

Rivet Funeral Home & Crematorium, Inc.

Dr. William J. Farrell

(August 17, 1936 - July 8, 2015)

Dr. William ("Bill") Joseph Farrell, 78, passed away at Hanover Hill Health Care Center in Manchester, NH on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 due to complications from Alzheimer's Disease.

He was born on August 17, 1936 in West Allis, Wisconsin, the son of William and Margaret (Taggart) Farrell. Bill grew up in West Allis, graduating from Milwaukee's Marquette University High School in 1954 and Marquette University in 1958. Winning a Danforth Graduate Fellowship in 1958, Bill went on to the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he earned a Master Degree and then a Ph.D in English and Speech. Later, Bill received an M.B.A. from Marquette University while working at the university. On August 1, 1959, Bill married Carol Leeming from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.



Armed with his Jesuit education, Bill loved nothing more than to work as evidenced by an academic career spanning fifty years. Bill started his career as an English Professor at the University of Chicago where he taught from 1961 to 1967. For the 1967-1968 academic year, Bill was a visiting professor at the University of California-Berkeley. In 1968, Bill went back to his alma mater, Marquette University, where he initially taught English, but moved into administration when he became the Director of Foundation Support for the school. In 1975, Bill accepted a position at the University of Iowa's Educational Development and Research Department where he stayed for nine years. In 1984, Bill became President of Plymouth University in Plymouth, NH. In 1992, Bill was appointed Chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire, a position he had for eight years. In 2001, Bill was named Interim President of Rivier University in Nashua, NH and in 2002, was named President of Rivier University, from where he retired in 2011. Bill was a member of many boards and organizations, including being a trustee of St. Anselms College. When not working, Bill was an avid reader and book collector. He enjoyed visiting antiquarian bookstores throughout New England to find additions to his collection, often wearing his favorite tweed jacket.

Bill is survived by his wife of 55 years, Carol (Leeming) Farrell of Manchester, NH; a son William Farrell and his wife Suzanne Farrell of Old Saybrook, CT; a son Charles Farrell and his wife Elisabeth Farrell of South Berwick, ME; a daughter Betsy Segal and her husband Robert Segal of Concord NH; and seven grandchildren, Christina Farrell, Katie Farrell, Tyler Boissevain, Natalie Boissevain, Allison Segal, Libby Segal, and Maeve Farrell.

Calling hours will be held at the Rivet Funeral Home, 425 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack, NH on Sunday July 12 from 1 – 4 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, 16 Baboosic Lake Road, Merrimack, NH on Monday July 13 at 10 AM. Private burial will follow at Blossom Hill Cemetery in Concord, NH.

Memorial donations may be made to Marquette University High School (3401 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53208) or Rivier University (420 South Main Street, Nashua, NH 03060) or a charity of one's choice.

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