Irving S. Fellner, known to everyone as Nick, passed away on November 27, 2014. Nick is remembered for his distinguished service to his country in World War II and an active life filled with varied interests and talents alongside his wife Shirley and their five children.

Nick was born in Chappaqua, New York on October 20, 1921 to the late Irving and Hazel Bakewell Fellner. After graduating from the Lawrenceville School and entering Williams College, Nick enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1942. He completed flight training school and served as Pilot of a Navy Scout Dive Bomber in the Pacific Theater, based on the USS Franklin. Nick was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism during the battle of Leyte Gulf, one of the largest air-naval battles in history and a major victory for the Allied Forces. He led his section in the face of intense and continuous hostile anti-aircraft fire and scored a direct hit on the Japanese battleship Yamato, severely crippling one of the heaviest and most powerfully armed ships ever constructed. Nick was a lifetime member of the Naval War College Foundation.

Nick married Shirley Constance Stolk on June 23, 1945 and returned to Williams College to complete his degree under the auspices of the GI Bill. He worked for the American Can Company for 25 years before founding Metals Marketing International, a consulting firm with clients in Europe, Asia and South America. After teaching himself computer programming, Nick developed an original software program that enabled his clients to develop, price, and market their products.

The Fellners moved to New Canaan in 1963 and were residents until 2011 when they relocated to Edgehill Community in Stamford. Nick was deeply involved in the life of New Canaan. He was elected to the New Canaan Board of Education in 2003 (at age 82) and served his term with great enthusiasm. Nick was a founding member of the New Canaan Roundtable, the Fairfield Investment Group (FIG) and the Honorable New Canaan Society of Woodpeckers (Woodworking group). In addition, he was a regular participant in Coffee with the Advertiser and Hucro’s Book Group. Mindful of the challenges related to aging in New Canaan, Nick volunteered with SPNC (Staying Put in New Canaan).

He was an active member of the St. Mark’s community, serving as a longtime usher at St. Mark’s and regularly participating in the Senior Men’s Group and the St. Mark’s Fair. He and his wife Shirley were members of the New Canaan Country Club where Nick made valiant efforts to improve his golf.

Nick was a skilled carpenter and fine woodworker, and leaves a legacy of remodeled homes, furniture and decorative objects. He was also an inveterate do-it-yourselfer, most at home tinkering in his workshop, building stone walls, vegetable gardens and a grape arbor. He was a world traveler – eager to explore new places, and revisit those he loved.

Nick is survived by his wife of 69 years, Shirley Stolk Fellner, five children and their spouses (Will and Mary Fellner of Ponte Vedra, Florida; Patricia Fellner of New York City; Anne and Ted Thaxter of Stamford, Connecticut; Maggie and Jim Hunt of Wilson, Wyoming; and Tom and Stephanie Fellner of Gig Harbor, Washington), eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and his sister Hazel Tuttle, of Fort Collins, Colorado. His brother Dale Bakewell Fellner, a long-time New Canaan resident, and his sisters Anita Swetland and Leila Lenagh predeceased him.

A memorial service to celebrate Nick’s life will be held at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in New Canaan on Saturday, December 13, 2014 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Nick’s memory may be made to SPNC 58 Pine St, New Canaan, CT 06840.