

William R. "Bill" Sharkey III

1930 - 2022



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1952. Shortly after graduation, Bill joined the US Navy and served for 28 years. He deployed to Korea after his basic training. Bill served in active duty at sea from 1953 to 1955, hauling troops on a Navy transport. The remainder of his service was in active reserves commanding two different training units in the Naval Intelligence program. He retired as a commander in 1976. Upon completion of his active duty, he joined his wife, Babs, in Martinez and began working at the family newspaper, the Contra Costa Gazette. He worked as a reporter, becoming editor in 1961 until its sale in 1964. In 1964, Bill started working for Shell Oil Company in San Francisco in Public Relations. He was promoted to Employee Relations, Employment Director of the Shell Oil Martinez Refinery in 1966 where he worked until his retirement in 1991. He married his wife Carrol Jeanne Sharkey, "Jeanne", in 1982. Both were active members of the Navy League of the United States, a civilian organization supporting and advocating for a strong sea services of Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and the US flag merchant marine. He held numerous titles in his 40 year support of the organization. Bill had a heart for service and in his civic engagement, he served on many committees and commissions at the local, county, and state levels. Bill showed his support of local businesses in Martinez while serving on the Chamber of Commerce as Director and Chamber president. He was a 50 year member of the Martinez Kiwanis Club serving a term as Division Lt. Governor and as President. He was involved with the Pleasant Hill Rotary Club for 7 years. His support of educational institutions ranged from Martinez schools to community colleges. Bill loved living in Martinez for well over 65 years and instilled in his children a love of volunteering and a commitment to giving back to the community in which you live. He never lost his love of writing and reporting on community issues and events. He was an avid follower of all things news. He wrote a weekly column for the Martinez News Gazette until he was 89 years old covering a broad range of local, national and world politics. He was not afraid to voice his opinion in his weekly column, not averse to controversy, and passionate in his beliefs. He was forward thinking, kind, and wanted more people involved in public service. In retirement, he took 26 cruises in the various waterways around the world with Jeanne, often traveling with college alumni groups internationally. He loved football and basketball, especially the 49ers and the Golden State Warriors. He supported his alumni team as well as his granddaughter's collegiate affiliations. He is survived by his son, Rick Sharkey of Nevada City, daughter, Jane Williams of Hailey, Idaho, and stepdaughter Cindy Kennaugh of Campbell. He's

also survived by four granddaughters and four great grandchildren. A service to celebrate and remember Bill is scheduled for Friday, January 6, 2:30 PM, Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill.

MEMORIES & CONDOLENCES

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