



Hank Bilhuber

March 28, 1928 - June 23, 2015

A Celebration of Life service will be held at the Wayne Presbyterian Church, Wayne, PA on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 11:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, please send a contribution to the Philadelphia Ship Preservation Guild, 301 S Christopher Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19106

Tribute to Henry Rudolph Bilhuber

Henry Rudolph Bilhuber (Hank) passed away peacefully at his home in Media, PA on June 23, 2015 at the age of 87.

Hank was the son of Paul Henry Bilhuber and Elsa Louise Rudolph. He was born and raised in Douglaston, Long Island, along with his twin brother Ernest (Ernie), and older brother, Edmund (Ned). He attended Manhasset High School, where he was a member of a national high school fraternity. He graduated Choate School in 1946 (wrestling team) and from Lafayette College in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was President of his Delta Upsilon fraternity chapter and served on the Interfraternity Council, the college newspaper, and remained very active in alumni activities.

Hank enlisted in the United States Navy and went to Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island in the 1950's. He entered naval aviation and briefly served as a pilot on the aircraft carrier "USS Ariskany" before joining a navy seaplane patrol squadron in Trinidad. Their mission was anti-submarine patrol in the Caribbean, guarding against Russian and Cuban threats perceived at that time. He was honorably discharged from the Naval service with the rank of Lieutenant (03).

As a Lieutenant, he met and married his beloved wife Gloria, in Trinidad, in 1954. They were married for over 60 years, initially living in Long Island, NY and then in Michigan,

before settling down in Rosemont, PA for over 38 years. Five years ago, they moved to Media, PA to simplify their lives. Together, they raised 4 sons: Karl, Jon, Jeffrey and Eric.

Hank had a long career with Mobil Oil Company, starting as a coordinator for service stations. He quickly excelled and became the engineering manager for the Eastern region. He was then appointed to a 5-year assignment in Norway as a contracts manager for the construction of 3 huge oil-drilling platforms in the North Sea jointly owned by Norway and the U.S. He had a staff of 75 engineers at that time, and retired in the mid 1980's after returning to the United States.

Hank had many hobbies and passions, many related to his love of boating, which was fostered by his father and shared by his brothers, and subsequently passed down to the next generation. A superb seaman in all kinds of weather, he and his family owned and maintained two beautiful sailing vessels: a schooner "Shan-gri-la" and later, the famous S & S yawl "Palawan". They embarked on many great adventures cruising the East Coast and the Caribbean, enlisting other good friends to enjoy their experiences. He enthusiastically traveled to New York and Newport to watch the Tall Ships parade or the America's Cup Races when they were in town, and raced his beloved "Palawan" in the annual Classic Yacht Regatta for a few years with his family and friends.

Hank also volunteered his time and energy to help preserve the historic brigantine sailing ship "Gazela" as President and Board Member of the Philadelphia Ship Preservation Guild. He sailed on "Gazela" for several cruises to Nova Scotia and the Caribbean.

With an exploring and innovative mind, Hank was always up for other types of new adventures, traveling extensively through Europe with his wife and close family members. He was quite artistic, creating many detailed sketches of buildings and bridges he found particularly interesting. He was also very active in sports, enjoying tennis, skiing and golf beyond his seafaring adventures.

Hank easily made long lasting friends in both his business and personal life. While highly respected for his many talents, his sincere curiosity about others, coupled with his welcoming positive outlook on life, and his charming nature, Hank touched the hearts of acquaintances as well as family and friends. He never had a bad word for anyone and will be missed by all.

Along with his wife, brother, and 4 sons, Hank is survived by his daughter-in-law, Kathy; 6 grandchildren, Mark, Kim, Jessica, Emily, Jennifer and Christoph; 3 great grandchildren, Michael, Nicole and Matthew, and other cherished relatives from near and afar.

Previous Events

Life Celebration

JUL 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wayne Presbyterian Church
125 E. Lancaster Avenue
Wayne, PA 19087

Tribute Wall

KA

“ Although I've only known Hank for the last few years of his life, I can say he was the kindest, most gentle soul who had a winning smile! He always managed to be positive even when he wasn't feeling up to par. After reading his obituary, it does not surprise me that Hank was great man. I can sincerely say that he has touched my life in such a positive way and will be missed. My deepest sympathies to Gloria, Jon, Kathy, Emily, Ernie and the entire Bilhuber family.
Kathy Stasis

Kathy - July 13, 2015 at 08:08 AM

OM

“ To the entire Bilhuber family, I want you to know that whenever I was with Hank, he always made me feel like a very special person. No matter what topic was discussed, Hank would always communicate with his wonderful warm smile and shining eyes. After reading his obituary, I can see where he was a good friend, leader, and mentor to many people. This does not surprise me. Gloria, Jon, Kathy, Emily, and Ernie - you are in our prayers. Jay and Clelia

Office Chadwick McKinney - July 07, 2015 at 11:09 AM

RY

“ I've known Hank for about 35 years. To younger people that may sound like an eternity. To older people, it wasn't nearly long enough. Hank was truly a classy gentleman and an inspiration to anyone who was lucky enough to sit down and talk to him. I like to think of Hank as sailing down the river of time for all ages. Thank you Hank for all your insights and wisdom that you've passed on to me. You'll always be part of my life.
Ralph Yori

Ralph Yori - July 07, 2015 at 09:05 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Hank Bilhuber.



