



Commander William Roland Campbell Jr.

October 7, 1921 - March 14, 2017

William R. "Bill" Campbell passed away quietly in the early morning on March 14 in Chestertown, Maryland. He celebrated his 95th birthday last October, surrounded by his children, grandchildren and great grandchil-dren. It was a noisy and happy day. During his waning months, he often mused about how lucky he was and what a great life he had led. Born in 1921 in Philadelphia, PA, Bill graduated from Media High (PA). He at-tended the Bullis School in preparation for entrance into the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) in 1941. Bill graduated with the Class of '45 in 1944, a year early due to the War. While at USNA, he played lacrosse and con-tributed his cartoons to The Log, under the nickname "Soup." On June 10, 1944, Bill married Virginia "Ginny" Lawrence at her Moylan, PA home, after which they gathered their tire rations and headed off for a short honeymoon in Atlantic City, NJ. They celebrated 63 years of mar-riage before Ginny passed away in 2007.

Bill served in the Pacific on the USS Melvin, and fought in what history considers "the last great sea battle," the Battle of Surigao Straits in Leyte Gulf. The Melvin sank the Japanese battleship, FUSO. Bill always en-joyed regaling his family and friends with the pithy details of this very im-portant event.

Following service on the Melvin and then the James E. Kyes, Bill left the China service to attend the Submarine School in Groton, CT. He served aboard USS Sirago and USS Tusk, and then returned to Groton to teach engineering and tactics. In 1953, he commissioned the USS Thornback as Executive Officer, but then crushed his heel in an accident that ul-ti-mately resulted in him leaving the U.S. Navy, ending a dream of a life-time of naval service. In 1954, Bill joined the DuPont Company, eventu-ally moving to Delaware, and in 1968 he ran Russ Peterson's successful campaign for Governor of Delaware. Bill always enjoyed a good political discussion! He then joined John Rollins & Associates as President in 1969, where he oversaw development for Rollins Jamaica, Ltd. Bill and Ginny returned to Annapolis in 1974 to be near their USNA friends and begin a new chapter in Bill's life as a Director for the General Services Administration in Washington, D.C. After retiring from the Federal Gov-ernment, he was hired by the City of Annapolis where he served as Di-rector of Public Works for three consecutive Mayors. Bill

thoroughly enjoyed the unique challenges of overseeing the docks, and re-bricking and burying the power lines on Annapolis' historic and popular Main Street.

Bill was active in many professional and service organizations through-out his life. He was most proud of his Scottish heritage and his tenure as the President of the St. Andrews Society of Baltimore. Bill cut quite a handsome figure in his full Scottish regalia! Bill was also loyal to all things Navy. Joining classmates each fall, he and Ginny were active tailgaters and had 50-yard-line tickets for USNA football games. "Look Alive with '45" and "Beat Army" were his mantras. Bill was an avid sailor and a lousy golfer. He and Ginny traveled the world and enjoyed many family vacations at Dewey Beach (DE), Lake Wallenpaupack (PA) and Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Bill Campbell was the oldest of six and is survived by his sister, Virginia Hodges, and four brothers Don (Dot), Bruce (Bobbi), Steve (Lisa) and Bob (Penny) Campbell; his children Carol (William) Spiker, Nancy (Mark) Howard, William (Connie) Campbell, III, Jean Tullier and Barbara (Dan) Citrenbaum; and 10 grandchildren, Peter Craig, Tom and Mike Spiker, Christian Howard, Amanda and Andrew Campbell, Tori Tullier, Caroline, Peter and Robbie Zonino, plus nine great-grandchildren. Besides his family, Bill will be greatly missed by many at Heron Point --- most especially by his very special friend, Polly and his 'church buddy,' Louise.

A memorial will be held at Heron Point in Chestertown, MD on Saturday, April 1 at 2pm. A funeral service will be held at the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel on Thursday, May 11 at 2pm. Contributions may be made to Compass Hospice, 255 Comet Drive, Centreville, MD 21617 or via www.compassregionalhospice.org.

For directions to the U.S. Naval Academy, please visit <https://www.usna.edu/Visit/Directions.php>

Cemetery Details

United States Naval Academy Cemetery Columbarium

United States Naval Academy
Annapolis, MD 21401

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 1. 2:00 PM (ET)

Wesley Hall at Heron Point
501 E. Campus Ave
Chestertown, MD

Service

MAY 11. 2:00 PM (ET)

United States Naval Academy Chapel
United States Naval Academy
Annapolis, MD 21402

Tribute Wall



“ *Commander William Roland Campbell Jr.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Commander William Roland Campbell Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Commander William Roland Campbell Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Bill and his family were always very nice to me. I enjoyed his company and sharing stories of sailing adventures. My deepest sympathy to all those close to him.*

Eric Peltosalo

Eric Peltosalo - March 27, 2017 at 09:57 AM



Thank you for your heartfelt thoughts, your memories mean a lot to our family. Barb

Barbara Campbell Zonino - March 31, 2017 at 09:55 PM



“ *I am sorry to hear my big brother died and sorry I did not get to see him again. He was a great big brother! I will miss him.*

Virginia Campbell Hodgen

Virginia Campbell Hodgen - March 24, 2017 at 10:51 AM



We love you Aunt Gin, thank you for your loving thoughts.

Barbara Campbell Zonino - March 31, 2017 at 09:56 PM

PM

“ MY HUSBAND AND I ENJOYED BILL AND GINNY'S COMPANY AT PBCC. BILL GRACIOUSLY SHARED HIS NAVAL EXPERIENCES WITH US AND THE PLEBES WE SPONSORED. GINNY WAS IN MY GO-OUT-TO-LUNCH GROUP, A LOVELY LADY.

MY HUSBAND PAUL IS ALSO IN THE USNA COLUMBARIUM SO BILL WILL BE IN GOOD COMPANY.

SINCERELY, PAT MCMANUS

Pat McManus - March 23, 2017 at 12:42 PM

BZ

It are memories like yours that bring us peace and sustained love, thank you.

Barbara Campbell Zonino - March 31, 2017 at 09:57 PM

CC

“ Our deepest sympathies to your entire family during this difficult time. Mr. Bill has deeply affected each one of us who helped care for him. It truly was an honor to know him and enjoyed his wonderful stories of his life and his travels. The staff at Loving Touch Home Care, LLC.



Cheryl Conaway-Dill - March 15, 2017 at 01:58 PM

BZ

Loving Touch Home care was exceptional, thank you for taking care of our father.

Barbara Campbell Zonino - March 31, 2017 at 09:58 PM