



William "Bill" Graydon Watrous

September 11, 1921 - June 10, 2017

William Graydon Watrous, a man who loved his country and his family, was surrounded by loving family members at Francis House at Syracuse, NY, when he passed away on Saturday, June 10, 2017. Bill was born September 11, 1921, in Syracuse, NY, the firstborn child of Watson R. and Adeline (Ruland) Watrous.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, brother Charles, and first loving wife Mary Louise (Murray) Watrous.

Bill is survived by his loving wife Barbara (Lucas) Watrous; children, Steven (Sandra) Watrous, Bonnie (Richard) DeForest, and Robert (Luis Morales) Watrous; 8 grandchildren; and 14 great grandchildren.

Bill graduated from Onondaga Valley Academy where he was an all-star hockey player.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II where he was a Signalman 3rd class. He served on Liberty ships as part of the Naval Armed Guard, having sailed around the world. His great passion was the Navy and its sea going vessels. He referred to himself as "The Sea Daddy", and loved sharing his stories of life on the high seas.

He married his sweetheart, Mary Lou Murray on June 5, 1948, at Furman

Street Methodist Church. After Mary Lou's passing in 1990, Bill met and fell in love with his second sweetheart, Barbara Lucas. They were married November 2, 1992, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Bill began working for the NY Telephone Company in November 1948. He started as a lineman and retired from "Ma Bell" in management in 1983. He enjoyed golf, having been taught by his brother Chuck while in his 40s. It was a great thrill for him to have shot two holes-in-one during his brief "career" on the links!

He was a faithful communicant of St. Paul's United Methodist Church and enjoyed serving in various capacities there for many years. Services will be held at noon on Thursday, June 15, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 2200 Valley Drive, Syracuse, NY 13207, with a calling hour at 11 a.m. at the church. Interment, with military honors, will be at Onondaga Valley Cemetery following the service.

Contributions in Bill's name may be made to St. Paul's United Methodist Church or Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, 1 Children's Circle, Syracuse, NY 13210.

To express sympathy, please visit www.ballweg-lunsford.com.

Cemetery Details

Onondaga Valley Cemetery

2500 Valley Drive
Nedrow, NY 13120

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **15**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
2200 Valley Drive
Syracuse, NY 13207
<http://www.stpaulscny.org/>

Service

JUN **15**. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
2200 Valley Drive
Syracuse, NY 13207
<http://www.stpaulscny.org/>

Tribute Wall

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“ To the Family of William,
My deepest sympathy for your loss. You are
in my thoughts and prayers.



Susan Shockey - June 13, 2017 at 06:39 AM

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“ Grandpa..... you have been an inspiration, a mentor / teacher and a hero to us all!! Your words of wisdom and "Billisms" will forever live in infamy. Your consistent strength and heart of gold to everyone you came in contact with will be forever missed. I Love You and I miss you already!! There will only be one "Grandpa Bill from Onondaga Hill" and your legend will live on. I am glad you are no longer in pain and can rest and piece, tell Grandma we love her and miss her, and give her a hug from all of us!! Goodbye for now until we see each other again!!!! Love, Billy Boy Jr.

Bill DeForest (Grandson) - June 10, 2017 at 05:25 PM

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Grandpa...I'm not even really sure where to begin. I'm not sure I can fathom my life without you in it. I am comforted by the fact that you are no longer in any pain or suffering and are at peace. I know you'll be joining Grandma in watching over us. You have taught us all so much. Whether it was listening to one of your Navy stories, telephone company stories, or just conversing with you, I learned so much. Your nick names for us have never left and will forever stick now. There was never a time you didn't put everyone else before yourself and I hope to accomplish the same and to help carry on a piece of your legacy. There are thousands of memories that I have with/of you, but the most important one is the amount of love you had for me. Your heart overflowed with love for us all and I'm glad you get to share that with the rest of our deeply missed family again. This isn't good-bye Grandpa, it's until we meet again! Love you to the moon and back..."Kimmie Sue with eyes of blue"

Kim DeForest - June 11, 2017 at 09:02 AM