

William Macdonald 'Bill'

September 29, 1943 - May 11, 2015

William A. MacDonald, 71, of Harrisonburg, passed away on May 11, 2015 at Walter-Reed National Military Medical Center, in Bethesda, MD.

Bill was born September 29, 1943 in Newport, RI to the late George and Georgieana MacDonald. He was also preceded in death by a sister; Beverly MacDonald of Newport, RI and a brother, George MacDonald of Miami, FL.

After graduating from West Point Military Academy, Bill served 30 years with the United States Army. While training at Ft. Benning in Georgia he was injured and became hospitalized. There he met his nurse, Betty, and fell in love. The following year they were married. Together they had two sons, Reid of Brunswick, GA and Billy of Harrisonburg; one daughter, Lori Weatherwax and her husband, Craig of Baltimore, MD.

Also surviving are three grandchildren, Chelsea MacDonald of Atlanta, GA, Rachel MacDonald of Brunswick, GA and Breann Weatherwax of Baltimore, MD and two brothers, Ronald MacDonald and wife, Carol and Brian MacDonald all of Newport, RI.

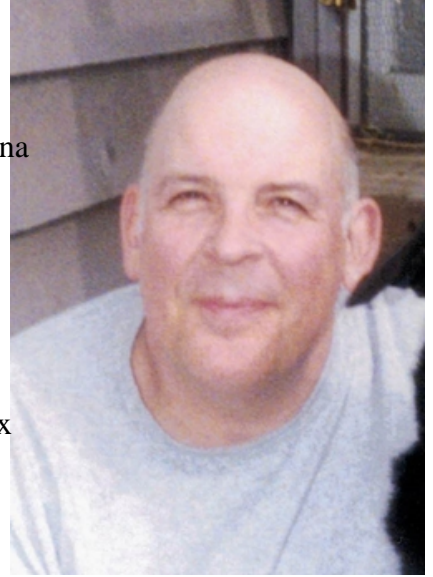
In 1969 while serving in Vietnam on the DMZ, Capt. MacDonald was awarded the Silver Star and Bronze Star for valor. Mr. MacDonald's 30 year career took the family all over the world, serving his last tour at JMU. Bill was in charge of the ROTC program, the famous Duke Battalion, and helped them win the McArthur Award for ROTC competition for the first time.

Bill and Betty, while at JMU, always had an open-door policy for any cadet that could not go home for a holiday. The first Thanksgiving Betty had 68 cadets to feed and she welcomed everyone to the home. Many cadets remain in touch as they cared for the leadership the Colonel gave them.

Bill coached the Mighty Ducks softball team for 17 years where their youngest son, Billy, who has downs-syndrome, participated.

Betty packed a picnic lunch for everyone for the Richmond state games each June.

Bill would always thank another soldier for their service coming across them in public. Bill also loved animals and was involved with SPCA pet therapy when kittens and puppies would be taken to visit nursing homes. He also taught English as a second language at the Dayton Learning Center until he had a stroke in 2006. It was then that Bill learned he had cancer from Agent Orange used during the Vietnam War. Bill was a true fighter until the cancer won him over.



Born: September 29, 1943
Death: May 11, 2015

mass will be offered for Mr. MacDonald at 5pm Saturday, May 30, 2015
at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 154 N. Main St. Harrisonburg, VA 22802.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Area 4 Special Olympics
of Harrisonburg, 21 Southgate Court, Suite 103 Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

Arrangements are with Kyger Funeral Home in Harrisonburg.