

WILKINS, Geoffrey Harford (Geoff) [UNTD DISCOVERY 1953 U-78045] (1934 - 2016) Age: 82



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Geoffrey Harford Wilkins, on November 19, 2016, beloved husband of Joan, father of Anne Rayner-Gould (Rod) and Wendy Lloyd (David), grandfather to Matt (Kristina), Heather, and Kelly, and great-grandfather to Logan. He is also survived by his brothers Michael and Jeremy and his three nieces. Geoff was born in Havana, Cuba. Due principally to [WWII](#), his young life was well-travelled, including escape from Singapore in 1942. After the war, he attended Reading School, where he was appointed Captain of the School in his final year. While at Reading, he was capped at rugby for the England Colts XV. On a trip to Canada with his brother Michael in 1952, he met Joan, the love of his life. Following four years apart while attending university, they enjoyed sixty years of very happy marriage. Geoff said his love for Joan and their daughters was "the source of my deepest joy and delight in this life." Geoff spent over thirty years serving the children of Burnaby as a teacher, counsellor, principal, and assistant superintendent. His degrees from UBC, Dalhousie, and SFU all proved very helpful in his career. In a long life of volunteer service, Geoff chaired many groups and organizations, including the Children's Foundation, First United's Mission Board, the Board of North Lonsdale United Church, and the National Alliance of Covenanting Congregations. He mentored prisoners at Matsqui, sang in church choirs and for residents of nursing homes, and led a Bible study group. As to the long-term future, Geoff once wrote: "This life has been blessed beyond measure. I look forward to the mysteries of the next with hope, trust, and confidence." We are deeply grateful for the superb nursing care Geoff received while in VGH, LGH, and particularly the North Shore Hospice. A memorial service to celebrate Geoff's life will take place at North Lonsdale United Church on Saturday, January 7 at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the North Shore Hospice or the Children's Foundation.

Published in The North Shore News from Dec. 2 to Dec. 31, 2016.

Geoff had 3 UNTD summers; 1954, '55, '56 and was promoted to A/SLT RCN(R), sen. 1 Jul '56, O-78045, attached to DISCOVERY and subsequently to A/LT(N), sen. 1 May '58, on the Retired List.

There is no mention of Naval Service in the Obit, but in 2007 Geoff was in a position within the United Church, to critique their declining membership and wrote a piece using his UNTD experiences as an analogy. That piece in its entirety is located here:

(copy and paste) www.angelfire.com/on2/UNTD/Celestial.pdf