

William 'Bill' Gross Obituary

3/10/1931 to 8/12/2017

Born in Seattle to William C and Marjorie Graves Gross, the middle of three children including his sisters Nona (Avery) and Geraldine. The Depression affected Bill's family and he grew up in rugged environments while his father, followed work. The family later settled in Olympia. Somewhere along the way he acquired the nickname "Skook", short for Skookum. He joined the Navy after high school and served as a submariner and pilot. After the navy, he married Mary Jane 'Janie' Shivas in 1954 and started a family, adding two children, Chris and Heidi (Kiemle). Bill attended the University of Washington where he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega and rowed crew. After a brief time selling tractors, Bill joined Kenworth in 1957, beginning a 30 year adventure during a time of tremendous growth for PACCAR. Bill steadily grew with the company, traveling the globe, retiring as Executive Vice President in charge of world-wide operations. In 1958, Bill was a founding member of the Lake Washington Rowing Club. An organization he has always held in his heart. In 1987, Bill retired from Paccar to spend much time at his retreat "Shortleaf Plantation" in Centralia, WA. He continued to travel the world as a yacht consultant, never slowing down his pace and doing everything with the strength of, in his words, a 'bull ox.' Bill married his second wife, Sirina Bontos in the late 90s. Bill passed away peacefully, at home with family around him. For all of you that shared in the adventure that was Bill's life, you know that no words can fully capture his story. Please know that he cherished each of you and was grateful for those relationships. Remembrances can be made to The Lake Washington Rowing Club, Seattle Washington.