



William Stanley Holden

March 13, 1945 - April 3, 2024

William Stanley Holden, 79, of Holland, formerly of Naperville, Illinois passed away quietly at his home on Lake Macatawa from complications of multiple myeloma on April 3, 2024. Bill was born on March 13, 1945, to John T. and Louise B. Holden (Stanley) in Boston, Mass. He graduated from the Northfield Mount Hermon School in Mass. received a BA from Oberlin College, and attended two years of medical school at Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia. He spent his career as a National Account Manager (Additives) for the Lubrizol Corp, a worldwide diversified chemical co. He met Terri (Pelle), his wife of 50 years, in Philadelphia, and together they built a lifelong partnership of support and love.

Bill is survived by his two brothers, Pete B. Holden (Brookings, Oregon) and David M. Holden (Wolfeboro, NH), and the Boyd and Engman families. Cousins Jane (Glenn) Bowles, Hudson, NH, and Louise (Ernest) Borden, Madison, WI.

Bill loved the outdoors, especially being on the water, growing up sailing and racing at an early age. He was an avid hiker and served as a waterfront director teaching swimming to inner-city kids during summers off from college. He hiked and camped the Great Smokie Mountains, the Appalachian Trail, and canoed/hiked in the Superior Quetico Wilderness in Canada (Terri was on that adventure). Before he had a means of transportation he owned his first

sailboat. Later a car was purchased to get to the sailboat at the marina.

Bill enjoyed taking family and friends boating, thus he was given the name “Captain Bill” by our dear friend, David. The “title” took hold and he was forever “Captain Bill” to David’s family of children, and grandchildren! Bill was an expert seaman tending to lean a tad bit more towards furling a sail on his 33 ft. Pearson Vanguard, StarCrest, rather than powering our 17-foot Boston Whaler around Lake Macatawa. Let it be known that no matter the MPH of the wind when on the sailboat you use your sails, not the engine...no matter how long it takes to reach your destination!

Farewell, Captain Bill.....Some Time at Eve.....

Some time at eve when the tide is low, I shall slip my mooring and sail away,
With no response to the friendly hail of kindred craft in the busy bay.... In the
silent hush of the twilight pale, When the night stoops down to embrace the
day, and the voices call in the waters’ flow—Some time at eve when the tide is
low, I shall slip my mooring and sail away. Through the purpling shadows that
darkly trail O’er the ebbing tide of the Unknown Sea, I shall fare me away, with
a dip of sail and a ripple of waters to tell the tale of a lonely voyager, sailing
away to the Mystic Isles where at anchor lay... The crafts of those who have
sailed before... O’er the Unknown Sea to the Unseen Shore. A few who have
watched me sail away Will miss my craft from the busy bay; Some friendly
barks that were anchored near, some loving souls that my heart held dear, in
silent sorrow will drop a tear---- But I shall have peacefully furled my sail in
moorings sheltered from storm or gale, and greeted the friends who have
sailed before... O’er the Unknown Sea to the Unseen Shore. (Elizabeth Clark
Hardy)

Tribute Wall

SV

“ Dear Terri, I am so sad to read of Bill's passing. My father died of multiple myeloma, and I know how hard it is to go through. I so enjoyed your friendship and visiting with you as you passed by the shoppe on your walks. Please stop by. I would love to see you.

Susan L Vanderbilt - April 12, 2024 at 06:56 PM

HM

“ Sending our deepest condolences to you and your family.

Holland Museum - April 12, 2024 at 11:58 AM

SB

“ Teri, Tom and I so enjoyed the bit of boating we did with you on Woody. My heartfelt condolences are with you and may beautiful memories comfort you at this sad time. He fought a good fight. Rest In Peace, Bill. Sandy Buller

Sandy Buller - April 12, 2024 at 09:07 AM

RD

“ We have so many fond memories of our friendship of over 50 years with Bill and Terri. We especially reflect on the wonderful times, and adventures sailing with them on Lake Michigan. Bill was indeed, quite the Captain.

Robbie and Peter Dalton

Roberta and Peter Dalton - April 11, 2024 at 09:51 PM

JT

“ My heart is aching for your loss, dear friend Terri. I enjoyed you sharing stories about Bill over all the years. The memories of someone as special as your husband will live on forever. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you.

Jill Trujillo - April 08, 2024 at 08:33 AM

TB

“ Never have I met someone with a finer sense of direction and purpose as Captain Bill. His imprint on my life was likely greater than he knew. Many of my childhood hours were spent as an unreliable bosun on many sailing trips, all of them now cherished memories. During that time, he taught me the importance of careful thought, planning, and execution in pursuit of a goal. At the time, these lessons were lost on me, which I'm sure was a source of frustration. However, as I matured, they became crucial guideposts in life that have served me well. I'm indebted to so many people in my life, people who saved me from what I probably would have become without them. Amongst that crowd, Captain Bill stands tall. It was an honor to have served aboard the Star Craft, Captain. I wish you clear skies and a fair breeze on your journey. You will be missed.



Thomas Boyd - April 07, 2024 at 11:30 PM

KM

“ A wonderful man with an amazing and curious mind, heart and spirit. All our love and prayers to you Terri - you have been an amazing wife "in sickness and in health" - persistent and faithful in your love and care for Captain Bill. Grateful to know you both. Kevin and Kim Mendels

Kim and Kevin Mendels - April 07, 2024 at 10:14 PM

TB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



THERESA A BOYD - April 07, 2024 at 02:32 PM

TB

“ *“It’s No. Big. Deal.” A phrase famously coined by Captain Bill as he worked to get a crew of little kids to cooperate. The Captain delivered those words with a deliberate prosody and tone, and knew just how to get his young crew to appropriately fall into step.*

But....losing you, well that IS a big deal, Captain Bill. You always showed up for the small things and the big things for all of us. You are already greatly missed.



THERESA A BOYD - April 07, 2024 at 02:16 PM

PB

“ 50 years of precious memories.



Patty Boyd - April 07, 2024 at 02:05 PM

IB

“ I have fond memories of Captain Bill's mischievous gag gifts every year at the Holden's Christmas Party. You had to keep a close eye on your dinner plate, otherwise a telescoping fork would find its way across the table.

Can't count how many times Bill took us out on the water on Starcrest or the Whaler. He'll always be remembered.



Ian Boyd - April 07, 2024 at 12:51 PM

BE

“ Gracious host, voracious reader, expert teacher of complex knots and tireless friend, Captain Bill will be greatly missed.

Betsy Engman - April 07, 2024 at 12:04 PM

BE

“ *Gracious host, voracious reader, exceptional teacher of complex knots and tireless friend, Captain Bill will be greatly missed.*



Betsy Engman - April 07, 2024 at 12:02 PM

MS

“ *It was indeed a joy to know Bill Holden and to share our love of sailing. May he rest in peace.*

Mary & Jack Siebers - April 06, 2024 at 07:03 AM