

In Memory of Bill Bode

By Richard Winters
NYRWA Circuit Rider I



The New York Rural Water Association would like to express our sincere condolences to the family of a great supporter of our association and a great friend: William A. Bode, Water Superintendent for the Village of Arkville and Halcottsville Communities, passed on Wednesday, June 28, 2006. Bill's

battle with cancer was long, but his strong will and sense of humor kept his family always hopeful to the end.

Bill was born on April 14th, 1935, in Glen Cove, NY, to Karl and Gertrude Bode. Bill's father had a business doing ornamental iron work for many large Long Island estates. Many of the iron gates are probably still standing today. Bill would learn his father's skill and eventually take over the family business.

Bill was a former member of the Glen Cove Fire Department, and for the last 30 years, a member of the Arkville Fire Department. Bill also belonged to Margaretville Masonic Lodge, United Methodist Church, Upper Esopus Rod & Gun Club, and the Town of Middletown Democratic Committee. The local Boy Scout Troop was led for several years by Bill and a close friend. His dedication to the

community can never be replaced or forgotten.

As Water Supt., Bill had overseen several projects including the entire Halcottsville Water System installation from beginning to completion. Like most water operators, Bill could be counted on whether in the middle of winter or a hot summer day. Bill was involved in the original pilot study for what we water operators call our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, which he, like many, thought our time could be better spent doing something other than paperwork.

Bill always enjoyed talking to the Circuit Riders, whether it was the late John Hrasaka or Rich Winters, even if it was just a social call. Bill also knew in time of need, they were there and that is why anyone that would listen, he would praise the Rural Water Association. In 1996, after a 100 year flood (that now happens about every 10 years) hit Bill's hometown hard, he kept the Arkville water system operating. Bill was recognized by Rural Water. Arkville received Water System of the Year Award, thanks to a man like no other named BILL BODE.

Bill is survived by his wonderful and strong willed wife, Charlene, who was always there by his side. How can you sum up this man's life, he was a great friend to all who were touched by his life and lucky to know him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Bode family. 💧



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