

William (Bill) Alexander Lawrence 16 Aug 1930 – 28 Sep 2001

Our good buddy, Bill Lawrence of Paget, Bermuda passed away on 28 September 2001 while he and his wife, Elda were visiting in Toronto. We will really miss seeing his smiling face at our Reunions. Our sympathy was extended to Elda and her family.

Bill was born in Bermuda to a fisherman's family (ergo his great affinity to the sea) and attended Mount St. Agnes Academy before signing on the sailing schooner WINNIFRED MARIS, at the time working in the West Indies. Having met many Canadian sailors when their ships worked up in the Bermuda area, Bill Lawrence and Rod Petty decided to carry on up to Halifax, Nova Scotia from Desert Island, Maine (they were contracted to deliver a yacht from Bermuda to Maine by it's owner) to sign on with the Royal Canadian Navy so they could fight in the Korean War. After New Entry Training at HMCS CORNWALLIS Bill was drafted to the cruiser HMCS ONTARIO aboard which he sailed the Pacific before returning to the East Coast Navy. There he joined the Diving Unit's Diving Tender #3. LCDR John Ruse was the Diving Unit's Commanding Officer at that time and was good friends of Bill and Elda thereafter. It was in 1953 the Korean War came to an end, at which time Bill Lawrence and Rod Petty requested and were granted their Honourable Discharge by Purchase and returned to their ancestral homes in Bermuda. Bill commenced to do some wreck diving, treasure hunting and construction work with his Grandfather, Alec Lawrence and in 1954 purchased the family business from his Grandfather, which he incorporated into Lawrence Marine Limited – the largest marine and land construction organization in Bermuda. Bill met his wife of 44 years, Elda Joanne Dresser (a native of Windsor, Ontario) in 1956 and they were married in 1957.

In his later years, Bill had turned most of the work of running his business to his son, although he still kept his hand in when required, following which he and Elda could enjoy their senior years doing the things they loved the best.

The Lawrence family wish to thank all their friends from the family of Naval Divers for their kind words and expression of encouragement. Some of the organizations, which Bill had been involved with during his life, are:

Canadian Naval Divers Association Association	Bermuda War Veterans
Royal Naval Association C&PO's Association	Royal Canadian Naval
Paget Parish Council	Spanish Point Boat Club
The Old Colony Club Dinghy Club	The Royal Hamilton Amateur
Bermuda Anglers Club	The Seahorse Anglers Club
Bermuda Mechanics Beneficial Association	The Lodge Civil and Military

Bermuda Rotary Club
Electra Chapter

The Order of the Eastern Star,

The Korean Veterans Associati