



George T. Williams

May 11, 1932 - November 20, 2018

Decorated Korean War Hero George Williams of North Haven CT died peacefully at home on Tuesday, November 20, after a brief battle with cancer. Born May 11, 1932 to the late Frederick and Mary Kent Williams of Shepherd Street, New Haven, George served for 30 years as a New Haven Firefighter, and for over 25 years as custodian for the North Haven Town Hall. George was loved by many for his great sense of humor, and his dedication to his work and his family. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Judith Halpin Williams, and his three children, Rev. George Williams, SJ of San Francisco, CA, Laura Williams of Fort Myers, FL and Karyn Holcomb of Cheshire. They are the children of his first marriage to Marilyn Delgreco of Cheshire. George is the proud descendent of Roger Williams the founder of Providence, RI, and his family has fought in every war for this country since the 1600's. He continued that tradition with great honor, earning a Bronze Star for Valor in the Korean War. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday November 27, at 10:00 a.m. in Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church, Hamden, CT. Viewing hours will be Monday Nov. 26th at Sisk Brothers Funeral home 3105 Whitney Ave. Hamden from 4-8 PM. Burial will be in All Saints Cemetery. In Lieu of flowers, his family requests donations be sent to St. Jude's Children's Hospital 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105. To leave an online condolence please visit www.siskbrothers.com

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

700 Middletown Ave.
North Haven, CT

Previous Events

Calling hours

NOV 26. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home
3105 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT 06518
(203) 288-7114
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

Funeral service

NOV 27. 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
2819 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT

Tribute Wall

“ *This is the Homily I wrote for my dad's funeral:*

One of my fondest memories of my childhood was going with my dad some evenings after dinner to clean the Town Hall.

Firemen didn't make a lot of money in those days so he worked a part time job as the custodian of the Town Hall in North Haven.

I must have been about 6 or 7 years old. I helped him go around the various offices emptying trash cans, cleaning the bathrooms, dusting the desks, emptying those big heavy square glass ashtrays – back then everyone smoked.

This was our best time together. My father taught me the value of work as service and that any job, no matter how humble has dignity and all workers deserve our respect.

What has stayed with me most in my life from this time was a simple lesson about Paper Towels on the bathroom floors. What my father taught me was that it's a matter of courtesy and respect and service to leave everyplace we go a little better than when we found it.

So all my life, whenever I would use a public restroom, if someone had dropped a paper towel on the floor, I'd pick it up and throw it away so the next person would have a clean space. Maybe it's a little OCD, but why wait for someone else to do what we can do ourselves?

We owe that to one another.

Leave everyplace we go a little better than when we found it. That summarizes my father's life. A life of service, of faith a life marked by heroism.

He was a real hero. He served his country courageously in the Korean War, and was awarded the Bronze Star for valor in combat

at the age of 19 and when he came back home he continued to serve his community for the rest of his adult life as a firefighter in New Haven for 30 years.

To follow Christ requires heroism. He calls us to our better our higher selves. He calls us to be servants, to show our love in deeds not just in words. Sometimes we are called to heroic action – like my dad was in Korea or when he put his life on the line at countless fires in New Haven.

Other times we are called to a quiet heroism of humble service- to care for one another, to pick up the paper towels of life.

Saint Ignatius said that love is shown more in deeds than words. My father's life was one of deep Catholic faith expressed through deeds of extraordinary heroism and humble service.

His hard work was his way of showing his love for his wife and his children.

But love comes at a cost.

For my father, his love of country and family and his service to the community came at a cost. He was only 19 years old when he went to Korea, and he suffered emotionally and physically his entire life from the trauma of that war.

Love comes at a cost.

The lung cancer that took his life was no doubt the result of his years of firefighting in a time before they protective gear like they do now. He may not have died in a fire, though he came close on several occasions, but he has died as a direct result of that brave work.

He truly did give his life for others.

Love comes at a cost. The Cross reminds us that Jesus gave his life out of love for each one of us. Later in this Mass we will pray for my

father with these words:

Remember your servant George, whom you have called from this world to yourself. Grant that he who was united with your Son in a death like his, may also be one with him in his Resurrection.

The death of Christ was not the end of love and life. It was the beginning. It is our surest sign that love is stronger than death.

As Catholic Christians we gather here to mourn, but we also gather to celebrate God's great love for my dad and for each of us.

