



William R Currier

July 31, 1918 - April 26, 2020

William Currier (Bill) passed away peacefully at Yale New Haven Hospital, St. Raphael's Campus on Sunday, April 26, 2020.

For the past four years, Bill has been a resident at Benchmark Assisted Living in Hamden, CT where he made many good friends and had a happy life.

Bill was born on July 31, 1918, in West Haven, CT to his late parents, Mae Richards Currier and Henry Judson Currier. His sister, Lillian Currier Poole, passed away in 1978. Bill's parents passed away when he was quite young but he continued to grow up to be a spectacular and independent young man. He graduated from West Haven High School when he was 15, worked at Savin Rock Amusement Park in West Haven for a few years and then continued his education at New Haven Community College where he received an Associate's Degree in Business.

On December 7, 1940, Bill married his beloved Dolly (Viola) Lepore and they enjoyed their "love nest" marriage until 2001 when Dolly sadly passed away. They shared a life of devotion and left an example for all who followed.

In 1943, he went to war. Part of the 69th Infantry, he was a decorated WWII combat veteran whose courage on the front lines liberated Nazi Germany and helped save the world. He watched friends die next to him. He was awarded the Bronze Star for valor and exceptional bravery. He earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Marksman Badge and his unit was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation for demonstrating "exceptional heroism in action against an armed enemy".

When he returned from the war, he began a career in machining and machine tools at Botwinik Brothers in New Haven, CT. After a short time, Bill started his own Machinery business, Currier Machine Sales which, at its peak, grew into the largest automatic screw machine dealership in the world. Bill ran Currier Machine Sales for almost 60 years.

He was a man whose unwavering work ethic covered ten decades. With an innate spirit of perseverance to provide a better life for his family, he started from nothing and ran his own business until he was 98 years old.

Bill was also an avid golfer later in life. Like everything else in his life, he tackled it with unbridled passion. In his later years, golf was his way of enjoying the act of being with others. He won the State of Connecticut Seniors Amateur Championship. Bill was a member of New Haven Country Club for 43 years.

Bill derived his deepest satisfaction from spending time with family and friends. Bill and Dolly created a travel group with their friends called "The Fun Club", whose mission was to travel to new and interesting destinations. Bill traveled throughout the world for both business and pleasure. He and Dolly spent many winters in Ft. Lauderdale Florida and also had a passion for Vermont where he vacationed and owned a home on Lake Rescue in Ludlow, Vermont for many years. Bill created a magical life for his children and grandchildren and never missed an opportunity to teach them a life lesson or pass along his valuable advice.

Bill leaves behind two daughters, Annette (Fran-deceased) Forte and Lorraine (Butch) Gallagher both of North Haven, CT. He has 6 grandchildren, Fran (Janna) Forte, Jennifer (Timothy) Tangari, David (Cailin) Gallagher, Jeffrey (Jen) Gallagher, Kimberly (Andrew) Tripaldi and Gregory Gallagher. Bill is survived by ten great-grandchildren, Francesco, Lucia and Massimo Forte, Timothy, Julia and Mia Tangari, Charlie, Chase and Lilly Tripaldi and Owen Gallagher. He also left behind nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many friends

Despite a lifetime of challenges, Bill was a living, breathing supernova of

optimism. He always saw the good. His boisterous and loud laugh and his strong way of shaking your hand with both of his hands and arms until he pulled you into his space – a trademark, for sure!

Bill lived a huge life. It was full, and textured and rich. He always kept his “4Fs” front and center: Family, friends, faith and fun. He was a legend in the way to love...unconditionally and a legend in the way to live ...authentically. The world was a better place with our Bill in it and the world will never be the same without him.

Rest in peace Dad, Gramp and Papa!

