The Rev. David Albert Works, VTS’48

The Reverend Dr. David Albert Works died February 3, 2006 at Westminster Canterbury of the Blue Ridge in Charlottesville, Virginia.

He was retired as the President and founder of the North Conway Institute, an interfaith interdisciplinary movement promoting education and public policy reform in the area of alcoholism and substance abuse. He served in that position from 1951 to 2000. The Institute began in New Hampshire and was brought to Boston, Massachusetts in 1963 by group of religious leaders led by Cardinal Cushing, Methodist Bishop James K. Mathews, Episcopal Bishop Anson Phelps Stokes and others.

Mr. Works was born on November 22, 1920, in Cleveland, Ohio to Nelson Clark Works Sr. and Harriette Phinney Works. He graduated from New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois and attended the University of Chicago, Indiana University and Bowdoin College from which he graduated as a member of the Class of 1942. He attended Virginia Theological Seminary from 1945-48, and later received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1988. He was ordained to the Episcopal ministry in 1949.

Before attending seminary, Mr. Works served in the United States Marine Corps, and following his discharge was a sports reporter for the Portland, Maine Press Herald where he fulfilled a childhood dream of covering the Cincinnati Reds.

Mr. Works served as lay reader in charge and then rector of Christ Episcopal Church, North Conway, New Hampshire, from 1948 to 1960. During that time he saw the tremendous need for ministry to the alcoholic and families of alcoholics. He attended the Yale (now Rutgers) School of Alcohol Studies and worked with other church leaders in New England to change attitudes and use the resources of the faith communities to bring healing to alcoholics and their families.

As a recovering alcoholic, Mr. Works knew first-hand the devastating affect of the problems of alcoholic and drug addiction. His unique ministry came from his own experience and his Christian faith. He frequently told others that a visit from an Episcopal priest to tell him that God loved him was a turning point in his life and recovery. He lived out that belief in his own ministry. This work ranged from serving as pastor to countless persons and families as well as serving on local, state, church and national boards and commissions.

Dr. Works served on many other organizations interested in alcohol and drug concerns, chairing such groups as the National Commission on Indian Affairs, NCCUSA Task Force on Alcohol and Drug Problems, Conference of Religious leaders for National Safety Council, Massachusetts Governor’s Drug Rehabilitation Advisory Board. For many years, he was a visiting professor at the Center of Alcohol Studies at Rutgers University.

He was a member of many organizations that show the great variety of his interests. They include the Union Club of Boston, the Board of the USS Constitution Museum, the Mayflower Society, the Civil War Roundtable of Charlottesville, Virginia, the George Gallup Institute, and the New Hampshire Bicentennial Commission, and advisory boards for the Osborne Foundation, US Department of Transportation, US Air Force Chaplain Service, and Freedom Trail Foundation.
Mr. Works was married on June 3, 1946, to Lucy Robb Winston Works. He is survived by a daughter, the Reverend Betty Works Fuller (Frank) of Corpus Christi, Texas; and a son, David Winston Works of Boston, Massachusetts; two grandchildren, Mary Austin Long Fuller of Boston, Massachusetts, and William Richard Lewis Fuller of Corpus Christi, Texas; as well as two sisters, Margaret Gibbs of Salem, Ohio and Elizabeth Wilkins of Fairhope, Alabama; nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends.

Mr. Works was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Nelson, John and Drake; and one sister, Nancy Fulton.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to The North Conway Institute Fund at the Boston Foundation, 75 Arlington St - 10th Floor, Boston, MA 02116.

Services will be held at Christ Episcopal Church in Charlottesville, Virginia at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 7th, with The Rev. Jeffrey Fishwick and the Rev. Edward Gleason officiating. Burial will be in the Mitchells Presbyterian Church graveyard in Mitchells, Virginia. Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Clore English Funeral home in Culpeper, Virginia.

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