



William Henry Mastbrook

February 4, 1925 - November 12, 2012

WILLIAM HENRY MASTBROOK, son of the late Henry James and Frances Collins Mastbrook, died on 12 November 2012 at the Manassas Health and Rehabilitation Center of complications from congestive heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; he was 87 years of age. He was predeceased on 12 September 2007 by his lifelong partner, friend, and companion M. Dale Hooper and survived by a half-brother, Norton Mastbrook of Takoma Park Maryland. Born on 4 February 1925 in Sibley Hospital, he was descended from a long line of native Washingtonians who had lived in the Tenleytown section of the city. Growing up in a depression era environment he began at a young age to combine schooling with extra work, such as a stint as a lunch counter server at Taft's Pharmacy and the arduous exercise of a Western Union telegram delivery boy. When the United States was attacked on 7 December 1941, Bill was still too young to enlist, but as soon as he turned eighteen, he immediately volunteered to enter the Armed Forces of the United States and on 14 April 1943 was formally inducted. He served throughout the war in the Pacific Theatre in the Army Air Corps (now the United States Air Force) as Staff Sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 7th Air Force. He received an honorable discharge on 13 February 1946. He immediately set out to obtain a college education, spending one year at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, then transferring to American University in Washington DC where he majored in Spanish and German, graduating on 14 June 1953. An interesting highlight of Bill's association with

American University is that throughout most of the 1950's he taught typing and shorthand in the School of Business Administration; these were skills he acquired in high school on the theory that they might come in useful someday. During these work filled years he also taught English as a second language for foreign professionals who came to the United States under the auspices of the State Department. His primary work, however, was in the secondary schools of Northern Virginia. His first teaching post was at St. Stephen's School for Boys in Alexandria where he joined the faculty in 1953, teaching Spanish and Sacred Studies; his next position was in Fairfax County at the newly opened McLean High School, followed by three and a half years at Annandale High where he taught English, Spanish and German. In 1967, he was invited to become head of the foreign language department at the new Oakton High School, a position he held until his retirement on 1 March 1980. While at Oakton Bill was awarded a sabbatical to pursue a master's degree in adult education from Virginia Polytechnic and State University. He was duly awarded a Master of Science in Education on 9 June 1973. Although Bill had officially retired, actual retirement was simply not in his vocabulary. In 1961, Bill and lifelong partner and companion, M. Dale Hooper (1959 until Dale's death in 2007) moved to Lake Jackson in order to have the space to develop a kennel for showing, breeding and developing of purebred collies. On 1 September 1961, Bill and Dale founded Colliehaven Kennels. Bill was active in many organizations that promoted the development of the breed and, together with Dale Hooper was instrumental in founding the local Mattaponi All Breed Club. In the late 1960's Colliehaven added a second breed, the newly imported Dutch dog, the Keeshond. Bill was elected to the presidency of the national breed organization the American Keeshond Society in 1988. In "retirement" Bill never lost his interest in public education. Wrote Gerrard P. Cleary, then chair of the Prince William County School Board on 3 July 1984, "I want to personally thank you for serving as a member and Chairman of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the 1983-84 school years. The Board is especially appreciative of citizens that give of their time to serve the

children of the school district and you are to be commended. Called by the local paper "a lesson in citizenship," he and Dale founded the Northern Virginia Ragtime Society in 1979, a still thriving organization dedicated to promotion and performance of ragtime music. In addition he was involved in the establishment of the Prince William Committee of 100, a non-partisan/non political group of people from a wide variety of professions. At each meeting panelists present both sides of a timely issue and answer questions from the audience. No wonder the New Dominion magazine called Bill one of Northern Virginia's top fifty "Movers and Shakers" in its May 1990 issue and in 1985, Bill was elected as president of the Prince William Cultural Arts Federation, appointed by Governor Charles Robb as coordinator for Prince William County for the Governor's Awards for the Arts in Virginia. Governor Robb wrote to Bill, "I want to take this opportunity to thank you once again for the outstanding job you did as Area Coordinator for the Governor's Arts program. I'm confident that your efforts will be remembered for many, many years to come." Those of us who had the privilege of calling Bill a friend, will also remember him for many years to come.

