

William Naughton Black 1927 - 2009

He died peacefully at the age of 81, on August 2, 2009 at his home in Mount Juliet, Tennessee. Bill was born in Barre, Vermont August 20, 1927 a son of the late James and Isabella Black of Aberdeen, Scotland and Barre, Vermont.

Dr. Black was a graduate of Spaulding High School and Vermont Junior College, and served as a Corpsman in the US Navy from 1945 to 1947. After completing his Navy duties he graduated in 1951 from Northwestern University in Chicago with B.S. in Biology, and Temple University School of Dentistry in Philadelphia in 1955 with a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS). He then interned at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children specializing in the then new field of pediatric dentistry. It was at Temple that he met the love of his life and favorite dance partner Mary Ellen Thompson and they were wed on October 6, 1956 in Wilmington, Delaware. Together they moved to Randolph where Bill joined the White River Valley Clinic and was on staff at Gifford Memorial Hospital. In 1959 he joined with the late Dr. H. Driscoll Reid in private practice in Randolph where he continued to practice dentistry for 36 years until his retirement. He was a leader in Vermont Dentistry, appointed to the Northeast Regional Board of Dental Examiners and served as that organization's Secretary. In this capacity, he served as an Examiner for the licensure of dentists and dental hygienists in 25 States. Dr. Black was a lifetime member of the American Dental Association and the Vermont Dental Society. During his years of practice Dr. Black expanded his knowledge of orthodontia and enjoyed sharing his knowledge with fellow dentists. What he loved most about being a dentist were his patients, and they are what he missed most upon retirement as he truly enjoyed people.

Outside of his dental practice, Bill loved the outdoors, hunting as a young man with his brother Albert, enjoying many camping trips with his family, and he was an avid fly fisherman. He also loved tennis and was a great skier, teaching his three girls how to ski at Pinnacle where the family spent many happy days. Bill was a remarkably talented woodworker, and his beautiful projects will be forever prized by his family. Bill enjoyed gardening, especially growing roses and tomatoes, cooking in his later years, and any time spent at the beach. Bill loved music and theatre and was a member of many choral groups including The Randolph Singers. He also loved dancing whether it was Scottish country dancing or ballroom. Very patriotic, Bill was pleased to serve as part of the color guard with the Saint Andrew's Society, in full kilted regalia. Bill also treasured his many years in service and leadership in the Episcopal Church. Other areas of involvement included The University Club, St. Andrew's Society of Vermont and the Randolph Boys and Girls Club. International activities included dental mission work in Ukraine and membership in the Aberdeen Scotland Historical Society

Bill loved being around family and friends. Perhaps most of all, Bill cherished time spent with his seven grandchildren, and he made them all feel loved and treasured. Campfires with his children and grandchildren listening to his wonderful stories, usually of growing up in Barre, will be fondly remembered. Bill loved and lived life to the fullest each and every day, including his last. We will all miss him very much.

Bill is survived by his wife of 53 years Mary Ellen, daughters Deborah Topping (Lawrence) of Charlottesville, Virginia; Catherine McMurray (Brian) of Brentwood, Tennessee; and Anne Black Cone (Steven) of Jackson, Wyoming; his brother, Dr. Douglas Black (Elizabeth) of Concord, New Hampshire and sister in law Eleanor Black of Winchendon, Massachusetts, as well as many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his seven grandchildren: Christopher, Matthew and Stephen Topping; Heather, Mary Ellen McMurray, and Carolyn McMurray King (Nicolas); and Isabelle Cone. He was preceded in death by three brothers, Albert Black, Harold Black, and Donald Black.

Donations in Dr. Bill Black's memory can be sent to the Rutland Elementary School Computer Lab, 1995 S. Rutland Road, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122