



## William McCarty Deavours

June 10, 1929 - August 24, 2014

William McCarty Deavours, 85, died Sunday, August 24, 2014. Bill was born June 10, 1929 in Laurel, MS to Elizabeth (McCarty) and Jack Deavours. After graduation from George S. Gardiner High School in Laurel, Bill attended undergraduate school at Trinity University and the University of Mississippi. He started Ole Miss School of Law, but after one year he enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served as a pilot. Bill later returned to law school and married his college sweetheart, Peggy Neal, to whom he was married 53 years. While at Ole Miss, Bill was a member of several honorary organizations including Omicron Delta Kappa, Sigma Pi, Phi Delta Phi, and the Mississippi Law Journal. He was also a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. After graduation he and Peggy moved to Laurel where he practiced law with Deavours and Hilbun, which later became Deavours, Weems and Gilchrist, until his retirement. He was a fellow of the Mississippi Bar Association and an active member of the American Bar Association. Bill was a loyal communicant of St. John's Episcopal Church where he served numerous terms on the vestry as well as Junior Warden, Senior Warden, and Treasurer. As an avid outdoorsman, Bill served on the Board of Directors of the National Skeet Association and held several positions with the state organization. He competed in numerous skeet tournaments, including 25 years in the World Skeet Championship. His enjoyment of the sport led him to coach local 4-H youth for many years. Bill had a life-long love of travel including family vacations, trips with Peggy, hunting trips with friends, and most recently

extensive travel with friend and companion Jeannette Walker. In addition to his wife Peggy, who died in 2006, Bill is predeceased by both parents and his sister Lola Beth Alley. Survivors include three daughters and their families, Mary and Bubba Shirley of Madison, Marty and Alan Clark of Dothan, AL, and Margaret Deavours of Jackson. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Adam and Megan Shirley of West Palm Beach, FL, Sarah Kathryn Shirley and Lee Shirley both of Madison; Boyd and Kristyn Clark, and Deavours Clark all of Dothan; Mary Neal Clark of Birmingham, AL. In addition he leaves three great-grandchildren, Mason Shirley, Rosemary Clark and McCarty Clark. Bill is also survived by a sister, Viola Powers of Cincinnati, OH, and companion, Jeannette Walker of Laurel. Visitation will be held on Thursday, August 28 at 11 in the St. John's Episcopal Church chapel, followed by a memorial service in the church at 12. A Celebration of Life for Bill will be held in the Parish Hall after the service. In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations be made to St. John's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 1766, Laurel, MS 39441 or the charity of your choice. To view and sign the family guest book, visit [www.memorychapel-laurel.com](http://www.memorychapel-laurel.com).

# Tribute Wall

JR

“ We used to shoot skeet with Bill in Jackson and Biloxi and loved him as a friend. He displayed his love of the sport by helping coach the younger generation and was a friend to all of us. Bill will be sorely missed, but we know he waits for the rest of us in that great skeet field in heaven.

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**John and Julie Russell** - September 14, 2014 at 09:37 PM

JF

“ Dear Marty, Mary and Margaret,  
I am so sorry for the loss of your dad. I am thinking of you.  
Sincerely, Jodee

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**Jodee Flynt-Davies** - September 13, 2014 at 02:49 PM

RK

“ Good bye to a rare and loyal friend.  
PatH

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**Robert Kelso** - September 06, 2014 at 04:05 PM

AL

“ Deavours family are in my prayers.  
Anthony Lockhart

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**Anthony Lockhart** - August 29, 2014 at 06:45 PM

EK

“ William McCarty Deavours

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**Earl R. Keyes** - August 29, 2014 at 05:16 PM

TL

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time. Sit around and enjoy the memories while you are all together.

Tonjia Lisenby - August 28, 2014 at 01:30 PM

AS

“ I'm sorry we could not be there Dandy but I will always have fond memories of the times we spent together. Megan, Mason, and I loved you very much and will miss you.

Adam Shirley - August 28, 2014 at 12:10 PM

SP

“ Prayers for your entire family. Thank you for sharing his obituary with your Dothan friends. We are thinking of each of you.

