



Rev. William Benjamin "Bill" Hitchens

August 22, 1923 - November 14, 2020

The Rev. William Benjamin "Bill" Hitchens, age 97 of Seaford, DE, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Saturday, November 14, 2020, at the Manor House in Seaford, DE. He was born on August 22, 1923 in Laurel, DE, son of the late William and Julia Elizabeth (Hobbs) Hitchens.

Rev. Hitchens graduated from Georgetown High School, the University of Delaware, where he played right wing on the men's soccer team, and the Westminster Theological Seminary. He served in the United States Army during WWII. He was an ordained Clergyman of the United Methodist Church and was very passionate about his calling to be a Methodist Minister and Hospital Chaplain. Rev. Hitchens served churches in Felton, Clayton, New Castle and Wilmington, DE for over 29 years. He also served as a chaplain for many years at the Governor Bacon Center in Delaware City, DE, the Medical Center of Delaware, and the Christiana Hospital. Bill was an avid reader and loved browsing in bookstores and collecting books. He enjoyed writing poetry and was active in the poetry group at the Manor House in Seaford for several years. He also enjoyed bird watching and gardening and loved Rio Samba roses.

In addition to his parents, Rev. Hitchens was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 58 years, Jean Henry Hitchens, and his brother John (Jack) H. Hitchens. He is survived by his daughters: Jeannette (Jennie) H. Ashby of Millsboro, DE and Julia H. Orescan (David) of Landenberg, PA; his son, Christopher E. Hitchens (Susan Krouner) of Gaithersburg, MD; his grandchildren: Nicholas Benjamin Krouner Hitchens (Fallon), Jordan Elizabeth Krouner Hitchens, Elissa Caroline Orescan, and Leah Jeannette Orescan; and his great-grandchildren: Theodore William Schultz Hitchens and Silas Arthur Schultz Hitchens. He was a loving and true patriarch to our family and will be deeply missed.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in Rev. Hitchens' memory to the New Castle Public Library, 424 Delaware St., New Castle, DE 19720, the Delaware Botanic

Gardens, P.O. Box 1390, Ocean View, DE 19970 or the Bright Focus Foundation, 22512
Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg, MD 20871

Please sign the online guestbook located on the tribute page.

Comments



“ We were sad to read about Reverend Hitchens passing. We enjoyed visiting and talking with him. He was truly a gentle man and always had a great smile. Jennie, Chris and Julia we are sorry for your loss. May he rest in peace.
Fred and Darlene English Seaford, De

Fred English - November 23, 2020 at 10:23 PM



“ In the 50's we were Clayton neighbors and came to know the Hitchens family well in the neighborhood and at the church. Later, both families moved to Wilmington at about the same time and we attended the church at Brack-Ex. Time passed, we moved again and we drifted apart. Years later, my father, in his later years, was quite ill and was hospitalized. His spirits were lifted when he discovered that his old friend, Bill, was the Chaplain visiting his room. To our family, Bill was simply what every minister should strive to be. I am glad he was given 97 years to make a positive impact on the lives of others. Condolences to my childhood friend, Jennie, and all other family members.

Ray Hancock

Ray Hancock - November 22, 2020 at 04:33 PM



“ So sorry to read of your dad's passing. He was a friend and neighbor to our family for many years and presided at our wedding 45 years ago. Walt Talley, former next door neighbor at 521 Delaware St.

Walter Talley - November 21, 2020 at 08:08 AM



“ ago
My heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Reverend Hitchens. My husband and I are of New Castle DE. Reverend Hitchens married us on a rainy Thursday in a private home over 35 years ago. The ceremony went well, we had refreshments and the Reverend went on to his fishing trip. He was a very nice man.

Catherine Travers - November 21, 2020 at 12:15 AM



“ Rev. Hltchens' was our pastor at Silverbrook United Methodist Church in Wilmington many years ago. He was very kind and made everyone feel welcome. When my grandmother was in the hospital, I had stopped at the parsonage to ask if I could use the church to pray. He was gracious enough to pray with me and then let me have my alone time in the sanctuary. My grandmother passed just after and Reverend Hitchens sat with our family to discuss the service. Just his presence with us made us feel at peace and his comforting words gave us all hope that we would get through the difficult time ahead.

Please except my condolences on the passing of your father, Reverend Hltchens.

Blessings,
Cathy Jackson-Horgan

Cathy Jackson - November 20, 2020 at 06:21 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers to Jennie, Chris and Julie. I have so many fund memories of your Dad. From confirmation to checking on David when he was born and had some problems to being there when my aunt and mother passed away. The three you, as well as both your mom and dad will always hold a very special place in my heart!!

Marsha Sklut Bright - November 20, 2020 at 05:21 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to your family, I have very fond memories of a very beloved man, I remember his beautiful library above the kitchen - and the care he took with his yard, garden and fish pond. As you grieve for his passing, look for the hidden blessings in every day - and be comforted that he made a difference and taught many of us the ways to 'live well' - - Linda A. Esposito

Linda A. Esposito/Hurd - November 20, 2020 at 11:12 AM



“ My deepest sympathies to all the family of Rev. Hitchens. I will keep his children, who are my cousins through his late wife, and their famillies in my prayers. Love, Nancy Tiley

Nancy Tiley - November 20, 2020 at 08:43 AM



“ Chris and family,
My condolences on the passing of Rev. Hitchens. A kind, caring man who served the Lord well.
Clayton Gebhart

Clayton Gebhart - November 20, 2020 at 12:31 AM



“ Rev Hitchens came to Asbury Methodist to officiate Patty and My wedding. I grew up in New Castle Methodist church family along with his family. I have many happy memories of our times at church with Bill and his family. He was an amazing teacher and wonderful man. The world is a lesser place with his passing. Rest In Peace reverend and God bless your family!

Steven Weyl - November 19, 2020 at 09:52 PM



“ Our sincere condolences to Julie, Chris and Jennie and families. Your family ment the world to us. Your dad married us 41 years ago and we are still going strong. Loves, hugs and prayers to get you through this difficult time.
Frank and Denise Esposito Lingenfelter

Denise E Lingenfelter - November 19, 2020 at 05:23 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Reverend Hitchens. My husband and I are of New Castle DE. Reverend Hitchens married us on a rainy Thursday in a private home over 35 years. ago. The ceremony went well, we had refreshments and the Reverend went on to his fishing trip. He was a very nice man.

Catherine Travers - November 20, 2020 at 03:12 AM