

Obituary

William Watts Boyd, 81, passed from this life on Saturday, September 23, 2017. He was born June 6, 1936 in Winston-Salem, NC. William was adopted at birth by Thomas and Agnes Peterson Boyd. From his father, he learned the value of hard work and how to “fix” almost anything. Later in his life, his mother-in-law said, “Bill is as handy as a doorknob!” His children thought that if something was broken, “Daddy can fix it.” From his mother, a descendent of an early cabinet maker in Old Salem, Bill learned to treasure everything historical. He graduated from Gray High School and joined the U. S. Navy where he retired after a 20 year career as a Machinist Mate. He then went to Appalachian State University, on the G. I. Bill, and majored in Industrial Arts. He taught Career Exploration at Gentry Middle School and Pilot Mountain Middle School, retiring again after 22 years. In 1962, while home on leave he met Greta Moser on a “blind date.” They were married in December 1963 at Grace Moravian Church in Mount Airy. Greta finished that school year in Winston-Salem as a first year teacher and vowed she would not live apart from Bill any more except, of course, when his ship was at sea. They were stationed in Mayport Florida, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Great Lakes Illinois. They were blessed with three sons: Kerry and Dayne were born in Guantanamo Bay, and Nathan was born at Great Lakes. Bill and Greta shared many interests: love of travel, Broadway shows and plays, museums and historical sites, and reading. The family called “Historical Markers” “Hysterical Markers.” If Bill missed one while driving, he would turn around to read it. Bill enjoyed model railroading, woodworking, and many hobbies. He was happy when he could make some furniture/wood projects for a family member or friends. Through the years, he volunteered at the library, the museum, the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, at school, and coaching. Bill loved talking to people, especially strangers. He said he learned many interesting things from them. When their grandson was born and three years later a granddaughter, Bill loved his time spent babysitting them. Bill was predeceased by: his parents Thomas and Agnes Boyd, a brother Tommy Boyd, and his in-laws: Cletius and Ola Moser. He is survived by: his wife of 53 years, sons Kerry Boyd and wife Bonnie of Los Alamos NM, Dayne Boyd and wife Ashley of Charlotte NC, and Nathan Boyd of Chicago IL, grandchildren Emmett and Rowan Boyd of Charlotte NC and a grand niece, Kendall Oakley of Mt. Airy, sister-in-law Deborah Beasley and husband Chuck, sister-in-law Portia Oakley, brother-in-law Arnold Moser, brother-in-law Roy Oakley and many nieces and nephews. The celebration of Bill’s life will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at Grace Moravian Church. Visitation with the family will begin at 1:30 and the service will begin at 3:00. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Grace Moravian Church, 1401 N. Main St., Mt. Airy NC, the Mt. Airy Public Library, 145 Rockford St., Mt. Airy, NC 27030 or the Mt. Airy Museum of Regional History, 301 N. Main St., Mt. Airy NC 27030.