Scott and Alyson Powell - August 28, 2014 at 11:27 AM

SL

“ Mary, Margaret and Marty - my thoughts and prayers are with all of you and your families. I can't describe how much it meant to me when your parents welcomed me into your family all those years ago ... some of my favorite college memories were spent at the farm. Knowing your dad's sense of humor, I hope the funny stories and happy memories help you through the coming days. Much love, Sandra

Sandra Hillman Lowe - August 27, 2014 at 10:37 PM

RJ

“ Devours Family We are so sad to hear of your Dad's passing. We will remember your family in our prayers. Ralph & Charlotte

Ralph & Charlotte James - August 27, 2014 at 09:59 PM

BV

“ You bear most of the sorrow of having lost a great Dad and person. The rest of us are left with feeling a large hole in the fabric of our lives with the passing of him.. The way Bill lived out his life touched on countless people, including mine. And, weather you were friend or foe of Bill's all had an absolute respect for him and his values. I was an instant friend from when Grady Paul Derrick introduced him to me. You were fortunate in having know him more than any of us who mourn him now and I am confident that Nyour memories will be a constant reminder of him and your love for him.  
*Billy Vehnekamp*

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**Billy Vehnekamp** - August 27, 2014 at 07:16 PM

ER

“ *Deepest sympathy to the family and may God bless and comfort them.*

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**Eda Lawhon Ragsdale** - August 27, 2014 at 05:54 PM

DR

“ *We are out of town sorry we cannot be there. Bill was a wonderful person and we recall many good times in he and Peggy's company.*

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**Deborah and David Ratcliff** - August 27, 2014 at 04:29 PM

WW

“ *My thoughts and sympathy are with you all, and especially with you, Jannette.*

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**Wendell Ray Walker** - August 27, 2014 at 02:09 PM

RB

“ We were so sorry to hear about the loss of your loved one. We will continue keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. May God Bless You All!!!! Roy and Jo

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**Roy and Jo Ellen Baggett** - August 27, 2014 at 10:50 AM

LG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Bill's Daughters and Family. I will miss visiting with Bill in his home discussing financial topics of interest, his travels, his backyard bird watching and his love of shooting sports. I will miss him.

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**Lee Gill** - August 27, 2014 at 10:18 AM

PB

“ Mary, Marty, Margaret, my heart goes out to each of you during this time. Your dad was my Cowboy's dearest/best friend and he will be deeply missed by our family,

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**Pam Howard Boler** - August 27, 2014 at 09:50 AM

CC

“ I was lucky enough to grow up with the Deavours family, our parents were close friends all our lives. St. John's was our solid base, and sustained us all. During those later years, Bill and Jeannette and my mother would go to early church then have coffee and breakfast together. I hope I have friendships like they had later on. Thank you, Bill.

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**Cindy Craft** - August 26, 2014 at 11:40 PM

AS

“ Please know all of you are in my prayers as you move forward with the loss of your dear father. He was a wonderful gentleman and a great friend to my father, Bob Gaddis. We all loved Peggy too. Now they meet again in heaven. Love and condolences!

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**Amy Gaddis Singletary** - August 26, 2014 at 10:03 PM

DA

“ Bill was a good friend. I am truly blessed to call him my friend. I will miss him greatly. Rest in peace Mr. Bill.

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**David A.Craven** - August 26, 2014 at 09:02 PM

CW

“ Our deepest sympathies and wishes for solace for 6the Deavours family and Jeanette, sincerely, Cynthia Walker & David Sheffield

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**Cynthia Walker** - August 26, 2014 at 08:06 PM

SP

“ Mary and George - I am so sorry you are going through this. Donna and my prayers are with you all.  
Stan

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**Stan Patrick** - August 26, 2014 at 05:07 PM

JB

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Mr. Deavours. He was a remarkable man who will be missed. Praying for you all.

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**Jaime Boler** - August 26, 2014 at 04:55 PM

MB

“ *Bill was a devoted and caring family friend and will be greatly missed.*

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**Margaret A Boteler** - August 26, 2014 at 03:53 PM

MB

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. From the short time period I have known him, Mr. Deavours was a very nice gentleman. He will be greatly missed.*

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**Meghan Breland** - August 26, 2014 at 03:45 PM