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William Bell



William "Bill" Bell, 96, of **Skaneateles** and Manlius, passed away peacefully on Monday. Born in Baltimore, MD, he grew up in Mt. Vernon, NY, was educated at Williams College, class of '41, and spent a year in medical school before enlisting in the US Navy in 1942, attaining the rank of Lieutenant by the end of WW II. He came to Syracuse in 1948 to pioneer the building of the first TV station in town, WHEN-TV, channel 8 (CBS), and to manage their radio station for 17 years. Bill also worked as the director of community services for Syracuse University Research Corp. for five years before moving to Argosy House Drug Rehabilitation Center as Executive Director. Bill finished his career as the Director of Development at St. Joseph's Hospital, retiring in 1989.

Throughout his career, Bill was committed to community service. He helped found the South Side American Little League, later becoming President, and he managed teams long after his kids were done playing. He drove for FISH of Skaneateles, taking patients unable to drive to appointments, and he served on the board of the Skaneateles Public Library.

Bill enjoyed lively discussion and conversation with family, friends and almost anyone! The love and pride for his four grandchildren, Kyle (Paola), Lauren, Mackenzie and Natalie, was second to none.

Bill was predeceased by his wife of 52 years, Natalie "Archie" Barry Bell, and by his brothers, Walter and Tom. He leaves behind his children, Peter and his wife Deborah Rogers, daughter Kathie, and Chris and his wife Linda.

There will be a **Celebration** of Bill's Life on Saturday, January 27th, at 2PM at The Hilltop Restaurant in Skaneateles.

Donations in his name may be made to the VA Hospital in Syracuse, who provided excellent care for him over the past five years, or a charity of your choice.

To send condolences visit: robertdgrayfuneralhome.com

Date of Death: January 22, 2018

Funeral Home

Robert D. Gray Funeral Home

49 Jordan St. Skaneateles, NY 13152

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Published in the in the Syracuse Post Standard from Jan. 24 to Jan. 25, 2018