July 07, 2015 at 06:21 AM

SC

“ I've been a friend of Gloria and Hank for 40 years and Hank was one in a million! He was a great man, a great father and a great friend. He was gentle and always had a good thing to say about everyone who crossed his path. I remember a cute moment a few months ago when I walked into the house and sat down and he looked at my feet and said how much he liked the color of my toes. How cute was he! Miss you Hank but I know you are sailing around the heavens having a wonderful time. God Bless!!!
Love to all the family through this most difficult time.
Susan Cleary

susan cleary - July 03, 2015 at 04:36 PM

KB

“ Good Morning, Jon,

It was good to speak to you too. The MOFW-PA records show that your father was a Lieutenant (O-3), USNR and that he served in the Atlantic Fleet during the Korean War. He joined the Pennsylvania Commandery in February, 1992 and served as our senior Vice-Commander for a number of years; it is not an exaggeration to say that he did more work than the other three Vice-Commanders put together. He was asked to be Commander more than once but felt that his responsibilities at home would not allow him to devote enough time to the position. During my term as Commander from 2001 to 2003, I could always count on his support and guidance. All those who knew him have missed him over the past few years when he could no longer attend our events.

Please extend my sympathy to your mother.

I look forward to seeing you on July 15 at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.

With kindest regards,

Jim

Kathy Bilhuber - July 02, 2015 at 12:05 PM



“ I am heartbroken at the news of "Handsome Hank's" passing. I grew up next door to the Bilhuber family in Old Chester Hills neighborhood in Huntington, L.I. Oh my gosh. Memories have been flooding in since I just learned the news from Jeb 5 minutes ago. I am filled with a memory of an incredibly gentle, kind, loving, sincere, and oh so very handsome man. I have to say, as a young teenager, I was secretly in love with Mr. Bilhuber! I was always in awe of Hank and Gloria - how beautiful they both were individually and how beautiful they were together. I remember some wonderful sailing trips in the Long Island Sound on the Shangri-La with Hank at the helm. What an experience for a young girls - I felt so very lucky to be on that beautiful sailing ship! It even had a swing that would go out over the water and dip you into the water if you wanted. I always thought Gloria was the luckiest woman on earth to be married to Hank. They came to my wedding in the N.C. mountains in 1990. That is the last time I saw them. However, the bird print (chickadees to be exact) they gave me as a wedding gift hangs in my living room as a wonderful memory. My mom, Nina, passed on May 15th. My prayer is that she and my dad were among the many who greeted Hank as he passed into his heavenly home. I extend my sincere sympathy to Jeb, Jeff, Eric and of course to the beautiful and lovely Gloria.

Debbie Combes Cesta

Debbie Cesta - July 02, 2015 at 10:08 AM

BD

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



beth d'addono - July 01, 2015 at 03:00 PM

BD

Hank, or more often I called him Mr. B., was a gentleman and a gentle man - an amazing listener who always had time to ask how I was and what I was up to. He and Gloria were at every party, costumed or otherwise, and I adored them both from when I first met them - 1982 I think? A life well lived is an inspiration, and Mr. B. will be in my heart - and so many hearts, always. Sending much love to those he loved so much.

Beth D'Addono - July 01, 2015 at 03:03 PM

EB

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Eric Bilhuber - July 01, 2015 at 01:02 PM

MB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mark Bilhuber - June 30, 2015 at 07:13 PM

MB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mark Bilhuber - June 30, 2015 at 07:12 PM

KB

“ 1 file added to the album Hank



Kathy Bilhuber - June 29, 2015 at 10:58 PM

SC

“ *Hank's special gift was making me feel like I was the most special person in the world. He would greet me as if he were waiting the whole day just to see me. He was genuinely interested in my life and adventures. He could talk about any subject.*

Hank epitomized what it meant to be a gentleman. He was truly a gentle man.

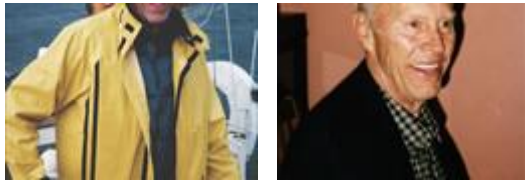
Godspeed Hank. I will now count you among my special angels.

Susan

Susan Collins - June 29, 2015 at 08:07 PM

SC

“ *2 files added to the album Hank*



Susan Collins - June 29, 2015 at 06:36 PM

DC

“ *Gloria and family: Please accept our sincere condolences on Hank's death. We remember fondly our pleasant dinners together at Springton Lake Village, Hank's ready smile and outgoing personality. May the good Lord hold Hank in the palm of His hand, and may you be comforted by your happy memories of him. Sincerely, Dee & Dan Crough.*

Dee & Dan Crough - June 28, 2015 at 03:01 PM