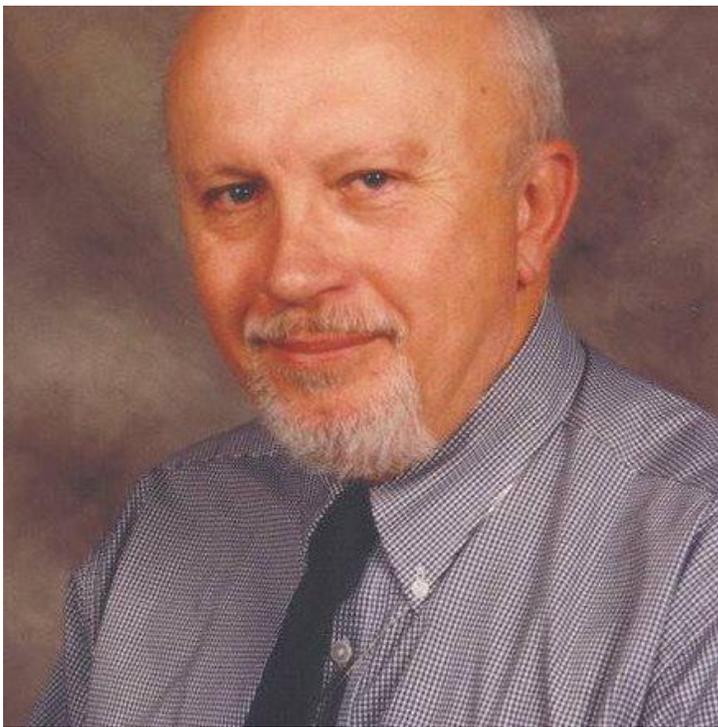


William R. Drennan
Date: May 2, 2015
January 24, 1944 - May 2, 2015

***Note from Beth, wife, who submitted Bill's obituary.** Bill was crazy about his high school class and talked about them all his life. He was able to attend just one reunion, during the 1990s, and I went with him. He would have attended all of them, I'm sure, but they usually happened when his university was still in session.*

He absolutely had planned to attend this year's. He even got special permission from his oncologist to travel to Sarasota for this, even though, wow, what an entourage of medical issues and supplies would have accompanied him, but he didn't care. He was insistent on attending, even though he knew he would have been sad, knowing he would never see the other attendees again. But before he could do it, reality set in, and just before the deadline for him to commit to it, he began to fail and realized it was not possible. He was too sick, even, to notify anyone.

William Ryland (Bill) Drennan, age 71, fell asleep in the Lord on May 2, 2015, following



a protracted battle with cancer. He was born January 24, 1944, in suburban Philadelphia and spent his childhood in Vermont, summering on Long Beach Island, NJ. At age ten, Bill and his family moved to Sarasota, FL, where he completed his primary and secondary education; at Sarasota High School, he played baseball, was president of the student council, won a statewide debate competition, and was ringmaster of the famous Sailor Circus. Bill received his BA in English (1966) from the University of Florida and his MA (1976) and Ph.D. (1983), with a concentration on the English Renaissance, from the University of South Florida, Tampa. He was

also selected as a National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminarian at Yale

University.

Aside from two years of high school teaching and ten years as a youth counselor with the State of Florida, Bill spent the bulk of his career in the University of Wisconsin Colleges, primarily at the University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County, retiring as an emeritus full professor of English in 2007 and relocating to Blowing Rock, in the North Carolina mountains. In semi-retirement, he concluded his teaching career as an English instructor at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. Bill published over twenty articles in scholarly books and journals and authored *Death in a Prairie House: Frank Lloyd Wright and the Taliesin Murders*, which has sold more copies than any other book published by the University of Wisconsin Press in the twenty-first century. At both UW-Baraboo and at Appalachian State, Bill received numerous awards for his research and classroom teaching. He was held in affection by generations of students, and Bill returned that affection. Away from the classroom, Bill was devoted to the Green Bay Packers, Wisconsin Badgers, Florida Gators, and the Philadelphia Phillies; he enjoyed golf, racquetball, and acoustic guitar.

He was predeceased by his parents, Philip G. Drennan and Mary G. Drennan Blodgett; his step-father, Kimball Blodgett; his sister Jane Drennan Thayer; his maternal grandparents Raymond and Nellie Ammerman; his paternal grandparents, Carl and Myrtle Drennan; and by his aunts Flora Drennan, Blanche Utley, Frances Darling, and Bessie Drennan, all of Woodbury, VT.

He is survived by his inexpressibly beloved wife Beth Roney Drennan of Blowing Rock, NC; his adored daughter Emma Jane Drennan, Richmond, VA; his equally-adored step-children Sarah Teresa Hancock Roney and John Paul Roney, Nashville, TN; his former wife Suzanne Ellen (David) Drennan, Madison, WI; and his nephews Kevin (Dawn) Thayer, Micanopy, FL; Philip Thayer, Trenton, NJ; Timothy (Lisa) Thayer, Kelso, WA; and Glenn Thayer, Las Vegas, NV. He is survived as well by a host of friends, a sweet cloud of memories, and two terrific dogs.

A devout Christian believer with a theological background in Eastern Orthodoxy and Anglicanism, Bill has most recently attended Christ the King Anglican Fellowship in Boone, NC.