



Rev. Hugh Burrill Penney

May 6, 1926 - November 12, 2017

Hugh Burrill Penney, 91, died November 12, 2017 at home in Cromwell, CT. Hugh was born on May 6, 1926 in Providence, Rhode Island, son of the late Rev. Dr. Hugh and Marcia Burrill Penney. He was a graduate of Lawrence Academy, Bates College, Chicago Theological Seminary, and the University of Chicago. During World War II he served from 1944-1946 in the European Theatre with the 75th Infantry Division, beginning with the Battle of the Bulge, and was awarded three battle stars. Hugh was ordained in 1953 and served churches in West Auburn, Maine; Chicago, Illinois; Andover and Holden, Massachusetts; and New Britain, Connecticut. He was named Pastor Emeritus of South Church in New Britain. Following retirement Hugh became an Annuitant Visitor for the United Church of Christ Pension Boards and served with his wife Lois as Minister to Retired Clergy on the United Church of Christ Connecticut Conference staff from 1991-2004.

Since 1964 he lived in Connecticut and served many organizations; the first President of the New Britain Human Resource Agency; President of the New Britain YMCA; President of the Erwin Home; President of the Senior Volunteer Program; Commissioner of Berlin Commission on the Aging, President of North Central Area Agency on Aging, Corporator of the New Britain General Hospital; Treasurer of CCARC; and President of Covenant Village of Cromwell Resident Council. He was a board member of the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain, the Klingberg Family Centers, New Britain Museum of

American Art, Friendship Service Center, and the New Britain Area Conference of Churches.

Hugh held positions in the wider church as Moderator of Central Association of the UCC, Moderator of the UCC Connecticut Conference, President of the Connecticut Bible Society, and President of the Hartford Seminary Pastoral Union. He had been a delegate to the World Council of Churches in New Delhi, India, Corporate Member of the UCCC's Board of World Ministries and Board for Homeland Ministries, and as a delegate to several annual meetings of the UCC's General Synod.

Hugh and his wife Lois traveled extensively covering every state, more than 80 countries and all seven continents. In 1993 Hugh and Lois were the first couple to receive the New Britain United Way Volunteer of the Year Award and in 2000 they received the Bates College Distinguished Service Award. In 2013 they were honored as CCARC Persons of the Year and by the New Britain YMCA for their Community Service.

Hugh is survived by his wife of 67 years, Lois Keniston Penney; four sons and daughters in-law ; Hugh K. and Susan of New Haven, CT; Bruce and Janice of Arlington, MA; Paul and Angela of Briarcliff Manor, NY; Kurt and Andréa of Rockport, MA; and daughter Shakeela Penney of Milford, CT. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren, six great-granddaughters, an eagerly awaited seventh great-grandchild, scores of nieces and nephews, and three sisters - Ruth Carter of Winchester, VA, Penny Harlow of Wilbraham, MA, and Jean Fickett of Cupertino, CA.

A memorial service will be held at South Congregational Church, 90 Main St., New Britain, CT Saturday, November 18 at 10:00 a.m. A reception will follow the service. Memorial donations may be made to The Friendship Service Center, P.O. Box 1896, New Britain, CT 06050-1896 (www.fsc-ct.org) and

Heifer International (www.heifer.org). Hugh's ashes will be buried in the memorial garden at South Church and in the family plot in Ayer, MA. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain is assisting with arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

SR

“ For many many years after my husband George passed away Hugh would send me an annual holiday greeting with words of comfort and remembrance. Even though I never met Hugh (he knew my husband) he knew that connections meant so much in life and that memories of people we love never leave us. I was so touched by his thoughtful gesture and looked forward to his annual Christmas card. I was just doing a scrapbook from 2007 and had kept one of his cards. I was so sorry to see that he had passed away. He had an incredible life and certainly touched me with his generous spirit.

suzanne rogers - July 12, 2020 at 09:29 PM

LT

“ I have nothing but fond memories of my Uncle Hugh. His big smiles, bear hugs, and laughs are something I will never forget from my childhood. He truly was a special man and I was fortunate to have him in my life, although we didn't see each other very often. I was so happy to have gotten to see him and Aunt Lois, along with my mom, Aunt Ruth and Aunt Jean a year and a half ago at their annual get together in June. It meant a lot to me. Sending love and prayers from NH to all the Penney family. So sorry I couldn't be there for the service, which I heard was so wonderful. Love, Linda Thomas

Linda Thomas - November 20, 2017 at 11:17 AM

MT

“ I was thankful for Hugh as he was always warm and welcoming when I began my ministry in the central association. I appreciated his support and care. May he rest in peace. With deep sympathy, Rev. Melanie Enfield Tinkham

Melanie Enfield Tinkham - November 18, 2017 at 09:47 PM

RW

“ *West Parish Church in Andover sends our condolences and fond memories of Rev. Penny. Blessings.*

Rev. Katrina Wuensch - November 18, 2017 at 04:20 PM

PR

“ *My sympathy and love to the family of Rev Penney. I remember him with great affection as he was the minister of South Church in my formative years. My mother, Norma Snow Kinney thought so highly of Hugh, and rightfully so. He was a 'matchmaker' introducing my mother to Charles Kinney, years after my father's death. He brought joy and love to both of them as a result. He was an amazing Reverend, living his vocation. Find comfort in all the lives he touched, a true disciple of God. Be at peace. Priscilla Snow Reed*

priscilla reed - November 17, 2017 at 09:33 PM

AS

“ *Shakeela, We are truly sorry for your loss. You and your family are in our prayers.*

Autumn and Danny Stokes - November 17, 2017 at 02:17 PM

DS

“ *Lois Penney & Family, My prayers and sympathy to you all at the passing of such a wonderful accomplished man. I remember my parents David and Norma Snow being good friends of yours and later also Charles Kinney, my mother's second husband. It is hard to believe that all have gone to the Lord and I myself am nearing retirement. My parents brought us up in South Church and I have warm memories of that including your husband and Rev. Alan Rev. Maclean, who both provided such comfort and guidance to our family on the un-timely passing of my father. I am remembering a trip to Maine with your family long ago. Please find comfort in the great love Hugh provided to so many people and may God bless you all.*

David N. Snow

David N. Snow - November 15, 2017 at 09:55 AM

PJ

“ *He was Gods gift on earth. I mourn with his family*

Patricia johnson - November 15, 2017 at 08:46 AM

CL

“ *To the Penneys - having been part of the South Church family for many years, I am so grateful that I was able to know Hugh Penney as long as I did. He was the epitome of a good and Godly man, and he was so lucky to share his life's journey with the wonderful Lois by his side. Will miss his kind smile, his wit, his goodness - rest well, good and faithful servant.*

*Best to all the family,
Christine Laird*

Christine Laird - November 14, 2017 at 03:44 PM