



William H. McDonough, Sr.

November 5, 2021

William (Bill) Henry McDonough Sr died peacefully on Friday November 5, 2021 surrounded by loved ones after a lengthy illness. He was born in Hartford CT on November 14, 1939 and was the oldest child of Estelle (McCullough) and George Francis McDonough.

Bill grew up in Bloomfield and lovingly stayed in the area most of his life, with few exceptions. He attended and graduated from the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. His only other significant venture beyond Connecticut was his basic training in Mississippi for the Air National Guard. He loved being with his siblings Marty (O'Brien), John and Trudy. For the last several years Bill lived in the family home with John, gardening, collecting stamps, doing puzzles, sharing meals and debating the nuances of daily activities. The pandemic brought many challenges, but they were blessed to share more time with Marty in their home.

His proudest moments were seeing his grandchildren. He enjoyed every moment and was always looking forward to the next visit. Bill shared his love of corny jokes with his grandchildren and great nieces and nephews. They responded with many of these "groaners" to support all of us these last few days. He also enjoyed collecting stamps and coins. "Grandpa Stampa" could frequently be found showing his collections off to grandchildren, teaching them all about his craft. He successfully passed along his appreciation for puzzles, and they could be found strewn across any table where he was. Bill was a season ticket holder for Holy Cross football and basketball games

for almost thirty years. He was grateful for his fellow alumnus and friend Tom Burns who joined him at countless games. He and Tom shared the joys of the Crusaders' winning season with big home wins against Georgetown and Colgate!

He was predeceased by his siblings Mary Gertrude McDonough and John Edward McDonough.

He is survived by his sister Martha O'Brien of Pawcatuck, CT, his daughter Marita Coombs (Bob) of Somerville, MA, son William McDonough (Marycate), daughter Marsina Stearns (Marc) and his son Colin McDonough of Bozrah, CT. He also leaves nine grandchildren who meant the world to him, Lucy, Thomas, Laura, Amelia, Catherine, Emma, Margaret, Rebecca and Emily. He was fortunate to spend time with his nephews Timothy O'Brien (Abby), Brendan O'Brien (Jennifer) and their children Teagan, Cade, Keira, Owen and Sean.

Funeral services will be Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 10 am at St. Patrick & St. Anthony Church 285 Church St. Hartford. Burial will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Molloy Funeral Home has care of arrangements, online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Mount Saint Benedict

1 Cottage Grove Road
Bloomfield, CT

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 13. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Patrick St. Anthony Church
285 Church Street
Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall



“ *Molloy Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of William H. McDonough, Sr.*



Molloy Funeral Home - November 08, 2021 at 01:36 PM



“ *Bill and I were neighbors and became good friends growing up on Cold Spring Drive. I was the only boy close to his age and he treated me as an equal despite the three years difference in age. We spent hours playing basketball at his house and talking about Holy Cross sports. He kept track of all the scores in a notebook and the points that Bob Cousy and Togo Palazzi racked up. Bill was a quiet guy who I looked up to. I'm sorry I did not see the obituary in time to attend the funeral. My condolences to the family, the matriarch and patriarch (Bill's parents) of which were the most wonderful people ever. Hugh Manke, Hamden*

Hugh Manke - November 13, 2021 at 09:36 PM

ES

“ I offer my condolences to Martha and Bill's children and grandchildren. I knew Bill through his brother John, though I didn't meet him in person until John's funeral. Since that time I enjoyed delightful phone conversations in which I learned about Stamping and Holy Cross Football and life in Bloomfield and later West Hartford. Perhaps most memorable was his trove of jokes and 'groaners'. He made my day many times. I will miss that sense of humor.

Ed Stivender - November 13, 2021 at 09:42 AM

TH

“ Condolences and prayers from a fellow Holy Cross alumnus, class of 1961. Tom Hughson, S.J.

Thomas Hughson - November 12, 2021 at 09:43 AM

PM

“ My condolences to Marty and the rest of Bill's family. I first met Bill in the late 1940s when his family moved to Bloomfield and Bill joined the class I was in at Bloomfield Grammar School. We have been friends ever since. I will miss him greatly.

Paul McCormick

Paul McCormick - November 11, 2021 at 04:32 PM

BM

Paul, thank you for your support and coming to his service yesterday. Ann Clark relayed stories of you, Dad and Pat. On behalf of all of us, thank you

Bill McDonough - November 14, 2021 at 01:20 PM

PK

“ Bill and I go back a long way, first as classmates at The Bloomfield Center Grammar School and later at Kingswood School. We would often get together -- many times forming a triumvirate with Paul McCormick -- in such activities as tobogganing on the hill near his house on Cold Spring Drive. He will always be remembered for his warm and friendly disposition -- I never saw him get mad -- and for his wry sense of humor. Somehow at Kingswood the word got around that he had a lake to sell, to the extent that I believe the entry under his photo in the senior yearbook is: "Anybody want to buy a lake?"

Even when in our more recent conversations turned to the subject of his serious health issues, Bill always remained cheerful and found humor in some of the situations involving medical procedures. But we spent more time and got much more enjoyment over discussing matters relating to his closing out the Cold Spring Drive house for sale. Bill kept coming back to the conundrum of a chest freezer in the basement that was larger than any doorway leading there, and I remember we wound up speculating that perhaps the house had been built around it. Or Bill would regale me with stories about his battles with bears trying to get into his garbage cans. He was always fun to talk to and be with, and I will miss him very much.

Peter Keller - November 11, 2021 at 04:05 PM

BM

Pete, thank you. Your stories ring true for Dad, particularly the freezer. I had not heard about the lake, his uncle I am assuming. God Bless, Bill McDonough Jr.

Bill McDonough - November 14, 2021 at 01:19 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William H. McDonough, Sr..*



November 11, 2021 at 11:31 AM



“ *Bill McDonough was a good childhood friend to Pat Clark, then later to Pat's wife Ann Clark and family over the past 50 years. Condolences to the McDonough family on their loss, Bill is now at rest. God Bless.*

Mike Clark - November 11, 2021 at 10:29 AM



“ *I was a longtime friend and Bridge partner of Bill's from his Travelers days. I really admired Bill's knowledge of the game and his patience with me as a novice to the game! What a lovely man! Bill had many good qualities and I am reading between the lines of his obituary about his life and love of family. You all were so fortunate to share him in your lives; I am the unfortunate one who didn't spend more time to get to know more about him. My deepest sympathies to you all on your loss of my friend Bill and your dear relative. ❤️*

Karen Hamilton Hall - November 11, 2021 at 10:14 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of William H. McDonough, Sr..*



November 09, 2021 at 02:25 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of William H. McDonough, Sr..*



November 09, 2021 at 07:06 AM



“ *Mr McDonough was such a nice man and I know he will be missed by his entire family. I was blessed to have known him and will cherish the times I spent with him.*

Marilyn O'Donoghue - November 08, 2021 at 04:59 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of William H. McDonough, Sr..*



November 08, 2021 at 02:53 PM