



William (Bill) Hugh Watkins

February 1, 1927 - March 9, 2018

William (Bill) Hugh Watkins, Tallahassee, Florida passed away at Big Bend Hospice House on Friday, March 9th. Born in Canton, Ohio to Lewis William Watkins and Frances Nicholson (Bate) Watkins, he married his college sweetheart, Mary Ellen Hoyt of Lima, Ohio. Married until her passing in 2012, they were able to celebrate over 60 years of marriage.

Always witty and intellectually curious, he graduated from Lehman HS, Western Reserve University (BS), Trinity University (MS) and the University of Texas (PhD). He proceeded to have a 20-year career in the USAF, retiring a Lt. Colonel, then an additional 22- year career as Professor of Experimental Psychology at Eastern Kentucky University.

Upon retirement, he and Mary Ellen moved aboard their houseboat and spent the next several years navigating waterways of the Midwest and volunteering their time with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Bill is survived by his four children James (Kathy), Peter (Laura), David (Shelley), Kathy (Ann), 7 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, his brother Lewis B. Watkins of Solvang, California, and Samuel Watkins of Canton, Ohio. His brother Thomas Cox passed way in 2002.

His remains will be interred in the Tallahassee National Cemetery. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Big Bend Hospice of Tallahassee, Planned Parenthood or the League of Women Voters.

Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home in Tallahassee (850/385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Watkins family with their arrangements.