



## William Shepard Jones

May 16, 1924 - January 20, 2020

Bill Jones passed away on January 20th, following a long and eventful life. Bill led the epitome of a 20th Century life. Born on a farm in Tallmadge, Ohio in 1924, it was a time when the cows in the barn got electricity before the farmhouse did. Bill enjoyed school and participated in theatre productions, band and sports, but recorded later that “as an athlete I was a fair musician.” After completing one semester at Antioch College, he was drafted into the Army of the United States in December 1942. He fought with the 94th Division, 301st Infantry Regiment, Company F as a Company Messenger (Radio Man) PFC in the Battle of the Bulge, winning several commendations, including the Bronze Star for “Maintaining company communications and training replacements under continuous fire in campaigns from Moselle to Saar and across to Breakout for the Rhine.” He also managed to get one 3 day pass to Paris, and by sheer luck ended up in the Paris USO, getting to meet Noel Coward, Maurice Chevalier, and share a quick dance with Marlene Dietrich on stage.

After the war, he returned to Antioch and graduated w/ a degree in Chemistry in 1949. That same year, he accepted one of the first Fulbright Scholarships to study Industrial Chemistry in Birmingham, England and enjoy side trips to Scotland, Switzerland, Norway & quick champagne flights from London to Paris and back.

Upon returning to the U.S., Bill embarked on a varied series of jobs & careers, from managing communications from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union

for the CIA, to inventing and briefly producing a skin moisturizer; running the Tent & Parachute Division for ILC, the same company that made space suits for NASA during the Apollo years. He owned and operated a bicycle shop in West Chester PA for two years in the mid-1970s; and later, realizing he would have to put two kids through college, he worked for the Department of Energy managing several coal to hybrid-fuels projects for the Department of Energy until his retirement in 1988.

He met the love of his life, Suzanne R. Peter, at the American Chemical Society National Meeting of 1954 in NYC. He brought her a glass of beer, and they were married seven months later. Within a few years, they had two children, William Peter Jones (Carol, Tim, Dylan & Scott) and his 'favorite' (yet only) daughter, Robin (Roberta) D. Jones.

Bill wrote his memoirs in the '90's, Recollections, which were edited and published by his daughter in 2009.

After his retirement, he volunteered his time, energy and good humor to maintaining the Fox Hollow Trail on Skyline Drive, as well as tending various gardens at Blandy's Arboretum. He was an official Volunteer and Guide at Great Falls Nat'l Park, and also helped maintain property west of Great Falls that belonged to The Nature Conservancy.

Bill & Sue moved to Westminster-Canterbury Winchester in 1998, where Bill greatly enjoyed assisting Teresa Livingston with her wildflower garden and working on several walking trails on the property. He gave Tuesday morning Nature Walks for many years.

He was also Chairman of the SVWC Buildings & Grounds Committee, and presided over the purchase and installation of the flag pole that sits at the end of the guest parking lot. He maintained many friendships with the B&G Crew and many other SVWC employees and residents.

In his last years, I never left his room without hearing him say "I love you."

A service honoring his memory will be held at 2:30pm Saturday afternoon,

January 25th at the Westminster Canterbury Chapel. A reception will follow in The Abbey.

In lieu of flowers, feel free to donate to:

- SVWC Fellowship Fund
- The Nature Conservancy ([nature.org](https://www.nature.org))

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ Extending condolences on behalf of the Ed and Peg McGrath family. We sincerely appreciate that not only our parents but each member of our family individually were able to know and admire Bill and his amazing life and contributions to our Country and the Community of SVWC. From the welcome that Bill and Sue extended to our parents when they first moved into SVWC to the last year dining with Bill each day, knowing and enjoying Bill Jones (also called him "The Governor " or "Gov "for short). We share many fond memories and we will always feel a kindred Spirit with Bill and his family.

*Jim McGrath*

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**Jim McGrath** - January 25, 2020 at 12:16 PM

LH

“ Such a wonderful and happy man. We will miss him and his family much. He always had a smile for us all. All of us from SVWC send our love and deepest sympathy to his family.



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**Linda Hebel** - January 24, 2020 at 09:48 AM