

1st Lt. Jason D. Mann Memorial Hunt

*In Memory of:
Col. William M. Scaife Jr.*



William M. Scaife Jr. died this year after a long and successful life. Born on April 1, 1929, in Washington, D.C., William Scaife spent his childhood on both coasts thanks to his father's service in the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. He attended Tufts University where he met his future wife, Sylvia Hall, and went to law school at the University of Virginia on an NROTC scholarship.

Upon graduation in 1953, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and married Sylvia. After completing active duty, Bill and Sylvia returned to Fredericksburg, having become attached to the area during Bill's time at The Basic School at Quantico.

In addition to establishing his legal practice, during his early years in Fredericksburg he immersed himself in community and civic activities. He served on the Fredericksburg City Council, the board of the Fredericksburg Rescue Squad, and the vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church. In the 1960s, he served on the Fredericksburg Biracial Commission and was a founding member of Hazel Hill Apartments, the first nonprofit in Virginia to receive Housing and Urban Development funds.

Over the course of his fifty years of practicing law in Fredericksburg, Bill made many friends and gained the respect and loyalty of numerous clients. Bill remained an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve; in 1982 he took a sabbatical from his law practice and spent a year on active duty working out of the Navy Yard in Arlington. He helped to rewrite the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act, the key law detailing protections given to reservists and National Guard members when recalled to active duty.

After retiring from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve as a colonel in 1985, he remained involved in military related activities, most recently serving on the board of the Families of the Wounded Fund.

Bill joined the Fredericksburg FOTWF Board in March 2008 and was an active participant throughout his ten years of service. Bill had a remarkable attendance record despite the various accidents and illnesses that plagued him in his later years. He loved telling stories about his USMC service and of his father's service. He always looked forward to our annual events at the National Museum of the Marine Corps and generated countless donors to our cause.

Despite his advancing years, he accompanied us up to Ft. Belvoir on many occasions to interview families and deliver checks. In one of the first years of our Hunt, Bill participated as a shooter. Bill was an outstanding example of a willing volunteer who was always there when needed, even when his beloved vintage car was barely running.

Bill was never afraid to say what was on his mind, and we all admired him for his straight forward approach. Years ago, Pat Regan attended a small intimate breakfast with Bill and Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas. The "Attorney" in Bill came out and he asked/commented on a land owner rights issue of currency in the Supreme Court. The question/comment was refined, articulate but hard hitting. Wow—way to go Bill arguing before the "supreme court."

Bill was one of the original supporters of Lt Mann Memorial Hunt and he enthusiastically went out and received donations on behalf of the Hunt from area stores such as Bass Pro, Green Top, and Gander Mountain. He also contributed personally and was one of the first hunters to sign up for our inaugural hunt back on 5 Nov 2011. Bill always bought and contributed prizes for the Ribbon Birds awards and helped at each hunt until health issues prevented his attendance. We all sadly miss Bill and want to honor him at today's Hunt.

Bill is survived by three children, William M. Scaife III, Susan Scaife Duerksen, and John Hall Scaife; eleven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

