



William Robert Schmidt

November 15, 1935 - December 24, 2016

William Robert Schmidt of White Stone, Virginia and most recently of Fort Myers, Florida passed away peacefully on December 24th at Joanne's Hospice House in Bonita Springs Florida. Bill was diagnosed with cancer only eight weeks prior to his death. He was 81 years young.

Bill was born in San Antonio, Texas to Edward and Dorthy Schmidt and lived an idyllic childhood fishing, hunting, building engines and racing outboard boats with his dad. Bill treasured his Texas memories of family, lifetime friendships and the exceptional opportunities given him at Alamo Heights High School. He always recognized how very privileged he had been to have attended Rice University in Houston, Texas. There he received an education in the school of engineering that propelled his career.

Upon graduation from Rice, Bill was chosen by Admiral Hyman Rickover to join a small, selective team of engineers who helped to design and maintain the first Nuclear Submarines. Not long after Bill completed his four year Naval commitment under Admiral Rickover, Bill joined a small startup company in Washington D.C. The company was called MPR Associates and it was formed to meet the upcoming needs of the nuclear power industry. The challenging environment of MPR was the perfect work atmosphere for Bill, so much so that he spent his entire career of 40 years working among some of what he believed were the finest engineers in the industry.

When it was time to retire, Bill purchased a 40 foot sail boat “Exodus,” and with his wife Linda, sailed the Bahamas as well as the Caribbean Island chain to Trinidad. After four years, they returned to the states to spend summers on the Chesapeake Bay and winters in Florida. Once back on land, Bill realized he was missing an important part of his life and returned to engineering consulting which he continued until the time of his death.

Bill was a devoted husband and father. He was honored to be married to Linda for 39 years and was the proud father of five children: Robert Schmidt of Denver, CO, William Schmidt of Vienna, VA, Gary Schmidt of Arlington, VA, Christopher Schmidt of Philadelphia, PA and Shannon Dougherty of Morrisville, NC. He delighted in each of his twelve grandchildren. Bill loved his family, his friends, his work, his co-workers, most boats, and Redskins football in that order.

Bill taught us about lists and order and priorities. He taught us every new day is a new opportunity to excel. Our hope is that we will always remember his strength of character, his persistence, his humility, his love, and his ability to forgive... and that we will make him proud.

Previous Events

Mass

DEC 30. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Columbkille Church
12171 Iona Road
Fort Myers, FL 33908

Tribute Wall



“ *William Robert Schmidt*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *William Robert Schmidt*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *I talked with Bill a year or so ago. He and I are cousins, and I called to share family history information with him. He was the grandson of my aunt Caroline Ries. I found him warm and friendly and regret learning of his passing. If any of his kids are interested in learning their Ries family history, they may contact me at EdRies@Telus.net*

Ed Ries

Edward Ries - March 27, 2017 at 08:54 PM