

William Russell 'Bill' Criminger Sr.

William Russell "Bill" Criminger Sr., 84, of Mountain Meadow Road, Otto, passed away Friday, Dec. 24, 2004, at Gaston Memorial Hospital in Gastonia, N.C.

Born in Rock Hill, S.C., he was the son of the late Robert Furman and Annie F. Shaver Criminger. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Ruth C. Neal, and two brothers, Ed and Leon Criminger.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran having been stationed in Virginia Beach, Va., and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He retired in 1984 from GAF Corporation as national distribution and warehousing manager. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed his life in the mountains of North Carolina, his family said. He was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels, member and past president of the Franklin Kiwanis Club and an active member of First United Methodist Church in Franklin.

He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Gail Cherry Criminger of the home; three sons, William Russell Criminger Jr. of Signal Mountain, Tenn., John Criminger of Sugar Hill, Ga., and Mark Criminger of Thomasville, Ga.; a daughter, Carol Criminger of Highlands; a stepdaughter, Jennifer Cleere of Atlanta, Ga.; a brother, Robert F. Criminger Jr. of Littleton, Colo.; sister-in-law, Evelyn Criminger of Cornelius; and grandchildren, Emily, Jeff and Colin Criminger and Jerry Jenkins.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Jan. 9, 2005, at 2 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, 66 Harrison Ave., Franklin.

The family will receive friends following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made to one of the following: First United Methodist Church, 66 Harrison Ave., Franklin, NC 28734, Macon County Friends of the Library Building Fund, 121 Highlands Rd., Franklin, NC 28734, or Heifer International, P.O. Box 8058, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Howell Funeral Home, 2916 Union Rd., Gastonia, N.C., is in charge of the arrangements.

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