



William Joseph Dix

July 20, 1923 - November 21, 2020

William Joseph (Joe) Dix, age 97 of Greensboro, North Carolina passed away Saturday, November 21, 2020 at Clapp's Nursing Center in Pleasant Garden, NC.

He was born July 20, 1923 in the community of Cana in Carroll County, Virginia to Willie Joseph Dix and Mary Shockley Nichols, both of whom had deep roots in the area. His early life was split between Cana, VA and Mount Airy, NC attending public schools and graduating from Mount Airy High School. Growing up on an apple orchard he enjoyed hunting, fishing, exploring the Blue Ridge Mountains, and tinkering with all things mechanical.

At the beginning of World War II he worked as a welder in the Newport News, VA shipyard. He later joined the US Navy, serving at multiple shore stations and on multiple ships, most notably the USS Christopher, a destroyer escort which operated in the South Atlantic.

Soon after the war he married Lottie Lane Key of Surry County, NC and began work as a foreman on the family apple orchard. They lived in several homes in Cana and Mount Airy while starting their family.

Having developed an interest in electronics during the war he became active in amateur radio which led to his later career. He joined Western Electric Corporation in Winston-Salem, NC in 1955. He worked several jobs there, including a stint as a draftsman, and took company-sponsored courses for ten years to advance his career. He became an electronic technician and worked on military contracts traveling to support early missile and satellite testing and tracking. He eventually transferred within AT&T to the Bell Laboratories in Greensboro, NC, where he worked developing equipment for telephone central office. After a brief transfer to Bell Labs in New Jersey he completed his career with Western Electric in Greensboro, returning to work aboard active military ships supporting Navy contracts in many parts of the North Atlantic and North Pacific.

Joe and Lottie moved to the South Fork community in Winston-Salem in 1955. While living there they were members of the South Fork Baptist Church. After their move to the Forest Oaks community in Greensboro in 1970 they became members of the Pleasant Garden Baptist Church. They were active in many roles in each church until their health failed.

Joe is survived by his children James (Jim) Dix and wife Lynn Dix of Raleigh, NC and daughter Mary (Cathy) Dix of Raleigh, NC and grandchildren Megan Dix of Asheville, NC and Bridget Dix, of Carrboro, NC. He is also survived by three sisters-in-law and 23 nieces and nephews.

In deference to risks posed by the current pandemic, the family will postpone a formal memorial service and will conduct a private burial service. Joe requested that memorials be directed to your most meaningful charities. An on-line guest book can be signed at <https://www.forbisanddick.com/obituaries/William-Dix-2/>.

Forbis and Dick, Pleasant Garden Chapel is serving the Dix Family.

Comments



“ Uncle Joe exemplified the warmth and caring which arrived from a life well lived. Joe Dix was all that could be as a brother to our mother, a American citizen who served our country in war time and in peacetime. He laughed often. The most positive person I think I will ever have known for whom the motto "can do" was his very essence. His chuckle and excellent sense of storytelling were an an always open invitation to chat. He would fix up the old car and return it to service while making the odd old gun or radio take on a new life. A craftsman who spent years as a military contractor with expertise in nuclear submarine detection which prompted numerous clandestine voyages to the cold and stormy seas of the far north. You would not know it because Uncle Joe was interested in the things in your life. He and his group of techs were among the first to cobble together a working car phone back when the conversation was carried across HAM radio. Decades before cell phones were invented. We think often about him and his patented "chuckle".
--Phil Huff, his nephew

Philip Huff - November 27, 2020 at 03:36 PM



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Richard Dryman - November 23, 2020 at 10:03 AM