

1999-04-01

Robert T. Campbell

Robert T. Campbell, 64, died Friday, March 26, in the Boothbay Harbor home he shared with his wife of 42 years, Diane Campbell.

Born in Boothbay Harbor on May 31, 1934, he was the son of Laura and Archie Campbell. He attended Boothbay Harbor schools and graduated from Boothbay Harbor High School in 1952. Four years later, in 1956, he received his degree in electrical engineering from the University of Maine at Orono.

For 25 years, Mr. Campbell worked as a senior design electrical engineer, first for ITT Labs in Nutley, N.J., and then for the Raytheon Corporation in Bedford, Mass. At Raytheon he designed missile navigation systems and earned a number of patents based on his work on the Patriot missile.

The Campbells' children, Kathy and Bill, were born and raised in Acton, Mass. Then, in 1981, the family returned to Boothbay Harbor and purchased the *Balmy Days* and *Maranbo II*. Capt. Campbell was at the helm for many of the *Balmy Days'* daily summer excursions to Monhegan Island and year-round ferry trips to Squirrel Island, as well as summer harbor and supper cruises. With his lively conversation and interesting experiences to recount, he was also a welcome figure during guest breakfasts at the Anchor Watch B&B, which is operated by Diane.

Capt. Campbell's nautical career began when, as a high school student, he worked on local excursion boats as a mate for Capt. Raymond Fish and other boat owners. Later, as a captain himself, he was a Commander of the Minuteman Power Squadron in Acton and a teacher of celestial navigation in the U.S. Power Squadron. He was a past commodore of the Down East Yacht Club and past chairman and a member for ten years of the Boothbay Harbor Port Committee. He was instrumental in helping many young Balmy Days Cruises crew members to attain their own captains' licenses.

In addition to his boating-related activities and service, Mr. Campbell contributed to the community in many other ways. He was a past president of the Boothbay Harbor Region Chamber of Commerce and a past president, and secretary, of the Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library Board of Directors, on which he served for 15 years. He was a member of the Congregational Church of Boothbay Harbor.

Mr. Campbell joined the Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club in 1981 and was a past president. On Thursday evening, March 25, he and his family attended

an event at which his wife presented him with the Paul Harris Fellow award honoring his life-long community service and his substantial contribution to Rotary International. It was clear to all who attended the ceremony that he was moved by and grateful for the award and standing ovation he received.

Surviving Mr. Campbell are members of the family to whom he was wholeheartedly devoted: his wife Diane Dorr Campbell; daughter Kathy Campbell Reed of Boothbay Harbor; son Capt. William Campbell and daughter-in-law Martha Campbell of East Boothbay; and grandchildren Kimberly Reed, Rosaline Campbell, and Robert William Campbell.

Mr. Campbell's death was the result of a heart attack, after an extended illness. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, March 31, at the Congregational Church of Boothbay Harbor, with the Rev. Peter Panagore officiating. There was a private burial in Oceanview Cemetery. Arrangements were by Simmons, Harrington and Hall Funeral Home in Boothbay.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Boothbay Region Student Aid Fund, P.O. Box 293, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538, or the Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library.