

WILLARD B MILES

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Abstract

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Willard "Bill" Miles, 77 of Lake Hayward, East Haddam, passed away on Friday, July 3, 2015 at **Hartford** Hospital. Born in Manhattan, New York on August 6, 1937, he was the son of the late John Miles and Audrey (Walters) Miles.? Bill married Alice Chamberlain Moore on May 26, 1979.? They moved to the tight-knit Lake Hayward community in 1982 and enjoyed the lake life. In addition to his beloved wife of 36 years, he is survived by his brother Stephen and wife Jeanette of Florida, daughter Roxanne and husband Richard Roy of East Haddam; two grandchildren, Joshua and Chelsea Roy and numerous extended family and friends.? He was predeceased by his son, Willard John "BJ" Miles just 3 months ago, his sisters Audrey and Monica and his brother, John. After graduating from Bacon Academy in Colchester (class of 1955) Bill served in the U.S. Army for a short time but was granted an honorable hardship discharge in order to run the family farm on Nelkin Road in Colchester, when his uncle Frank passed away unexpectedly. He was self-employed for many years as the owner of Advance Service Autobody in Colchester and as a real estate broker. He passed on his work ethic, entrepreneurial spirit, and knack for fixing cars to his son BJ. Bill was also a Deputy Sheriff in the 1970's, owned other businesses and held other positions throughout the years such as a superintendent on bridge repairs and in the trucking industry. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and watching NASCAR racing lately following Connecticut native Joey Logano. He was an avid fan of UConn Women's basketball. To his grandchildren he was known as "Poppy" and he was very proud that they are UConn alumni. He firmly believed in his 2nd amendment rights and was a lifetime member of the NRA and the North American Hunting Club. Bill was a survivor of the tragic **Hartford Circus Fire** on July 6, 1944. He attended the **circus** that day with his aunt Edith, and sisters Audrey and Monica. The **fire** claimed Edith and Monica's lives. Bill was often asked to retell the story of that sad day and he attended many events honoring those that did not survive. Bill had a quirky sense of humor that was enjoyed by all those who knew him and he had a nickname for everyone. Most importantly, he will be sadly missed but remembered fondly for his love and devotion to family and friends. In keeping with Bill's wishes, a celebration of his life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers or donations please consider an act of kindness to others on Bill's behalf. The Aurora-

McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of his services.
www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com Paid death notice View and sign our online guestbook at
Courant.com/obituaries.

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