

## Honoring Two Very Important Bills

In the month of July, two MYC events paid tribute to two highly respected celestial members: Bill Shelton and Bill Ward.

On July 19, MYC held an after race party at Burrows Park in honor of "our two Bills." The exterior of the park shelter was appropriately decorated with Bill Ward's collection of nautical flags. A large banner commemorating the Bills hung over the shelter's stone fireplace.



Approximately 130 family, friends, and club members showed up to pay their respects. Attendees feasted on a buffet from noon to 2 p.m. A slide show in memory of the two Bills ran continuously on a large television in the front of the shelter.



At 2 p.m., there was a short ceremony in our Bills' honor. Don Sanford spoke briefly, then introduced Captain Dick Baker. Captain Baker reminded us that even though our Bills are no longer with us, "it is the memories and shared stories, it is the adventure, the comradeship and the sheer raw beauty of a sailing vessel heeled over" that will help us remember our Bills.



Captain Baker's presentation concluded with a moving rendition of *Amazing Grace* played on the bagpipes by Ellis Waller. The day ended when numerous friends, family, and MYC members stood up to share memories and stories of our Bills.

Because both Bills so loved Lake Mendota and all it offered, a water tribute seemed appropriate. On July 28, fifteen MYCers took three boats to the Mendota Triangle. It was a perfect day—hot (for Bill Shelton) and moderate winds. It would have been Bill Ward's 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday.



After anchoring and tethering the three boats together, Don Sanford spoke a few words. Most profoundly he said that the Bills were with us in spirit in this place they loved the most. Captain Dick Baker then delivered a moving tribute. He reminded us how fitting it was that we chose this spot to say our last good-byes, to release their spirits to the heavens, and to release our memories of them to our hearts. After each person had a chance to share his/her last memories and stories, Grant Frautschi rang a ship's bell eight times. The ringing of eight bells signifies the end of a sailor's watch. For our Bills, it meant that they were relieved of their earthly duties.

Jim Henkel then fired two shots from the cannon Bill Ward once used during MYC races. The first shot signified the beginning of our Bills' final race, and the second shot signified Bill Shelton crossing the finish line in first place.

After the tribute, Jerry Simon uncorked some champagne, and the group toasted to the Bills. They quietly took the long way back to the marina so they could meditate on the day's events.

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