

Bill,

This is an excellent tribute to Tiny, one that only you could compose because you saw a side of Tiny that was different from us sailors on the Edisto. Bravo Zulu.

PS: Those of you who attended the Warwick, RI (Boston) reunion may remember Tiny's friend William (Bill) Foley at the Edisto Reunion in the Boston Navy Yard. Bill worked for the National Park Service and was the federal liaison to USS Constitution. He was the person who arranged for the lady to attend our welcome dinner and brief us on the plans for the USS Constitution.



**From:** bill foley <[foley.bill154@gmail.com](mailto:foley.bill154@gmail.com)>

**Date:** May 8, 2024 at 6:49:23 PM EDT

**Subject: Bill Gallant - Friend and MVAC Member**

Long time MVAC member, Bill Gallant died last week on May 03. Bill was proud to be a born and bred Merrimack Valley resident. Kevin Hillard introduced me to Bill at the Andover Knights of Columbus in the early 1980's. He was a former Grand Knight of the K of C. We met on the basketball court at the Knights. A big man all of his life, and as I remember older than anyone else on the court. His energies and talent on the basketball court matched or exceeded his younger players.

MVAC was ten years old when I asked Bill to join the the adventure club. Bill's first adventure was climbing Mount Pocono on a 1200 pound mule. He showed up for the adventure in a full back brace. I have a clear memory of his mule sliding down a steep incline while he grabbed onto a nearby tree.

I'm sure many of you didn't know that Bill was a Navy Veteran who served on an Icebreaker in the Arctic Circle, as in North Pole. His ship, **USS *Edisto* (AGB-2)** cruised the Antarctic during the winter of 1960-1961 as a member of Operation Deep Freeze 61. *Edisto* was operating far south of New Zealand in an attempt to salvage a naval vessel that had broken loose from its moorings, the ship encountered the worst storm of her career resulting in severe damage to her rigging and starboard propeller. In 1962-1963, she spent 131 days in Arctic ice. Bill's nickname on the *Edisto* was Tiny. Bill was a proud Navy Veteran who attended several reunions with his former shipmates.



As a young man growing up in Lawrence he was considered tough and not somebody to mess with. He spent a short time as a police officer after his honorable discharge from the Navy. During his time with the MVAC he was given the title Master-at-Arms. He was always the peacemaker at MVAC adventures, or at least, almost always.

Bill will be sadly missed by his brothers in adventure. He is the first long time member to pass in the MVAC, but he'll never be forgotten.



Time will quickly pass as we age, but memories of men like Bill will remain with us until our own passing. I ask all of you to select a memory or two or more about a MVAC adventure that Bill attended. We'll conduct a memorial event this summer and share our memories.



In the 45 years of MVAC existence, friendships have strengthened, some dissipated, some lost forever. but, individually and collectively we became the MVAC.





I will send out information on a MVAC Memorial for our fallen brother in adventure soon.



