

William Winston Medaris

CDR, USN retired William (Bill) Medaris of Maggie Valley, NC passed away peacefully on April 12, 2021 at the age of 82.

Born in 1938 in Memphis, TN to the late William and Doris Medaris, Bill was voted “Most Friendly” in high school, a superlative that described him throughout his life. In 1960, he graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis MD, going on to have a distinguished 20-year career in the Navy. In the Navy, among other accomplishments, Bill commanded a minesweeper (the Meadowlark), contributed as an engineer to building ships in Pascagoula MS, and returned to Annapolis to teach at the Naval Academy. On his retirement from the Navy in 1980, Bill came to North Carolina to become an associate professor of industrial and engineering technology at Western Carolina University, where he spent the next 20 years teaching his beloved students and playing his part to bring technological innovations into the university, whether it was working with personal computers in the 1980s or setting up a telecommunications lab much later on. In 1989 Bill married Agnes Ward from Maggie Valley. After his retirement from WCU in 2004, he and Agnes spent their time between Cullowhee, Maggie Valley and near the beach in Carolina Shores.

Bill was always very active. He played football in high school and college where he also rowed crew. After his school years he enjoyed regularly playing tennis, running, biking, and golf. Throughout his life, Bill was also an active member of the Baptist church wherever he was stationed. In Sylva, NC, he ran the soundboard for the First Baptist Church for many years. Bill is survived by his wife, Agnes Ward Medaris of Maggie Valley. In addition to his wife, survivors include his daughter, Elaine Medaris Brown and her husband Mike Brown of Fuquay Varina, NC, and two grandsons, Keegan and Andrew Brown, both in Philadelphia, PA. Bill also left behind those who cared for him so lovingly in the last few years: his nephew, Tanner Ward, his brother- and sister-in-law, Harry (Jr) and Eddie Sue Ward. His wonderful caregivers were Linda C. Evans and Barbara Allison. He was preceded in death by his son, Paul Medaris of Boynton Beach, FL.

Smoky Mountain Cremations and Funeral Service