

IN MEMORIAM

William H. Fritz, III

We were saddened to learn of the death of William Howard Fritz, III, 89, on March 25, 2018. Bill had recently moved to Dunwoody Village in Newtown Square, after living for many years in Wayne. He was the beloved husband of the late Joan MacFarlane, father of Mary Harris, Howard and Andrew Fritz, grandfather of Kyle Fritz and Rebecca Akula, and great-grandfather of Nathan and Sybil Fritz. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Family members and many friends were attended his life celebration at 12 noon on Friday, April 6, 2018 at Wayne Presbyterian Church, where he had been a dedicated and very involved member for many years.

Bill was a native and life-long resident of the Main Line, and was a good friend to many, as well as a generous and dedicated supporter of the community. He attended Haverford School and Trinity College, and served as a Captain in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.



Bill Fritz during a video interview, June 2016. *Courtesy of John Welsh*

Starting in childhood and continuing for the rest of his life, he worked in the family business. The business was started in 1860 by his great-grandfather Henry Fritz and William Lobb, and served generations of loyal customers. In more recent years, along with his son Howard, he owned and operated the Fritz Lumber Yard in Berwyn until its closing in 2016. Bill wrote a wonderful article for the *Quarterly* entitled “Fritz’s Lumber Yard” (Vol. 32 No. 2, April 1994, pp. 67–74) in which he shared many priceless recollections concerning the business and his family.

During the memorial service, he was remembered by close and long-time friends John Mills, Jerry Hansen, and the Rev. Dr. John Galloway, Jr. as a man of integrity and character, a good listener, thoughtful, considerate, and spiritual. His son Howard recalled his father encouraging him to embrace the concept of personal responsibility starting at a young age, and also to recognize the importance of taking care of one’s health, mind and spirit, as well as one’s family, friends, and community. In the face of the challenges Bill faced with failing health in December 2017, Howard asked his father how he could keep going, and Bill replied that you “just keep putting one foot in front of another until God takes you home.”

— *John O. Senior*



The main store building (LEFT) and the old lumber shed (RIGHT) at the former Fritz Lumber complex in Berwyn, June 2016. *Courtesy of John O. Senior*