

Memorial Minute for William Hummon
(July 27, 1932 – January 1, 2017)

[Largely from an obituary published in *The Athens Messenger*]

William Dale “Bill” Hummon, 84, died at home in Athens, Ohio, on January 1, 2017, under hospice care. He was born on July 27, 1932, in Akron, Ohio, the son of Dale Levi Hummon and Lorena May Payne Hummon. He married Julia Margaret “Meg” Raper on December 24, 1958, at her family home in Oakton, Virginia. They have two daughters, Julia Margaret Hummon of Honolulu, Hawaii, and Cheryl Hummon of Salem, Oregon.

After earning a B.A. in philosophy at the University of Montana, Missoula (1955), Bill was a conscientious objector to military service and served as an attendant at Apple Creek State Hospital in Ohio in lieu of military service (1955–58). He then returned to the University of Montana for a B.S. in wildlife biology (1960), and an M.A. in teaching biology (1961). He received a Ph.D. in zoology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (1969).

His teaching career included positions at Olympic College in Bremerton, Washington (1961–65) and Ohio University in Athens (1969–2002), where he was professor of zoology. He was an engaged advisor to generations of undergraduates. Bill ran an active research laboratory, supervising 11 M.S. students, two Ph.D. students, and three post-doctoral students, with a focus on freshwater and marine invertebrate ecology. His own research was primarily on marine gastrotricha (microscopic, free-living invertebrates that live between sand grains on beaches). He discovered, named, described, and published several new genera and numerous new species. His research included extended periods at marine labs in Scotland, England, Israel, Egypt, Washington, Oregon, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Florida Keys. Bill was active in several scientific societies, and was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

A founding and active member of Athens Friends Meeting, Bill was a lifelong student of biblical history and literature and Quaker history, and did post-graduate work at the Earlham School of Religion. He was a draft counselor during times of war. He enjoyed travel, backpacking, and photography. He had a special love for nature and wilderness.

Bill is survived by his wife, Meg; daughter, Jules, and son-in-law, Steve Howell; daughter, Cheryl; sister, Barbara Hummon Rice of St. Petersburg, Florida; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial gifts may be sent to Athens Friends Meeting, P.O. Box 17, Athens, OH 45701; Earlham School of Religion, 228 College Ave, Richmond, IN 47374; or Athens Conservancy, P.O. Box 2281, Athens, OH 45701. A memorial service was held at Athens Friends Meeting House on February 18.