



## In Memoriam: Beal Hyde

*Beal's memorial service will be at the Meetinghouse on Saturday July 18th at 1pm.*

Beal was born in Dallas, Texas on June 26, 1923, the first of two boys born to Alice Beal Baker and Mark Powell Hyde. He spent his boyhood in Wellesley Hills, MA. In his early life, he was fortunate to attend two summer camps, one in Vermont where he learned to swim. He spent two summers on the Prairie Trek Expedition exploring the southwestern US. Influenced by these adventures, Beal became a very active, outdoors-loving man. He led his family on several backpack trips to the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the 1960's. He enjoyed skiing and swam every day at noontime during his tenure at UVM.

At age 18, Beal enrolled at Amherst College, until the bombing of Pearl Harbor compelled him to enlist in the Army Air Force, for which he served in India and China. Upon his return, he completed his undergraduate degree and earned a PhD in Botany from Harvard. He met, courted, and married Peggy Powe.

With Peggy at his side, Beal took on academic positions at, among others, the University of Oklahoma and Caltech, before settling with their three children in Burlington in 1965. Beal improved the UVM Botany Department during his leadership. He also served terms as President of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Ombudsman, but also took his role as student advisor very seriously. He was twice on sabbatical, once for a year in Denmark, and later for a year in Cambridge. He remained at UVM until his retirement.

At his home in Burlington, Beal spent long, pleasant hours creating and maintaining his perennial flower garden. He was especially proud of his lilies. One of his greatest joys was folk dancing with Peggy and their very dear dancing companions. Beal and Peggy traveled the world, visiting the Far East (China), the Middle East (Turkey and Egypt), the southern hemisphere (New Zealand and Peru), the far north (Scandinavia), as well as numerous destinations in Europe and the US.



Beal also had an artistic side. First a recorder player and later a weaver, he finally found his métier in carving. He always whittled a spoon or some figure on every backpack trip. In the 70's, his son bought him a set of very nice carving tools. With a botanist's eye and an artist's hand, Beal created pieces not only beautifully carved, but also using the character of the wood in sympathy with the design. His carvings included bas-reliefs, freestanding sculptures, and panels for chests.

Beal and Peggy were longtime members of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, and Beal held various volunteer positions, including several years on the board of trustees and as chair of the Canvass Committee.

He is predeceased by Peggy, his wife of 56 years, and his brother, Alec. He is survived and will be missed by his three children, Lynn (Jorgen) Overgaard (Penn Yan, NY), Thomas Hyde (Burlington, VT), and Alice (Gary) Lesney (Inver Grove Heights, MN); and his five grandchildren, Sidsel (Mike Sullivan) Overgaard, Catherine (Shane Woodford) Overgaard, June Lesney, Thomas Lesney, and Paxton Hyde; and his three great grandchildren, Else Sullivan, Mette Sullivan, and Henrik Woodford; as well as his very special friend, Barbara Madden.

*In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the [American Civil Liberties Union](#) or the charity of your choice.*