



## Merrill Burd Callen

September 2, 1933 - December 23, 2016

Mooreville, NC, Merrill Burd Callen passed away peacefully at his Lake Norman home on December 23, 2016, surrounded by his family. With his always present smile, he had a positive outlook while fighting his brief battle with Glioblastoma. Merrill was born in East Orange, NJ on September 2, 1933 and grew up in nearby Essex Fells, NJ. His family spent summers on the Jersey Shore and later moved to Rumson, where he fell in love with the water and learned how to sail. He owned a boat from his teen years until his death. He was an active member of Lake Norman Yacht Club, where he started a week long junior sailing camp held every June since 1970, served on the Board of Directors, and in recent years was the yacht club chief scorer. He won the club championship two times, and for his dedicated service to LNYC was awarded the JS Livingstone Award twice. Merrill actively raced his Y-Flyer centerboard boat for over 30 years throughout the US. He was Past President of American Y-Flyer Yacht Racing Association and was awarded the President's Award twice for his service to the class. In the last ten years, he raced a San Juan 21 and sailed his final regatta on July 4th this summer. He graduated from The Lawrenceville School 1952 and Trinity College 1956 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. Most of his career was spent in the textile industry, and he retired from Collins & Aikman Corp after successful career supporting automotive textiles. Family was the most important thing to Merrill. He is survived by his wife Margaret (Maggie) of Mooreville, NC, daughters, Elizabeth (Lisa) Callen, Charlotte, NC and Victoria (Tori) and Paul Denoncourt,

Raleigh, NC, grandsons, Matthew and Joshua Denoncourt, Raleigh, NC. He is also survived by his brothers and their families: Daniel Callen, Ooltewah, TN; Andrew Callen, Concord, MA; and Brock Callen, Chilmark, MA; his sister-in-law and her family, Lyn Callen, Vero Beach, FL; and brother-in-law and his family, Philip Driscoll, Portsmouth, RI. Merrill was predeceased by his older brother, John H Callen Jr, and his parents, Lenore Merrill and John H Callen, Gloria Batten Callen Ferris and Morris Douw Ferris. Merrill will be remembered for his kind spirit, loyalty, friendly smile, and problem solving skills. A celebration of his life will be held in early February. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County, Statesville, NC or St. Therese Catholic Church, Mooresville, NC. Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, is serving the family.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Merrill Burd Callen*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Merrill Burd Callen*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Merrill Burd Callen*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ *Maggie, I'm so sorry to have just learned of his passing. My prayers are with you and your family.*

**Lisa Matthis** - April 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Hi Maggie, Lisa and Tori --- I just heard from my Dad about Mr. Callen and just wanted you to know my thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. I have many happy memories of your husband/dad and all of you in Charlotte, NC! Lots of Love!*

**Rita Marie McCloskey Payne** - February 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

 JH

“ Maggie, Lisa & Tori, Words alone can not ease the pain of losing a husband and father, but take comfort in each other and your beautiful memories of Merril. My thoughts and prayers are offered for your family and for his eternal rest in our loving God. May God bless all of you and grant you peace at such a difficult time.

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**Jayne Holland** - February 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM

 DT

“ Dear Maggie, Tory, and Lisa, My heart goes out to all of you. Merrill was such a kind hearted man and a joy to be around. I know we haven't seen each other in a while but I'll always remember the fun times at your lake house and I have pictures of Merrill with the sailboat. So blessed to have known him. Wishing you peace & love

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**Denise Tracey** - January 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ I am truly sorry about the loss of your loved one. May the peace that comes from God strengthen and support the family to endure this difficult time. Deepest sympathies. Jeremiah 29:11

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December 31, 2016 at 12:00 AM

 TP

“ We just heard about your loss. Vicky and I consider Merrill and Maggie as some of our best friends. We will miss him greatly.

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**Tony & Vicky Passafiume** - December 31, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry for your loss and praying for you all. Amy W

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December 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived.*

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December 26, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sorry to hear about Merrill's passing. I had the pleasure of working with him for many years at Collins & Aikman. Liked and respected by everyone he was. I wish comfort and peace for the family in this difficult time.*

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**Clarence Peoples** - December 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *So Sorry for your loss. May the God of comfort and peace strengthen you during this difficult time.(2 Cor.1:2-4) Please accept my sincere condolences.*

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December 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *My condolences to you and your family. May the God of comfort be with you all during this difficult time. (2 Cor. 1:2-4)*

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**Z F** - December 24, 2016 at 12:00 AM