

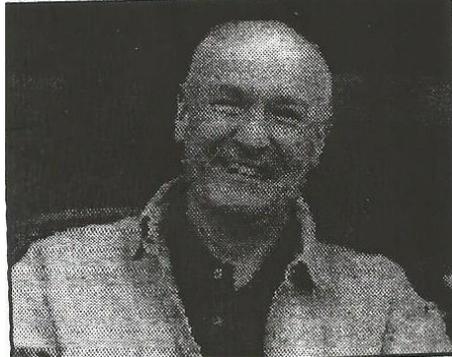
William Gerald Mason

Born Jan 1, 1940 at
Chicago

Died: June 25, 2007

Period of Service: Viet Nam

Source: Cemetery
*B10, Observer, Service
questionnaire, Wife Sue*



William grew up in Chicago and Riverdale, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Illinois, and obtained a master's degree at Loyola University, Chicago. He served in the Army in Germany, having enlisted in April 1, 1960 at Devens MD. He trained as a specialist in Morse Code and was stationed in Kassel, Germany for 27 months, assigned to Military Intelligence monitoring encrypted Russian transmissions during the Cold War. He was awarded a Good Conduct medal and expert ratings in carbine and rifle M-1. He was released from service March 25, 1963 with an honorable discharge and the rank of SP 5, E-5. His service termination date was March 31, 1966.

During his service in Germany he fell in love with the culture, studied the language, melded into the society and made lifelong friends there. After his discharge, he returned to Germany and attended language school becoming fluent in German. On July 11, 1965 he married Monika M. Schons of Brillon, Germany and had two children, Christine Marie, named for her grandmothers Christine M. Foss Mason of Washington Island, and Maria Schons of Brillon, Germany, and a son Dirk Michael Mason. They divorced and Monika passed away June 20, 1977. On May 26, 1978, he married Sue Findley Lamphear Mason who had a daughter, Emily Joy Lamphear. Together they raised the three children.

He was a career executive with Illinois Bell Telephone and later of American Telephone and Telegraph, including two overseas assignments, one in Teheran, Iran, during the revolution, and a second one in London where he travelled to Hamburg, Germany and negotiated a cellular contract with the Bunde-post (the German government) for AT&T.

After retirement, he and Sue moved to Washington Island where William served two terms as adjutant of American Legion Post 402 which he joined in 1998. He served as secretary and president of the Lions club on the Island. He was on the board of the Farm Museum, and a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church choir. His family founded a scholarship fund in his name to provide music education and instruments for children of Washington Island school where he was a substitute teacher and tutor for 3rd and 4th grade boys.

William Gerald Mason

He was a lifelong learner, spoke fluent Spanish and German, and studied photography and had a darkroom in his home. He taught himself to play the trumpet, enjoyed music of all kinds, and performed in the Island Music Festival Choir, and a musical production of the Island Players. Had a great sense of humor and had many hobbies.

His parents were Everett Gerald Mason, born on Washington Island 8/10,1910, to William Claud Mason of Escanaba, Michigan and Christine M. Foss of Washington Island, and Ellen (Ilona) Eperjesi of Chicago, Illinois (married 8/25/1938).