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William Sneath

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William Scott Sneath, of Essex, CT, formerly of Riverside, CT, died peacefully on August 26, 2017 at the age of 91. Born in Buffalo, NY and raised in Scarsdale, NY, Bill attended the Northwood School in Lake Placid. He left Northwood after his junior year to attend Williams College, with the goal of entering the Navy. He served in the Navy as a lieutenant at the end of WWII and again during the Korean War. He graduated from Williams in 1947 and from Harvard Business School in 1950. Bill joined Union Carbide where he worked for 30 years retiring in 1982 as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. He served on many corporate boards including Rockwell International, Metropolitan Life and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He was a member of the Business Roundtable and a Director there. Among his many volunteer activities were Campaign Chair for the United Way of Tri-State, Chair of the National Fund for Minority Engineering Students, Board member of Memorial Sloan-Kettering, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a trustee of Brunswick School and of Williams College, Chair of the Board of Education of Greenwich, CT, Treasurer of the Riverside Yacht Club and Chairman of the Finance Committee at Essex Meadows. While he had many professional and volunteer accomplishments, Bill's family was the most important thing in his life. Bill is survived by his wife of 67 years, Nancy, and his six children: Stan Sneath of Missoula, MT; Caroline McBride of Stamford, CT; Jim Sneath of Branford, CT; Anne Islan of Stamford, CT; Emily Jones of Yarmouth, ME and Scott Sneath of Sudbury, MA and by his 17 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was a gifted athlete who enjoyed skiing, tennis and golf. He was a competitive ski-jumper at Northwood and Williams and then through graduate school. Bill and Nancy were avid sailors and especially enjoyed cruising on Long Island Sound with friends and family. Bill leaves a legacy of a large, tight-knit family who love to get together - greatly enjoying occasions to gather at his beloved house in South Londonderry, VT for annual group birthday parties, to ski together at Alta, UT or to convene for "cousin" weddings. He imparted his love of music, singing and dancing to his family, as well as his sense of adventure and love of travel. Bill always encouraged all of his children and grandchildren to follow their own, independent paths in life and was their biggest supporter and cheerleader. Bill was a warm, welcoming and quiet man with a great sense of humor and will be dearly missed by all. A memorial service will be held on Friday, September 8, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at Saint John's Episcopal Church on the corner of Main and Cross Streets in Essex, CT. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Essex Meadows Scholarship Foundation, 30 Bokum Road, Essex, CT 06426.

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