Dolphins to the Super Bowl in 1971.

Then came perfection.

#### BILL STANFILL

He notched 10 sacks during the Dolphins' historic 17-0 Super Bowl-winning season and 18½ sacks – still at team record – in 1973 as Miami successfully defended its national championship. In 1973 and 1974, he had five sacks in a single game, which also is still a team record. He went to the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl from 1971 through 1974.

#### BILL STANFILL

Stanfill heroically battled serious knee and neck injuries in 1975 and 1976, but still contributed largely to the Dolphins' defense, recording 10½ sacks over those two seasons. He retired with 67½ career sacks and has been selected to the Miami Dolphins All-Time team and Honor Roll.

#### BILL STANFILL

After retiring from football, Stanfill became president and broker of Dozier/Stanfill Real Estate Co. in Albany, which owned Merry Acres Inn & Restaurant provided real estate brokerage in rural, farm, timber and recreational properties.



# BILL STANFILL

Stanfill was selected to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary All-SEC team, Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame. He says one of his greatest honors was being selected to the Regions SEC Business Hall of Fame, which recognizes former SEC students who excelled in amateur athletics and business.

#### BILL STANFILL

He credits his athletic and business success to his coaches: West Thomas and Tommy Taylor at Cairo High School; Vince Dooley and Erk Russell at Georgia; and the Dolphins' Don Shula and Bill Arnsparger. And, there was his mother, Muriel Stanfill.

"She made it clear to me that I would stay on the straight and narrow path and do my best at all times or else I would get my butt whipped," Stanfill told Georgia Trend magazine.

## BILL STANFILL

Despite sustaining career-ended injuries that tormented him throughout retirement, and turning down 60 basketball scholarship offers and six track-and-field offers, Stanfill says he'd choose football all over again.

DEFENSIVE END . DOLPHINS

"I liked to hit people," said Stanfill, who was 6' 5" and played at 245 pounds. "I never talked trash to anyone, but when I would line up against my foe I would say to myself 'I am going to whip his a--."

# BILL STANFILL

The Georgia General Assembly made sure that the big-hitting Bulldog and Dolphin great will be forever honored: Highway 84 in Cairo is designated the "Bill Stanfill Highway."









