

## **William T. Burke**

After a lengthy battle with cancer, Dr. William T. Burke of Southampton and Lake Worth, Florida died in his Lake Worth home on November 24, 99 surrounded by his family. He was 75. Dr. Burke was born in 1924 in Rochester, New York, the only child of Mavis and William T. Burke Sr. He graduated from the Aquinas Institute in 1941, completing his studies early so that he could join the Army Air Corps. During World War II he flew 35 missions over enemy territory as a navigator on a B17 bomber. Returning to Rochester after the War, Dr. Burke met Katherine Loewenguth, whom he married on June 14, 1945. Dr. Burke earned his B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Rochester. Upon completing his post-doctoral studies in biochemistry, he was appointed to the faculty of the medical and dental schools at Seton Hall University. Academic appointments followed at the University of West Virginia Medical School and Flower and Fifth Medical School in New York City; at each institution he conducted cancer research and taught biochemistry. In 1967, Dr. Burke began his tenure at Southampton College of Long Island University, as a professor of biology and director of the Natural Science Division. In 1973 Dr. Burke was appointed dean of the college, a position he held until 1980. Upon returning to the faculty, he served several terms as the chairman of the Faculty Council.

In the late 1980s he also served one term as the chairman of the Long Island University Faculty Senate, during which time he emerged as one of the university's most influential faculty members. Among Dr. Burke's many honors and awards was the university's 1990 David Newton award for excellence in teaching and several citations as Southampton College Teacher of the Year.

When Dr. Burke retired from Southampton College in December of 1993, his campus family celebrated his life with "Bill Burke Day." In retirement, he continued to teach part-time, first at Southampton College and then at West Palm Beach Community College.

Dr. Burke is survived by his wife Kay and his children and their spouses, Tim and Felicia Burke, Kathy and Tim Bishop, Randy and Beth Burke, Abby and Burke Irwin, Bridgit Burke and Lou Schick, and Bonnie and John Spies. He was predeceased by his son Tony. Survivors also include grandchildren Nick and Jackson Burke, Molly and Meghan Bishop, Diana, Brian and Billy Poppell, Jon and Max Irwin, Sam and Noah Schick, and Bridgit and Jillian Spies.

A funeral service will be held at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church in Southampton on Saturday, December 4 at 2 p.m., followed by a reception in Kanas Lobby, Chancellors Hall, on the campus of Southampton College. Donations may be made to the William T. Burke Memorial Scholarship Fund, care of the Development Office, Southampton College of Long Island University.

Feb. 25, 2003

Editor  
306th Echoes

Dear Sir:

I am sorry to inform you of the death of one of your own - Prof. William T. Burke. He left us, for a higher assignment, well over a year ago.

Bill and I were co-workers and friends for some thirty-plus years. He did not speak often about his experiences in WWII but I will never forget his "difficulties" in "finding" Iceland on his flight to England.

Those of us who were too young to have shared your experiences fully appreciate your service to us and to mankind.

We thank you often for giving us freedom.

Sincerely  
Al Siegel  
Southampton College

