William Ivon Milwee Jr. '59

Cmdr. William I. Milwee, USN (Ret.), passed away Aug. 17, 2016. Bill had a lifetime of adventure beginning as an adored child in Montgomery, AL. He sailed through the U.S. Naval Academy and graduate school at Webb Institute of Naval Architecture. He found his niche in deep diving and ocean salvage, a specialty that carried him through 20 years in the Navy and 35 years as a consultant in the maritime industry. Bill worked on all continents and oceans and yet found time to be active in professional organizations and conferences, often as a featured speaker. He wrote books and articles. For Bill, work was play.

Bill also found time to play with his dogs. In Portland, OR, he was a familiar figure on the agility courses with Stormy Weather, his Portuguese Water Dog, and Dynamite, his little American Eskimo Dog. He also enjoyed building model railroad layouts. He must have liked creating an environment that did not rock or sink.

Bill was a man who loved his family. His daughters, Shey and Suzanne, were always in his heart, a heart that was big enough to embrace Wanda's children, Mark, Kirk, and Catherine, as his own. When the grandchildren came along, he was just another grandpa whose granddaughters could wrap him around their little fingers. He was immensely proud of seeing his grandsons grow into fine men.

Bill's final days in Clearwater were shaded by the progress of Alzheimer's. As the clock of his life ticked away, he succumbed quickly, blessed by release from a life that could no longer bring him meaning.

What Bill brought into our lives will never be lost. Our memories range from sweet to maddening, as with all mortals, but we would not have missed this ride for anything.

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