

WILLIAM BRAKEN WARD



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Congress; Forum; Junior Class 3; Lettermen's Club 3, 4; Pep Club; Senior Class 4; Sophomore Class 2; Swimming 1, 2, 3, 4, Captain 4.



William Bracken Ward, 79, passed away peacefully on June 23rd, 2022 surrounded by his family in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Brack, as he was known to those close to him, was born on March 2nd, 1943 to William and Thora (Bracken) Ward. After the war, he and his family returned to Ithaca, NY where his father headed the Communications department at Cornell University. He became

a world traveler at a young age, visiting and living in over 14 countries, including the Philippines and Argentina.

Upon graduating from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics, Brack enlisted in the Navy where he served as an Aviation Officer in the Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW-122) and achieved the rank of First Lieutenant (LTJG). While stationed on the USS Independence in the Mediterranean, he went ashore to Naples and met the love of his life on a blind double date. After finishing his Naval service, he proposed to Patricia "Patsy" Ward, bringing her to the United States and married her twice! First on November 30, 1971 in a courthouse, then in the church wedding she longed for on December 26, 1971.

After their wedding, the couple moved to Minnesota, where they raised their children in a beautiful home on Lake Lucy in Chanhassen. He was the CEO of Financial Management Services in Edina until 1984. Deciding he preferred a life with traveling, he then worked as a consultant for various international companies striving to gain a foothold in the United States.

He enjoyed a lifelong love of boating, including competing in sailboat races and taking his children on questionably dangerous tubing and waterskiing adventures on Lake Minnetonka. He was an avid skier, golfer, and firearms enthusiast who was always on the move.

An enthusiastic chef, who was awarded the moniker "Brack Attack", took the greatest pleasure in preparing elaborate meals for his loved ones. His specialties included Cornell chicken, whiskey steak, marinara sauce, and prime rib (Fred Flintstone) roasts.

After more than 40 years at their home on Lake Lucy, Brack and Patsy retired to Vero Beach, Florida where they enjoyed pet sitting, exploring the Florida coastline, and hosting visiting family and friends.

William Bracken was preceded in death by parents William and Thora Ward, sister Anne Lynn Welles, and brother-in-law Richard Gardner. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Patricia Ward; children Suzanne Beste, Richard Ward, Christa Yock (Spouse Jonathan), and Jeremy Livingston; grandchildren Katarina Rolf, Noah Rolf, William "Conrad" Rolf, and Owen Beste; sister Cristen Gardner, brother Alan Ward, brother-in-law, Peter Wells, several nieces and nephews, and many friends.

A service will be held at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN on August 18th, 2022 at 9:30AM.
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