Of course Death is real, but it is not the end of our story. Our bodies die, but love never dies. We know this because we have Radical Hope in Christ.

The late Thomas Keating

George Williams - January 01, 2019 at 01:32 PM

“ *Euology*

I'm Fr. James Martin, a friend of his son George and the Williams' family.

Fr. George asked me to offer this euology today for his dad.

Did you know his nickname at work was "Shotglass" Williams?

Now, I know what you're thinking – but he didn't get that Firehouse nickname from drinking Boilermakers.

Not that he was a stranger to shotglasses- but he earned this nickname from his fellow firefighters when he once went into a burning kitchen and with one sweep of the firehose completely extinguished a large blaze. The Chief, upon seeing the room that had sustained almost no water damage marveled that he must have used about as much water as in a shotglass to put out the fire! The nickname stuck.

George knew how to make do with what he had. He was born into a large, loving family in the middle of the depression. Times were hard for working class people then and his father struggled to keep his wife and 6 children clothed and fed in those grim days.

His mother had a hard childhood. Born to poor Irish immigrants, she was orphaned as a little girl and was raised in an orphanage with her brother Thomas. A deeply religious woman, Mary Kent taught her children not only the truths of the faith, but also how to live that Christian faith with integrity and love and kindness.

George was a mix of both his parents – gruff like his father at times, tender and religious like his mother at other times. He was a lively, rambunctious boy, strong and athletic, though he also suffered from childhood ailments like rheumatic fever that caused him pain throughout his life.

If one could summarize George's life in a few words it would be

Courage, Honor, Love, Faith and Service.

He expressed his love for his wife and his three children by working hard to protect them and giving them a secure and comfortable home. He expressed his faith in the ways he served- his family, his church, his community as a firefighter and his nation as a decorated war hero in Korea.

George's roots go back to the earliest European settlement of this land. The Williams family arrived in Boston in 1638. His Puritan Ancestors were remarkable people. For example, Anne Hutchinson was a woman of faith and vision who believed women were the equals of men. She was banished from Boston because she stood up for what she believed. Mary Dyer another ancestor of George was hanged on Boston common because she chose her Quaker Faith in Christ as more important than life. Roger Williams was a minister of vision and tolerance who founded Providence RI to be a sanctuary for people of different religions. They were remarkable and noble people and their blood flowed through George's veins. He inherited their strong faith and their courage.

The Williams family has served this country in every war since the King Phillips War in the 1600's. Every generation made sacrifices to ensure the freedom and better lives of those to come.

Captain Edward Williams of the Colonial Navy died heroically in the revolutionary war, a prisoner of the British. He was 37 years old when he died and left behind two young sons.

Others served and died in the wars of 1812, and the civil war. George's father (and uncles) served in WWI and his brothers Duke and John in WWII. His brother-in-law Al, who he idolized as a child was killed in the Pacific war by a kamikaze pilot. George answered the door when two soldiers came in April 1945 to tell his oldest Sister Rose that her beloved husband of only 6 months had been killed.

George was sent to Korea in 1951, a young and innocent 19 year old. He returned a war hero having distinguished himself with great

courage in the war. His bravery saved the lives of countless fellow soldiers during a particularly brutal assault by the North Korean and Chinese armies. He was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor by the army for his heroism and self

George Williams - January 01, 2019 at 01:29 PM

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“ I wouldn't give a bean
To be a fancy pants Marine
I'd rather be a dog-faced soldier like I am.
I wouldn't trade my old ODs
For all the Navy's dungarees
I'm just a fighting son of Uncle Sam.

On all the posters that I read
It says: "The Army builds men"
So they're tearing me down
To build me over again.

I'm just a dog-faced soldier
With a rifle on my shoulder
And I eat a Kraut for breakfast every day.
So feed me ammunition,
Keep me in the 3rd Division,
Your dogface soldier boy's Okayeee.

Until we rendezvous at the next OBJ, Uncle George...

Love,

Captain Steve Taylor
United States Military Academy
West Point, NY

Go Army, Beat Navy.

Stephen Taylor - November 25, 2018 at 10:32 AM



“ 45 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



MR. BAYEN, Miss Judith
Ann Bayen and Mr. George T. ...
Mr. John J. Higgins, brother
of the bride, married the bride to



Sisk Brothers Funeral Home - November 21, 2018 at 10:01 AM