

WILLIAM "BILL" DONALD WATTS

William "Bill" Donald Watts, born January 27, 1930, in Jefferson City, MO, and grew up in the farming community near Winston, MO. He graduated with a Mining Engineering Degree from the Colorado School of Mines in 1952, and soon after married his loving bride of 66 years, Gloria Jean Schram, in Boulder, CO. His first job out of college with US Steel relocated him to the Iron Range of Northern Minnesota to start a new career. Five of their six children were born in Minnesota – Hibbing and Duluth. His career took him to Nassau, Bahamas, on assignment to the US Steel Shipping arm – Navios Corporation, where the sixth child was born. Bill got all six kids into competitive swimming in Nassau in the 1960s, which has turned into lifelong pursuits for all six children. (Four of the kids recently competed in the 2023 National Senior Olympics in Pittsburgh, in a family relay, finishing 5th). In 1968, the family relocated to Pittsburgh, PA, where Bill worked in the US Steel Headquarters building downtown. The family continued to grow and swim under the guidance of Bill and the loving care of Gloria. Bill himself was an athlete all his life, competing in football, basketball, boxing, and in later years, an avid golfer, that continued into his 80s. He continued exercising into his 90s.

After 25 years in Pittsburgh and a 40-year career at US Steel, Bill and Gloria returned to the tropics, retiring in Venice, FL, where they enjoyed 30 years together, playing golf, Bridge, and hosting countless visits from their six children from around the world.

Bill was a man of unwavering dedication, who deeply embedded the values of hard work and integrity in his children, spanning their careers, athletic endeavors, and family lives. Now, he is reunited with his cherished wife, Gloria, in Heaven, where, together, they can bask in eternal grace and joy.

He is survived by children, Peggy, Daniel, Jean (Paul), Mike (Cindy), Nick (Rhea), and Jerry (Janice); five grandchildren, Michael Owen (Audrey), Chris Watts (Megan), Laura Hogan, Jackie Watts, Janet Rowan; and two great-grandchildren, Mario and Natalie Watts.

His life story is a testament to his enduring influence and the love he shared with his family.

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