



Mr. William Clifford Staples Jr.

October 25, 1927 - February 20, 2025

William Clifford Staples, Jr. died on February 20, 2025, in Washington, DC at the Armed Forces Retirement Home. Born on Staten Island in 1927, Bill was still a teenager when he joined the Merchant Marines and soon after the US Coast Guard, where he served from 1944-1949, including in the Pacific Theater. After the war, he joined the US Air Force where he became a Tech Sergeant and Instructor in A&E School at Sheppard Air Force base, Wichita Falls, TX. He later returned to New York and worked in the aerospace industry as an electrical engineer, including at Grumman Aerospace on Long Island, where he worked on the Lunar Module and a number of airplanes including the F-1 Tomcat. With his wife Anna (Little) also of Staten Island, they raised their two sons Clifford and William in Patchogue. Bill retired from Grumman in 1989, and Ann and he moved to Whiting, NJ where he was an active member of the Pine Ridge Community, serving on the Residents Association and as Editor of its newspaper. Bill was proud to also serve as a member and Chair of the Manchester Township Planning Board. As an avid genealogist, Bill traced his family lineage to Thomas Staples, one of the founders of Fairfield, CT in 1639. After Anna died in 2001, Bill spent a loving and fun-filled twenty-years with Peg Knipper of Pine Ridge. After Peg died in 2022, Bill moved to Washington DC to become a resident of the AFRH, which dates from 1851 as the Old Soldiers' Home. William Staples is survived by sons, Clifford (Lorraine) of Grand Forks, North Dakota, William (Lizette) of Washington, DC; grandson Ian (Teija) and great-grandchildren, Kaija, and Liam of Washington,

DC; and granddaughter Caitlin (Cody) and great-grandchildren, Harrison, and Olivia of Madison, Wisconsin.

Tribute Wall



“ We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - March 19, 2025 at 10:53 AM