

# William Howard Doughty '55

December 6, 1932 - September 4, 2018

William "Bill" Doughty passed away on September 4, 2018. A resident of Northbrook since 2015, he was 85. Thoughtful, creative, empathic and a faithful seeker of new knowledge and human connection, he was loved and admired by his family, friends, neighbors and colleagues.

Born in Washington, D.C. as the first of four children to William Howard and Elizabeth Sargent Doughty, he grew up in Winnetka, where he attended Hubbard Woods Elementary School and New Trier High School. Some of his fondest early memories came from summers spent working on a farm run by his Aunt Betsy and Uncle Bob Debevoise in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

He later graduated from Williams College with a bachelor's degree in history. There he met Nadine "Dee" Neuburg, and the two married on April 28, 1956. Together they raised three sons, for whom he was a loving, present, and committed father, an avid champion in their many endeavors, and a consummate role model. Bill and Dee remained deeply in love and devoted to each other for 62 years. She passed away on July 15.

Bill worked for the Bell Telephone system for 33 years in various management capacities. During these years he served also on many volunteer committees and in lay leadership roles at both St. David's Episcopal Church in Glenview and, since 1969, at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Wilmette. Together with Dee, he traveled to Honduras for two months in 1986, where he worked as a volunteer in support of economic development.

In the late 1960s, he began to draw and, starting with the gift from Dee of a painting class, to paint. Throughout the 1970s, he would often spend his lunch breaks sketching passersby in downtown Chicago, using a pocket drawing pad and pencil. At night, he took classes in oils and acrylics at New Trier East and the North Shore Art League; at home, he adapted a corner of the family basement into a makeshift studio.

In 1988 he retired from business and, at the same time, began to explore the expressive potential of watercolors: he loved it, and painting became his second career. He took workshops around the country--Maine and Ghost Ranch, New Mexico were two favorite locations--and he exhibited his work often at North Shore art fairs and galleries in Door County, Wisconsin. He was juried into several national shows, and in 1994 he began what became two decades of teaching his own adult-ed classes and workshops, mostly through New Trier extension programs.

In 1999, a trip with Dee to Jerusalem became a personal and artistic watershed. "The feelings of ancientness and holiness, and the crying needs



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for reconciliation, all inspired me to seek deeper levels of meaning in my art," he wrote. His artistic journey since then led in many directions, from more richly colorful landscapes to symbolism, abstract expressionism and portraiture--including a post-9/11 series that commemorated gold-star veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. His last exhibitions were held in 2017 at the Northbrook Village Hall and the Northbrook Public Library.

In 2015, he and Dee moved to Covenant Village of Northbrook, where he served on the residents' board and became active in the arts and other community groups. Family, friends and neighbors will remember and honor his daily devotion to Dee throughout this period, as dementia gradually took its toll on her abilities. Unflagging in his advocacy and unshakable in his patience, he confronted this most demanding of trials by drawing on yet further inner strength to grow in his faith and marriage. Present at Dee's bedside when she passed, he arranged her memorial service, held August 25, which he attended with both joy and sorrow despite his own deepening illness.

Bill is survived by his brothers Tony and Steve Doughty and his sister Helen Lester; their spouses Patricia, Jean Fontaine and Robin; his sons Richard, Roger and Bruce; their spouses Kathryn, Royce and Maria; as well as grandchildren Neil, Charlotte, Austin and Connor.

A Memorial Service: will be held at St. Augustine's Church, 1140 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091 on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., followed by a reception.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bill's honor to one of these organizations that were dear to both him and Dee:

The Greater Chicago Food Depository  
4100 W. Ann Lurie Place  
Chicago, IL 60632  
[www.chicagosfoodbank.org](http://www.chicagosfoodbank.org)

or

St. Augustine's Church  
Hunger Ministries Outreach  
1140 Wilmette Avenue  
Wilmette, IL 60091  
[www.staschurch.org](http://www.staschurch.org)