

ATTHEWS, Rev. Bill "Darby"

MATTHEWS, Rev. Bill "Darby" - October 3, 1936 - June 30, 2006. Bill died peacefully, succumbing despite the best efforts and exemplary care of the QEII Cardiovascular Department and ICU. He is survived by his wife, Pamela (Moors); his children, Bill (wife Donna), Valerie (husband Danny), and Philip (wife Stefani); his brother, Jim Matthews, Ottawa, and sister, Joan Machnicky, Edmonton. "Buddy" will be revered in stories and greatly missed by his treasured eight grandchildren, Samantha and Carter Matthews, Kevin, David and Simon Walker, Kiah, Isaac and Jacob Matthews. Bill was predeceased by his parents, William and Edna, and his brother, Ronald. Born and raised in Ottawa, Bill entered the RCN in August 1955, and proudly qualified as Clearance Diver immediately after Basic Training. For 22 years, he served as a member of Fleet Diving Unit Atlantic (HMCS Granby) followed by four years as the Diving Training Chief, and then Unit Chief of the Fleet Diving Unit Pacific. This was a time of great adventure for Bill. Even more importantly, his colleagues became his fast friends, whose faithfulness endured throughout his remaining years, no matter his circumstances. After retiring from the forces in 1980, Bill studied at Dalhousie University and the Atlantic School of Theology and was called to ordained ministry in the United Church of Canada in 1986. He served and was richly blessed by ministry to many people in many places including St. James UCC (Goodwood), Gynecology/Oncology Department (VG Site, QEII), the Kennetcook-Gore Pastoral Charge, Epworth UCC and Newsom UCC (Glace Bay). In 2001, a stroke presented Bill with physical challenges that tested the perseverance that was a hallmark of his character. He met those challenges with a grace and dignity that inspired and comforted those who traveled alongside him. Visitation today from 7-9 p.m. and Tuesday, July 4, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. in A.L. Mattatall Funeral Home, 217 Portland St., Dartmouth. No flowers, by request. Donations to Bethany United Church, Dartmouth Stroke Support Club or a charity of your choice would be a welcome way in which to honour Bill's memory. A service of thanksgiving, celebration and remembrance will be held on Wednesday, July 5, at 2 p.m. in Bethany United Church, 7171 Clinton Ave., Halifax.