The family will receive friends from 5:00-8:00 P.M. Thursday, November 15, 2012 at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas where funeral services will be held 12:30 P.M. Friday, November 16, 2012. Interment will be held Monday, November 19, 2012 at 12:00 Noon at Mt. Zion Cemetery, Bethesda, Maryland. Condolences may be sent to www.piercefh.com.

Tribute Wall

KG

“ We all are deeply saddened at the loss of a dear, dear friend. Bill was more like family to us. He was a true gentleman with the most loving and generous spirit. Bill, we will miss everything about you, but most of all, your love of laughter and life. Goodbye for now, dearest and much loved friend.
Until we meet again...

Kathy, Lou, and Chrys George - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM

MH

“ Bill was a dear, sweet man and I will miss him.

Marilyn R. Horowitz - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM

JD

“ For the past couple of years, another friend of mine and I have been trying to locate Bill as we had lost contact. Our efforts were futile. I am so sorry to hear that Bill has been ill and that I could not find him in order to visit in his last days. We met through music and had great conversations about many things for years. The group I sang with did joint concerts with the Ragtime Society on several occasions. Bill, Dale and I also worked together many times when we all were part of the Cultural Arts Federation. We thank him for his many, many years of dedication to the arts that he loved. He will be missed. R.I.P. Bill.

Joan and Frank Van Doren

Joan Van Doren - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM

AH

“ *Bill, I will miss you so much. We have been the dearest of friends for so long and I have so many happy and fun memories of you, Dale, Millie and our times spent attending events from DC to Manassas and having so much fun along the way. We shared so much together over many glasses of wine, cups of coffee and good meals along the way. RIP my dear friend, I will never forget you and the richness you added to my life.*

Adele Hughitt - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM

MC

“ While I am saddened by Bill's passing, I am grateful to have known him and to have been guided and helped by him. I met "Herr Mastbrook" in a freshman German class in 1967 at the newly opened Oakton High School and later that same day was introduced to him yet again -- this time as the BLOCK newspaper's faculty sponsor. A junior was the first editor-in-chief, but three years later I would not only become the editor-in-chief, but under Bill's watchful eye, would become its publisher as well. Bill agreed to not only be the newspaper sponsor, but also to become the Breakfast Club sponsor so the newspaper could generate its own revenues. At the same time, he was the Foreign Language Department head and with his friend, Dale Hooper raised purebred Collies and Keeshonds. Industrious, Bill had an eager mind and inculcated his restless desire to learn into me -- and generations of apt students. Others may focus on all of his substantial accomplishments, but I will remember here his cheerfulness, kindness, patience, and care. He walked alongside me (and dozens of other students), guiding and instructing as a mentor -- ever mindful to make each person he met a better person for that chapter of experiences. I am doubly blessed in life -- I have a great father, but I also had Bill who served me as a second "father" -- always guiding me in a Robert Young/"Father Knows Best" - manner. I learned a lot from Bill and he helped make me a better man, reinforcing solid values and a decision-making matrix that emphasizes critical thinking. Though I had not seen him many years, the indelible mark Bill leaves on my life has been replicated whenever I teach and mentor others. A variation on the concluding line in the Oscar-winning Best Picture, "How Green was My Valley" expresses how I feel about Bill: "Men like Bill Mastbrook cannot die. They are with me with me still, real in memory as they as they were in flesh, loving and beloved forever."

Mick Curran - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM

SB

“ I honestly cannot remember the first time I met Bill and Dale. They, along with Adele Hughitt, and I shared so much. We all loved the arts, music, and volunteering for the betterment of our community. I last saw Bill and Dale about 2006, and I marveled to my husband how wonderful they were and still so very energetic and involved.

There are those people who walk through your life, then their are those who stay in your heart forever.

Love to all who shared their lives and brought them joy.

Shirley B. Berardo

Shirley B. Berardo - November 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM