



Wilmont Eckhout

May 7, 1922 - June 2, 2009

CDR Wilmont “Bill” S. Eckhout USN(RET) passed away June 2, 2009 at Willamette Falls Hospital in Oregon City with his family by his side.

Bill was born on May 7, 1922 in Woodburn, Oregon. After high school graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served aboard the USS Saratoga and the USS Gilmore during World War II. At the conclusion of World War II, Bill attended Oregon State College (now OSU) where he was an active member of Delta Sigma Phi. He graduated from OSC in 1950 with a B.S. in Education. It was at OSC that he met his future wife of 58 years, Cleora “Pat” Ruby. They were married in 1950 and settled in Corvallis where Bill taught at Corvallis High School. He was called back in to military service in 1951 to serve in the Korean War. He attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a LTJG in 1952. In 1954, he was honorably discharged from active duty and returned with Pat and their two daughters Cheryl and Kathy to Corvallis, where he was a business teacher at Corvallis High School from 1954 to 1957. During that time he earned his Master’s Degree in Business Administration at Oregon State University and daughters Lori and Terri were born. In 1957, Bill returned to active duty in the U.S. Navy and served proudly for 20 more years working in the area of Naval Security with many assignments overseas including the Philippines and Okinawa. He graduated from the Navy Language School in Monterey, California and was fluent in Mandarin, Chinese. In his 36 years of active duty, he received many commendations including the Navy Commendation Medal, the Viet Nam

Service Medal, the Unit Citation Gallantry Cross and the Meritorious Unit Commendation. He retired in 1977 and returned to "God's Country", Corvallis, Oregon where he and Pat rekindled friendships and made many new friends. He was an active Elks member, volunteered his time on Boards with the City of Corvallis and was an accomplished woodworker specializing in toys for his grandchildren, Bill was preceded in death by his oldest daughter Cheryl Marie Matchinske. In addition to his wife Pat, he is survived by daughters Kathy Adkisson of La Plata, MD, Lori Eckhout of Milwaukie, OR, Terri Lockett and her husband Greg of Fredericksburg, VA and son-in-law Robert Matchinske. "Gramps" is also survived by grandchildren Kimberly and Brad Lockett, Mason and Klynn Malchow, and Kelsey, Lindsey and Hailey Adkisson.

A memorial mass will be held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 9 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Corvallis. Burial with full military honors will be held at 1:30 p.m Wednesday, June 10 at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland. The family requests donations be made to the United States Navy Memorial Foundation, 701 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Suite 123, Washington D.C. 20004-2608.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dad, You will always be in my heart. I miss you so much. I love you.*

Terri Lockett - June 07, 2009 at 02:32 AM



“ *Wishing you all comfort at this sorrowful time.
He was a "Hero" !*

Cynthia Allen - June 05, 2009 at 03:18 PM