

Hammill, William Raby



MENOMINEE, Mich./MADISON - William Raby Hammill died unexpectedly Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012.

Born Sept. 6, 1936, in Lansing, Mich., to William T. Hammill and Mary Lee (Hopkins) Hammill, he was raised in Madison. A graduate of Madison West High School in 1954, he was president of his senior class, captain of the baseball team, and a member of DeMolay. He was later awarded the DeMolay Legion of Honor and was a 32nd degree Mason. In February 1959 he graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison with a degree in banking and economics and was a member of the baseball team and the Chi Psi fraternity. He was commissioned as a Military Police Lieutenant in the Army. His Officer's training was at Fort Gordon, Ga., He was stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., in the 4th Infantry Division, and was honorably discharged as a Captain.

After leaving the military, he worked for CUNA Mutual Insurance in Madison. He entered the banking business with the Marine Banking Corporation where he was a Vice President at Peoples Marine Bank in Green Bay. He served on the board of the Salvation Army.

He changed his profession to teaching and started the Associate

Degree Banking Program at the Fox Valley Technical College while working on his Master's degree in Education at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. He retired from the Laona, Wisconsin School District where he taught Business and Special Education and coached various sports. He always encouraged his students to pursue secondary education.

After retirement, he followed his love of teaching and his passion for history, becoming a historical interpreter and guide at Old Williamsburg, Va., The George Ranch, Texas, Old World Wisconsin, and Heritage Hill, Green Bay. A master storyteller, he enthralled his children, grandchildren, and others with his gift of words.

He moved to Menominee, Mich., where he was a member and an Elder at The First Presbyterian Church. He enjoyed living on the shores of Green Bay. William loved to take his family camping and enjoyed sailing on Green Bay, both racing and recreational. He retained his love of teaching, bridge, music, literature and the outdoors throughout his whole life.

William is survived by his wife, Lynn. He is also survived by his four children, Rebecca (Geoff) Berg of Apple Valley, Minn., Lynn (David) Rhinevault of Burnsville, Minn., William (Patricia) Hammill of Rosemount, Minn., and Thomas J.H. Simmons of Sterling, Va., stepdaughter, Brianna Dragoo of Milwaukee; and brother, Thomas (Irene) of Denver, Colo. There are five surviving grandchildren, Timothy and Madalyn Berg, Elizabeth and Christian Rhinevault and Peter Maxwell Hammill. He was preceded in death by his parents and grandson, William Hammill. His body has been donated to the Wisconsin College of Medicine.

A Celebration of his life will be held at THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Menominee, Mich., on Monday, Nov. 26, 2012, at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Jon Nelson officiating. A luncheon will follow at the church. In lieu of flowers, donations to The William R. Hammill Memorial Scholarship fund for Laona High School students may be sent to any Wells Fargo Bank.