



William D. Ritchie

MAY 17, 1930 - DEC 30, 2010



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William D. Ritchie, 80, of Rehoboth Beach, passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday, December 30, 2010 with his loving wife at his side.

Mr. Ritchie was born in Butler, Pa. but spent most summers in Rehoboth Beach where his family maintained a second home. The family later moved to Rehoboth Beach and Bill graduated from Rehoboth High School in 1948. Immediately after graduation he joined the U.S. Navy, serving during the Korean conflict.

Following his military discharge, he studied English Literature and History at the University of Delaware, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1954. After graduation he took a position as an Insurance Agent with Liberty Mutual in New Jersey. Later Bill worked and lived in New York City and retired in 1993 from Bally of Switzerland, a high-end importer of shoes and leather goods. In 1994, he relocated with his wife, Silvia, to Rehoboth Beach, and worked part-time for Lenox China for many years.

Bill's biggest enjoyment was being a volunteer with the Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation as a Ship's Guide and as part of the restoration crew, "The Dirty Hands Gang." One of the highlights of his work with the Foundation was being part of the crew that brought back the Overfalls Lightship from Norfolk to Lewes after its hull repair.

Bill was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rehoboth Beach, where he served for nine years as Deacon. The children of Westminster loved Bill's humor in his various roles during Vacation Bible School and remember him as the crazy professor, the rabbi and other characters. Bill served on several committees at Westminster as well and was a founding member of the Cape Henlopen Food Basket. He also served as President of both the Eagles Landing II Home Owners' Association and the Eagles Landing Master Home Owners' Association for many years.

Bill is survived by his wife of 32 years, Silvia; two sisters, Chervyl (Sis) Maloney and husband Harold, and Peggy Tappan and husband William Tappan, both of Rehoboth Beach; two



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daughters, Paula and husband Walter Goff, Brenda, and husband Mark Mariani both of Houston, Tx.; son Keith Ritchie of Atlanta, Ga.; daughter-in-law Dana Ritchie of Atlanta, Ga.; six grandchildren, Melissa Santiago and husband Michael of Houston, Tex.; Amanda Goff and fiancé Josh Erwin, of Austin, Tex.; Erik and Matthew Mariani of Houston, Tex.; Collin and Erin Ritchie, of Atlanta, Ga.; two great-grandchildren Mia and Max Santiago; and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 15 at 11 a.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 301 King Charles Ave. at Laurel Street, Rehoboth Beach. Friends may call from 10:00 to 10:45 at the church. Burial service will be private.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Westminster Presbyterian Church, Building Fund, 301 King Charles Ave, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971, or Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation, P.O. Box 413, Lewes, DE 19958

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Tribute Wall

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MG

Mary Planding (George) posted:

Dearest Sylvia, You may not remember me, but in the late 70s I worked with you at Solvay et Cie. I was Dr. Gerlitzky's secretary for about a year. I was so sad to see that Bill just passed away. I will always remember his (and your) kindness, graciousness and quirky sense of humor. You were so blessed to have a full, wonderful life together. I hope those memories make his passing more bearable with time. Kindest regards, Mary Planding (formerly Mary George)

March 15 at 8:00 PM

JM

Joanne/John Matthews posted:

God bless and take care of you Sylvia. Bill is home now.

January 12 at 8:00 PM

JG

Jackie Guest posted:

Silvia, I was so sorry to hear about Bill's passing. He was such a good man and I loved working with him at Lenox. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family at this very sad time. Jackie

January 8 at 8:00 PM

MS

Melissa Santiago posted:

Grandad Bill will be missed, but always remembered by his loving granddaughter and family. One memory I will never forget is, we spent Christmas in NYC with him and Grand Silvia. Grand Silvia cooked fondue, there a Christmas tree with real lite candles, in the background was the view of the empire state building lite red and green. Grandad was telling a story only he could create of how he found a gold coin at the end of the rainbow. I still have that gold Martin Luther King coin. I will miss his stories. Xoxo

January 4 at 8:00 PM

PI

Pat Niand, Stan Iwamoto posted:

Thank you, Bill, for being such a wonderful friend and neighbor. We will always remember sharing meals, stories and laughter with you. Eagles Landing will never be the same.

January 4 at 8:00 PM



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HS

Henry Wytko & Randy Sanders posted:

Silvia, sorry to hear of the passing of Bill. You have our deepest sympathies. and we'll be there for the services.

January 4 at 8:00 PM

LA

Linda & Phil Alexander posted:

Our sympathies to all the family...especially our dear friend Brenda Mariani and family...in the loss of your dear father...

January 3 at 8:00 PM

MS

Michael Santiago posted:

Bill was a fantastic grandad, friend, and chef. I was lucky to spend time with him and Sylvia in Rehobeth Beach on Labor Day weekends and their visits to Texas. He will be missed greatly but never forgotten!

January 3 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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