

McMILLEN, Gerald Joseph "Gerry"

80, Lower Sackville, passed away on September 23, 2009, very peacefully in Glades Lodge Nursing Home in Halifax. Gerry was born on May 22, 1929, in Trail, B.C., to Joseph and Lillian Mae McMillen. Upon graduation from Trail High School in 1947, he enrolled at the University of British Columbia in Pre-Med but later changed career paths and joined the Royal Canadian Navy graduating as a midshipman in October 1951. He served on the HMCS Ontario, on a cruise to the South Pacific and subsequent trips through the Panama Canal to Halifax. Gerry was fortunate enough to be appointed to United States Naval Air Station Pensacola for Naval Flight Training. On his return to Canada as a fully qualified Naval Pilot he was posted to Royal Canadian Naval Air Station Shearwater in 1953. On July 20 of that same year he married Catherine Pattison of Halifax. During his career Gerry flew off of both HMCS Magnificent and HMCS Bonaventure. Rotary wing training extended his flying operations to the flight decks of several of Canada's DDH's and the opportunity to fly jets, helicopters and propeller driven aircraft sometimes all on the same day. This was an accomplishment he was very proud of. Upon his retirement, Gerry did many things but whether it was being a Helicopter Consultant for a Naval Engineering Firm in New York; selling Real Estate, Managing a Hotel or a Truck Stop, Gerry's number one priority was his family. Gerry is survived by his wife, Catherine; daughters, Leigh Broomhead (Jonathan), Glynis; sons, Kris and Tony (Roxanne) and grandchildren, Tonya, Jennifer, Jillian, Sarah, Rebecca, Gavin, Reanna, Kailey, Jordan, Taylor and Chelsea. He is also survived by his loving devoted sister, June McMordie (Bob) and their five children from British Columbia. Gerry was tragically predeceased by his eldest daughter, Kathleen Tara (Schooten) 13 years ago, a profound loss that affected him deeply. The two things that Gerry treasured most were his family and his Naval career and the lifelong friends he acquired there. The funeral will be held in Saint Francis by the Lakes in Lower Sackville, Saturday, September 26, at 2 p.m. Visitation will also be in Saint Francis by the Lakes in Lower Sackville today from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia. The family would like to publicly acknowledge the awesome care that Dad was given by the staff of Glades Lodge Nursing Home, without their constant concern for his well-being the last 12 months would have been unbearable for him and his family.