

Walter William Burnett 7/23/24 – 1/29/11



WALTER WILLIAM BURNETT, DDS SOUTH HERO - Walter William Burnett, DDS, 86, died peacefully at his beloved home in South Hero, surrounded by members of his loving family, on Jan. 29, 2011, following a brief illness. Walt will be remembered for his love and unwavering support for his family and friends, his inspiring work ethic and his many interests and passion for living. Walt was born in New York City on July 23, 1924, the son of Joseph and Rae Burnett. While attending dental school in Boston, he met the love of his life, Erline Blackmore of Montpelier, and they married on June 29, 1946. They enjoyed 54 years of marriage until Erline died tragically in 2001. Starting with their honeymoon in Wells, ME where, Walt often recalled, they ate lobster on the beach, Walt and Erline shared a bond that survived her death, and together they navigated the many highs and the occasional lows of life. Walt and Erline had five children together, Mona Tapia of Colchester, William Burnett of Bolton, James Burnett of Weybridge, Sally Bartlett of Summerville, S.C., and Mary Parish of Manlius, N.Y. Walt is also survived by Mona's husband Wallace, their children, Andrea Tapia Stamm, and April Tapia Crawford, Andrea's husband Rob and daughter, Callie, and April's husband Brice and son, Camden; William's sons, Jaime and Jason, and Jaime's wife Meghan and soon-to-be born son, Charlie, and Jason's girlfriend Kristen; James' husband Dan Breen and their son, Josh BurnettBreen; Sally's husband Frank and their son, Ricky and Ricky's fiancé Mary; Mary's husband Bob, their son, Bobby, and Bobby's wife Carrie, and their children, Ella Elizabeth and Ava Alexandra; his sister-in-law, Betty Blackmore of Scotia, N.Y.; many loving nieces and nephews; and several longtime friends and coworkers. "Grandpa" Walt was always surrounded by his children and grandchildren. As family gathered in Vermont to provide loving care to Grandpa, his children and grandchildren recalled special memories. Walt was always there for family in need. He enjoyed attending his children's and grandchildren's sporting and school events, often traveling throughout New England to watch soccer, swimming, basketball or racquetball. Even as his mobility declined in the past few years, Grandpa was always happy to join different families on cruises or trips to Colorado, Massachusetts or Maine. He was the center of family holidays and of family get-togethers, for special occasions like weddings, graduations or retirements and for regular occasions like watching sports on TV every Sunday or going out to dinner. From his early days as a student at [New York University](#), Walt was known for his work ethic. He graduated Cum Laude from an accelerated program at Tufts Dental School in 1947, and practiced dentistry for over 50 years, building two successful practices in Burlington and in Milton. He served as Secretary- Treasurer of the Champlain Valley Dental Society. He took great pride in knowing he treated each patient with great care and great professionalism. Even after his retirement he remained interested in the latest technologies and developments in dentistry. Walt's work ethic and pride also extended to his service to his country during [World War II](#) and the Korean conflict. Walter served in the US Army from 1941-1943 and in the US Navy during the Korean conflict, where he served as a Lieutenant Junior Grade on the USS Cascade. Throughout his life, Walt had many interests and a passion for living. His children have many wonderful memories of the times they spent with their

dad swimming, riding horses, playing tennis, sailing and waterskiing. At different times during his life, Walt was an avid duck and deer hunter, whitewater canoer and skier, and he shared these passions with his children. He loved playing the piano, and had strong opinions about politics and about right and wrong. Although he was born in New York, Walt was a true Vermonter in his heart. He was a unique individual, and the hole his death leaves in the hearts of his family will never be completely healed. The family wishes to extend their appreciation for the loving and around-the-clock care Walt received in the Intensive Care Unit at Fletcher Allen during his two weeks in the hospital. Calling hours will be on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2011 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Minor Funeral Home in Milton. There will be no service. In lieu of flowers, please think of a warm memory of Walt. If you would like to make a donation in his memory, the family suggests a donation to the charity of your choice or to one of Walt's favorite charities: the Catamount Outdoor Family Center (www.catmountoutdoor.org), the Sharing Foundation (www.sharingfoundation.org) or the South Hero Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 365, South Hero, VT 05486-0365. Online condolences may be made at www.minorfh.com.