

Robert Wade Berry

Robert Wade Berry, 74, of Burgess, VA, passed away March 25, 2012 after a brief illness. He was born to the late Frank and Georgette Berry, October 11, 1937 in Clarksburg, WV. He graduated from Mt. Vernon (OH) High School in 1956, and married Mary Jewell Sapp in 1960. He received a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Indiana Institute of Technology in 1964 and completed the Columbia University Executive Program in Business Administration in 1978. He served three years of active duty as an officer in the U.S. Navy and retired as Commander after 28 years of reserve duty.

During Bob's 25-year career with the General Foods Corporation, he held management positions in Battle Creek, MI and Saratoga Springs, finishing his career as Plant Manager of the Carton and Container Operation in Saratoga Springs. During his time as Plant Manager, he served on the Saratoga Springs Planning Board and also served as chairman of the Friends of Scouting annual dinner and fundraiser. Bob's hobbies and interests were reflected in many forms. A skilled carpenter and machinist, upon corporate retirement he opened and operated a successful machine shop in Ballston Spa. He was an active member of the Saratoga Lake Sailing Club, where he raced with his friends in the Thistle class and served as Commodore of the club in 1988. His competitive spirit could also be found on Lake George, where he enjoyed racing his J29. After closing the machine shop in 1996, he and Mary retired to Burgess, VA to enjoy sailing on the Chesapeake Bay and where he became an active member of the Northern Neck Sailing Association. Bob also renewed his interest in shooting trap and was an active member of the Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club where he served as President. He was a certified NRA firearms instructor, and provided instruction on safe firearm handling and operation. Bob was a parishioner of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Hague, VA.

He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Mary, two daughters, Bronwyn (Brian) Craig of Glen Cove, NY and Paige (Bradley) Allen of Albany, NY, many cousins, nieces and nephews, countless friends, and his dog, Indy, a constant companion.

The family wishes to thank the Riverside Cancer Center in Gloucester, VA for their kindness and care during his illness. In addition, the family would like to thank Riverside Hospice in Tappahannock, VA for their gracious and gentle care given to Bob during the last days of his life.

A wake and funeral mass were held in Burgess. A committal service will take place at the Saratoga National Cemetery on May 7, 2012 at 3:00pm. Following the service, family and friends are invited to celebrate Bob's life at the Saratoga Lake Sailing Club.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the St. Paul's Parish Building Fund, PO Box 65, Hague, VA 32469 or to Riverside Hospice Tappahannock, 618 Hospital Rd. Tappahannock, VA 22560.