

William Henderson Dexter Jr.

William Henderson Dexter Jr. 10/18/1941 - 2/11/2023 William Henderson Dexter, Jr. passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on February 11, 2023.

Bill was born October 18, 1941, to William Henderson Dexter, Sr. and Margaret Russell Beddow Dexter. He grew up in Birmingham, Alabama. Bill graduated from The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, in 1963. After graduating, he was commissioned into the Air Force. After serving two tours in Vietnam, he returned to Birmingham. His mother and sister introduced him to Penelope Phillips in 1968, and they were engaged six months later. They were married at Independent Presbyterian Church in 1969, and were happily married until Penny's death in 2000. After working for General Electric and Drummond Coal Company, Bill and Andrew Fortson started Dexter Fortson Associates, Incorporated (DFA) in 1982, "in response to the service needs in the utility, manufacturing, and coal mining industries." In 1983, DFA expanded into electronic research and development, and Bill designed the programmable Remote Terminal Unit (RTU), which is the basis for The DFA Radio Telemetry/SCADA Monitor and Control System, which is installed across the United States in water, wastewater, natural gas, electrical, environmental, industrial, and irrigation applications.

Bill was a quiet man, but had an adventurous and jovial spirit. He flew planes, sailed boats, and loved swimming and biking. All who knew him well can attest to his ability to tell a great story. His love language was definitely acts of service, as he would help others with no need for recognition. He was loyal to his friends and family, and had firm opinions about doing what was right. He was a true and steady friend, and a loving husband and father.

Bill is survived by his daughters Andrea Dexter Smith (David), Jennifer Dexter Redmond (Shawn), Lauren Dexter Richards (Mark); granddaughters Willa Katherine Redmond and Stella Penelope Richards; sister Helen Dexter McDavid, and brother Roderick Beddow Dexter.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held on Friday, February 17, 2023, at 2:00 PM at Independent Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Bell Center for Early Intervention Programs, 1700 29th Court South, Birmingham, Alabama 35209, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.