



William Pratt

May 29, 1912 - March 1, 2010

Captain William "Bill" Veazie Pratt, USN, Retired, decorated WWII veteran, dies at 97.

The 34-year Navy veteran held seven World War II battle stars and the Silver Star for gallantry in action while commanding USS Grayson. Under fire, he directed the destroyer in rescue operations when cruisers, USS Canberra and USS Houston, were damaged off Taiwan in 1944. While executive officer and navigator of the destroyer USS Anthony, he was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" for heroism during the amphibious landing on Bougainville Island in the Solomon Islands in 1943.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii into a distinguished military family, the son of Lieutenant Colonel Harold B. Pratt, USMC, Retired, Captain Pratt stood as one of the last survivors of the United States Naval Academy Class of '33. Commissioned an ensign, he went on to serve on eleven ships; four of which he commanded. In 1953, he commanded Destroyer Division 82. After serving as US Naval Attach', Rome, Italy, Captain Pratt served as Chief of Staff, Ninth Naval District where he retired in 1963. He served on the staff of the Maryland National Bank until 1977.

Avid reader, accomplished tennis player, and lover of the sea and sailing enthusiast, Captain Pratt is beloved by his family and his "shipmates forever."

He is remembered for his devotion to duty and country and for his faith in God. Captain Pratt is survived by his son, Andrew Nichols Pratt, Colonel, USMC, Retired of Garmisch, Germany; his daughter, Mary Pratt Holcomb of Manassas, VA; his seven grandchildren; and, his sister, Marguerite P. Foley of Chevy Chase, MD.

Mass for Christian burial will be said at 1000, Thursday, March 4, 2010 at All Saints Catholic Church, Manassas with interment at Arlington National Cemetery at 1100, Thursday, March 25, 2010.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to All Saints Catholic Church Building Fund, 9300 Stonewall Road, Manassas, Virginia 20110.

Condolences may be sent to www.piercefh.com.

Tribute Wall

MF

“ *My Dad was wilia n Sargent during the war. He told me they would fly to the Pratt home on weekends where the maid would clean and press his uniforms. It sounded like k e they were friends.*

Mike fraser - May 13 at 12:02 AM

JP

“ *Our heart go out to you at the difficult time. My father, James B Grady was a classmate, and reading Bill's story, I feel that their paths crossed many times in their careers. As the obit mentioned, there aren't many '33ers left. My father, and mother (Navy Nurse) and my brother (USAF 30 yrs) are all at Arlington.*

*Blessings to your family,
Jane G. Piche'*

Jane Grady Piche - March 29, 2013 at 02:01 PM

CH

“ *Mary and family,
Andrew and I are thinking of you in this difficult time. After reading about your father, I can understand how proud you must be to be his daughter.*

*Love,
Andrew and Christine*

Christine and Andrew Holcomb - March 29, 2013 at 02:01 PM

CN

“ I read in the newspaper that you lost a loved one in death. The Bible encourages us to: "Throw your burden upon Jehovah himself, and he himself will sustain you. Never will he allow the righteous one to totter." (Psalms 55:22)

CrystalL Norris - March 29, 2013 at 02:01 PM



“ My sympathy goes out to the family during this time. The Bible gives a comforting hope. Revelation 21:3,4

March 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM