



William Joseph Woods

June 24, 1925 - December 8, 2020

William Joseph (Bill) Woods died peacefully in his home in Charlotte, North Carolina on December 8, 2020 with his family at his side. He was 95.

Bill was born in Sacramento, California on June 24, 1925 to George Hopkins Woods and Lita Zollig Woods. He had two brothers, Robert (Bob) Alexander Woods of Forest Ranch, California and the late George Hopkins (Bud) Woods of Lakeview, Oregon. After graduating from Woodland High School in Woodland, California, Bill joined the U.S. Army Air Corp and served as a gunner on a B17 from 1943 to 1949. In 1954, he married Karin Margita Gillner, who had immigrated from Berlin, Germany and preceded him in death. Bill's career began in Sacramento with his own real estate office. He accepted job opportunities and took his young family of six to Nicaragua and Guam in the 60's and 70's and ended up settling in Charleston, South Carolina where he retired from a Directorship of Real Estate for the U.S. Navy. Bill was an avid world traveler and adventurer. After retirement, he lived and worked in Naples, Italy and Honolulu, Hawaii. In his later years, he enjoyed taking trips abroad with a nonprofit geared toward older adults formerly known as Elderhostel.

In addition to traveling, Bill had a wide range of interests, including hiking in the mountains, U.S. Civil War history, big band music, politics and current events, running, genealogy and discovering he was a Mayflower

descendant, musicals, poetry, birdwatching, and spending time with his family. Bill started running at age 50 and completed the U.S. Marine Corps marathon in 1980 at age 55. He celebrated his 75th birthday by skydiving with his family. He won a gold medal for bicycling in the North Carolina Senior Games at age 85, attributing the win to outliving his competitors.

Bill is survived by his four children: daughter Marilee Fridl Woods of Brandon, Mississippi; daughter Coral Lisa Woods and husband John Ross Dennis of Asheville, North Carolina; daughter Crystal Woods James and husband David Alan James of Charlotte, North Carolina; and son Bruce Anthony Woods and wife Cathy Pastorek Woods of Indian Trail, North Carolina. He is also survived by six grandchildren: Heather Dawn Fulgham of Starkville, Mississippi; Lauren Michelle Metzler of Omaha, Nebraska;

Brandon Michael Metzler of Brandon, Mississippi; Ryan Davis James of Charlotte, North Carolina; Summer James Willis of Asheville, North Carolina; and Madison James LaMuraglia of Wilmington, North Carolina. He is also survived by five great-grandchildren. Bill's family will have a private celebration of his life.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bill's memory can be made to The Nature Conservancy, a charitable environmental organization that had protected from human development 119 million acres of land and thousands of miles of rivers worldwide as of 2020.

The Nature Conservancy

Attn: Treasury

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Comments



“ My condolences to all of you.

I've been thinking a while about what I might write here and in addition to all the great things I can say about Bill, the most lasting impression he had on me and one which I aspire to, was his ability to live simply. Bill wasn't caught up in the quest for "stuff". The most burdened I ever saw him was when he had chickens in his home outside of Keene, NH. And even at that, he lived more simply than most. There are many lessons we can learn from his actions, but this is one that sticks with me. He appreciated things you can't hold onto. I haven't come close to achieving that simple life, but I'm working on it. And he always enjoyed my strong coffee! I wish I could have seen him again.

Rest in Peace, Bill.

Carl Olson

Carl Olson - December 20, 2020 at 04:45 PM