

William J. McNamara May 26, 1938 – April 20, 2025

William J. McNamara, age 86, of Crystal River, Florida, passed away peacefully on April 20, 2025, at Vitas Hospice in Lecanto, FL. Born in Derby, Connecticut, to Lester and Mary (Alshuk) McNamara, he grew up in Seymour, where he built lifelong friendships that he cherished through high school reunions and years of staying in touch.

After graduating from Seymour High School in 1956, William enlisted in the U.S. Navy and trained as a Seabee. His service took him to Adak, Alaska, and Okinawa, where he formed lasting bonds with fellow veterans, Kramer and De La Ossa. He proudly served his country for four years before returning home to marry Barbara, in 1961.

William dedicated two decades to the State of Connecticut as a Game Warden and Conservation Officer, patrolling the landscapes he loved and working alongside his close friend and colleague, Roy Champagne, to protect the state's fish and game. After retiring, he turned his passion for nature into artistry, creating intricate wood carvings of fish, birds, and Native American figures, as well as beautifully crafted walking sticks.

A true outdoorsman, William relocated to Citrus County, Florida, 25 years ago, where he embraced the water as an avid kayaker. He found joy in exploring Florida's rivers and even participated in the Wild Hog Canoe and Kayak Race on the Waccasassa River with his friend Ed Allen.

William is survived by his wife of 63 years, Barbara; his children, Kathleen Esche (Peter) and William McNamara Jr.; four grandchildren, Gretchen Chiu (Justin), Christina Esche, Stefan Esche, and Jessica Middlebrook; and three great-grandchildren, Chloe Chiu, Logan Chiu, and Nora Yehle.

In accordance with his wishes, no visitation or funeral service will be held. His ashes will be stored in a brown "cure-all" medicine bottle he discovered years ago while exploring cellar holes in Connecticut—a fitting tribute to his adventurous spirit. The bottle will be laid to rest in a secluded spot deep in the woods, just as he would have wanted.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Vitas Hospice for their compassionate care.

Online condolences may be shared at www.facebook.com/bfhandc.

