



Dr. J. Bruce "Deke" McKenna

June 14, 1941 - December 26, 2011

Dr. J. Bruce "Deke" McKenna

June 14, 1941 - December 26, 2011

Dr. J. Bruce "Deke" McKenna, age 70, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died suddenly on December 26, 2011 at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, with his family by his side. Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, he grew up in Salem, New Hampshire. Bruce graduated from Springfield College with a B.A. and a Masters Degree in Education. He earned his Doctorate in Education from Boston University, and began his administrative career in the Salem, N.H. Public School System, where he served as Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, and working his way up to Assistant Superintendent. Dr. McKenna was hired as Superintendent of schools in Dover Plains, New York, where he served from 1978 to 1999. He finished his career as Superintendent of the Hampton Bays School system in New York, retiring in 2003. He was a longtime member of the New York Council of School Superintendents, and served as President of the organization in 1999. Late in his career, Bruce got his captains license, and was able to spend six years of his retirement sailing back and forth between the Bahamas and Maine, and he moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 2007. He is survived by his sons, Sean M. McKenna and his wife Leisa of Ponte Vedra Beach, Todd McKenna of N. Palm Beach, FL, and Kyle McKenna and his wife Kelli of Durham, NH; his life companion and first mate, Barbara Fagan of Ponte Vedra Beach; his grandchildren, Justin, Sarah, Jordan, Drew, Tyler, Sadie and Laura McKenna, as well as Amy and Terry

Fagan; a brother, Joel McKenna and his wife Sharon of Toney, Alabama and a cousin, Judy Yennaco and her husband Robert of Litchfield, NH. He was preceded in death by his mother Ella Bruce McKenna and father John J McKenna. Memorial Services will be held in New Hampshire during the Summer of 2012. Donations in Bruce's memory can be made to the American Heart Association, 5851 St. Augustine Rd., Jacksonville, Florida 32207. St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

TD

“ *DEEPLY SADDENED TO HEAR OF BRUCE'S PASSING MY HUSBAND "CLIFF" ENJOYED SAILING TRIPS ON THE "NATALIE" WITH HIS DEAR FRIEND BRUCE*

tootie dwy - January 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM