



William K. "Bill" Doran

November 28, 1924 - January 1, 1

William Kinson "Bill" Doran, 84, died Saturday at Israel Family Hospice House in Ames, in the company of his three sons and daughters-in-law, following a long and private battle with cancer. Born November 28, 1924 to Lant and DeElda Doran of Boone, Bill graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1947. Married that same year to the former Joan Montgomery, also from Boone, Doran shipped off to Korea in 1950, serving aboard the Sumner class destroyer Douglas H. Fox. During this tour of duty, he led a whaleboat raiding party along the North Korean coastline, charged with demolishing harbor closure nets and disrupting Sampan activity providing aid to enemy forces. This type of small boat raiding party was the first of its kind for the United States Navy in modern times and set a precedent for future operations. Known as Doran's Raiders, this effort has been documented in Military History Magazine and was the focus of an exhibition at the Smithsonian Institute. Lt. Doran was awarded the Bronze Star for these actions. At the end of World War II and before his Korean service, Doran was stationed in Guam where he participated in War Crimes trials associated with the cannibalism of American Airmen by Japanese soldiers on the island of Chichi Jima during World War II. Due to the heinous nature of the proceedings, the military sealed the records of these trials for 50 years. Upon his retirement from a long and successful legal career in the Boone firm co-founded by his father, Doran dedicated a great deal of effort in his retirement years to securing the release of these documents via the Freedom of Information Act, and assuring that this story be told to the world. "I owed it to those boys," Doran said. These efforts resulted in the book, *Flyboys*, written by James Bradbury, author of the bestselling *Flag of our Fathers*. A dedicated outdoorsman, Doran was a life member of the National Rifle Association and a dedicated supporter of conservation causes of all types. On safari in then-Tanganika 1962, he took the World Record East African Eland. While he hunted and fished around the world, he took the greatest satisfaction in time spent afield in Iowa and surrounding states with a dedicated and close circle of friends. In the last few decades of his life, Doran pursued the goal of becoming the best wild Turkey hunter of all time. He is survived by his sister Jaqueline Erbe of Des Moines and his former wife Joan Montgomery of Bainbridge Island, WA. He was preceded in death by his brother Dr. John Doran of Ames. He is survived by three sons and their families: Chris and Michelle Doran, of

Panora, Jeff and Debe Doran of Bainbridge Island, WA and Dan and Angela Doran of Boone. There are 6 grandchildren and 6 great]grandchildren in the family. There will be no public funeral. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Israel Family Hospice House in Ames.

Comments



“ We knew your Dad from coming down to hunt here in SE Iowa and in Mo. We enjoyed his visits and looked forward to the next hunting season. We live near Keosauqua and he hunted on our farm many years. He signed the Flyboys book for my son-in-law who is an avid reader of such books. By reading the obituary, I find there were sides to him we knew nothing about. He also knew my brother, Bob Phillips, who resides in Boone. Think that is how he started coming down here on his hunting trips. We will miss his visits. Our sincere sympathy, Karen and Rich Workman

Rich and Karen Workman - January 24, 2009 at 04:11 PM



“ Dan - I was doing some family research and happened across your father's obituary. I worked with you years ago at CTC in Ames. I never had the opportunity to meet your father, but I will be sure to read up on his important work. In a "small world" note, I go to the same church as Mrs. Bradley. My sincere condolences to you and your family.

Lisa Coady, Wausau, WI

Lisa Coady - December 16, 2008 at 11:21 AM



“ To the sons of Bill Doran.
I am Betty Bradley, the mother of the author, James Bradley. I did not know your father, but I had the highest regard for him from what James told me. James emailed his obituary to me. I printed it and now it is tucked in the pages of my book, FLYBOYS.
My sincere sympathies to you on the death of your father
Betty Bradley

Betty Bradley - December 12, 2008 at 09:42 AM



“ Although I did not know Bill personally, I know his son, Jeff and his wife, Deb Doran and just being around them tells me a lot about Bill Doran. He had a powerful impact on their lives and the respect and love expressed by them makes it clear to me that Bill Doran was a remarkable man. I wish I had had the chance to get to know him personally. To the entire family, I am so sorry for your loss. May you have many times together to tell stories and keep his memory alive. God bless all of you during this difficult journey of grief. Claudia

Claudia Sangster - December 11, 2008 at 06:05 PM



“ Bill Doran was a buddy. He poured his heart out to me about memories of sixty years earlier and it became my book, FLYBOYS. I loved Bill's stories of hunting and cooking game. He detailed to me how he cooked squirrel. When I phoned him and he wasn't home, I'd leave a message, "Bill, I saw a dead squirrel on the road and thought of you." Now there's no answering machine to phone, but I'm still thinking of Bill.

James Bradley

James Bradley - December 10, 2008 at 04:01 PM



“ Jeff & family:
I am saddened to hear of your loss. I also remember some very good times at your home. He was such a nice man and always had kind words for everyone. My sympathy to your family. Joanne Elliott Hansson, Ames, Iowa.

Joanne Elliott Hansson - December 10, 2008 at 11:16 AM



“ Dan, Jeff, Chris, Jackie and Jo,
I am so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. I feel very lucky to have grown up with Bill as one of my role models, he was a great man.
Your friend,
Boysell Linderblood

Boysell Linderblood - December 09, 2008 at 04:49 PM



“ Chris, Jeff and Dan. Im srory for your loss. When my father died a couple of years ago Bill said some flattering words about him to me. It meant a lot. He did indeed lead a full life. Take Care. Lauren Taylor, Clear Lake IA

Lauren Taylor - December 09, 2008 at 02:03 PM



“ We are honored to have known Bill. We are remembering good times with him and you in his home. What a great, fun and interesting host. He was indeed a huge part of the Greatest Generation. We are thinking of him fondly and are thinking of you with sincere heartfelt sympathy. Connie and Steve Kruck

Steve and Connie Kruck - December 09, 2008 at 09:20 AM