We will plan a service to celebrate his life once we can all be safely together again.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Wounded Warrior Project (www.woundedwarriorproject.org) in honor of Bill – it was his favorite charity and one he supported for many years. Arrangements are with Sisk Brothers Funeral Home, 3105 Whitney Ave., Hamden. www.siskbrothers.com

Tribute Wall

RI

“ I have fond memories of Billy and Dolly from my early childhood up to his senior years with my mom and dad, Ken and Gloria. I think I still have one of his company pens from Currier Machines! I enjoyed seeing him, he was always strong and happy. I am so sorry for your loss.

Rich Block

Rich - May 27, 2020 at 08:46 AM

DL

“ Lori & family, I will always remember your father's friendly smile at Mass & at the grocery store, such a kind soul, my condolences, may he rest in peace. Denise Lussier & family

Denise Lussier - May 06, 2020 at 11:34 AM

SC

“ It is virtually impossible to encapsulate what Bill Currier meant to us--a friend, a mentor, a role model, and so much more. The essence of this man was his integrity and his love of people and of life. A special memory was the phenomenal 100th birthday at the New Haven Country Club and his total joy sharing the day with family and friends. He will always be in our hearts....sending much love to Annette, Lori, and their families.

Carl and Sharon Norby

Sharon & Carl - May 02, 2020 at 05:55 PM

CL

“ Mr. Currier was an extremely positive and happy person. I will always remember how engaging, warm and kind he was every time I saw him. He viewed his life as a gift and his enthusiasm had a great affect on those around him. He truly lived his life to the fullest and left behind a wonderful legacy of family and friends.

Catherine Lenti - May 02, 2020 at 08:09 AM

EW

“ I played for Bill's Currier Machine Little League team in North Haven. We brought him two championships but I never knew him personally him back then. Thirty years later, when I joined New Haven Country Club, I was assigned a locker right next to Bill's. We quickly became very close sharing many photos and memories of the good old days. Bill was the ultimate optimist. Every time I saw Bill at his locker he would greet me with a huge smile and big handshake. He loved to talk about our families and especially our golf games, his being considerably more advanced than mine. I am, and will always be, reminded of Bill's comforting presence every time I'm at our lockers. I am so so blessed and thankful to have shared these special moments with Bill. My thoughts and prayers are with his loving and beautiful family.

Ed Walsh

Ed Walsh - May 02, 2020 at 07:39 AM

GY

“ I worked at Currier Machine Sales with Bill for many years and got to know his entire family. He was a friend to many and always had a good story to share. He and Dolly were at my wedding...so many memories. My sympathy to Annette, Laurie and families. RIP Bill.

Ginger Yagovane - May 01, 2020 at 09:31 PM

BW

“ I met Bill some 15-20 years ago at New Haven Country Club. I knew he was a very good golfer, and also a decorated WW II vet. Bill was such a good Senior golfer he had his name posted more than once on the Shoot Your Age board at NHCC. And, one day, when I asked him to share some of his wartime experiences at the Battle of the Bulge, all he would say very modestly was “it was awfully cold....., but we won.”

Rest In Peace, Bill.

Bill Walsh

Bill Walsh - May 01, 2020 at 09:18 PM

AD

“ I knew Bill through my membership at the New Haven Country Club. I played golf with him many times and just loved his way about his fellow golfers. I shared a common interest in machine tools and we talked about the industry in Connecticut. As an exMarine of later date I was aware of his service and what he did. He was truly a very special person for me and all who got to know him. My deep sympathy to his family. Anthony DeLio

Anthony DeLio - May 01, 2020 at 04:00 PM

VF

“ I knew Bill from New Haven Country Club. He was always friendly and upbeat. I could not believe how good a golfer he was at his age. My condolences to his family.

Jim Ferraro

VINCENT JAMES FERRARO - May 01, 2020 at 03:12 PM

AC

“ Dear Mrs. Forte, Jenny and Fran – our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families. What a beautiful tribute to Gramps. He was such a special person and an inspiration to all of us. Love,
Alicia Clark Coderre and family

Alicia Clark Coderre - May 01, 2020 at 12:52 PM

FR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Fran - May 01, 2020 at 10:39 AM

FR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Fran - May 01, 2020 at 10:32 AM