



William Lee Casteel

May 19, 1927 - December 21, 2018

William L (“Bill”) Casteel, 91, formerly of Terra Alta, WV and Somerset, PA left his mortal body on Dec. 21, 2018, at Penn Hall Nursing center in Chambersburg, PA. The winter solstice, a full moon, a Christmas comet, and the Perseid meteor shower all heralded his passing and would have pleased him immensely.

A naval veteran of World War II, he served in the Pacific Theater and survived a ship sinking at Buckner Bay, Okinawa during Typhoon Louise in October, 1945. He was one of the first Americans to visit Nagasaki after the war and appreciated the importance of our precious alliances to help preserve world peace.

Bill retired from Penelec in 1989. He was a highly creative individual with boundless curiosity, an engaging personality, and myriad achievements. He was well known among local artists, ham radio operators, history buffs, gun makers and marksmen. Some will remember his letters to the editor of the Somerset Daily American, which were frequent, forthright, and fiercely independent. Bill was at home in the woods or at the beach and was a natural musician with excellent pitch and a beautiful tenor voice. He enjoyed vast genres of music and taught himself to play many instruments. He also produced a remarkable collection of oil and acrylic paintings and a trove of distinctive watercolors. Bill was preceded in death by Eleanor Luthera (“Lou”) Casteel, his wife of 66 years. He is survived by a son, William Benson (“Ben”) Casteel of Tallahassee, FL and two daughters: Kay Casteel (m. Neil Coleman) of Mercersburg, PA and Carol Capps (m. William Capps) of Pittsburgh, PA. His grandchildren (Ashley Capps & James Capps, both of Pittsburgh; and Fiona Coleman of North Wales, PA) will remember him as a fount of information, a source of inspiration, a teller of many (often humorous) stories, and a man who loved them all dearly.

A memorial service is planned for 2:30pm, January 5th, 2019, at Penn Hall Chapel (now called Chambers Pointe) in Chambersburg, PA. As a Navy veteran, Bill requested that his ashes and those of his wife be buried at sea during a military service.

Comments



“ A father may pass on but his thoughts, hopes and dreams live on in us. Please accept my heartfelt condolences for your loss. \u2013 Tan Sarang.

tsarang@hotmail.com - January 07, 2019 at 09:49 AM



“ As a co-worker of Ben's here in Tallahassee, Florida, I didn't know Bill personally, but have heard Ben tell many stories and reflect on his Dad's life many times. He sounds like a truly fascinating man who lived life to the very fullest and loved those around him dearly. We can all learn an invaluable lesson from Bill in how to make the most of our short time here....creating memories, having a passion for learning and experiencing all that life has to offer. My prayers are with all of the family as they mourn the loss of this wonderful man. Al Sanders

Al Sanders - January 07, 2019 at 09:46 AM



“ Please accept my condolences,

Chunmei Zhu - January 04, 2019 at 08:24 PM



“ Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts.

Barbara Casteel and Family! - January 02, 2019 at 03:25 PM