

WILLIAM F. HAHN

LEHIGH '49

William F. Hahn was born on July 7, 1923. Bill attended college at Lehigh University after his service in World War II. At Lehigh, he initiated into his beloved Beta Chi Chapter on May 25, 1946, as roll number 408. He graduated in 1949 and, reflecting on his decision to join, Bill shared, "It turned out that was one of the best decisions I ever made, because it got me back to civilian life after 4 years of serving in the military."

During World War II, Brother Hahn, a Navy pilot, flew carrier-based fighter planes in aerial missions over Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Tokyo and Kyushu. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by the President of the United States for his "heroism and extraordinary achievement" piloting in Fighting Squadron Eighty Two, which was attached to the U.S.S. Bennington. It is also noted that Hahn's "skill and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

It was Hahn's future chapter brother, Herbert Seeger '49, who introduced Bill to Beta Theta Pi. Seeger struggled with mechanical drawing and excelled in calculus, and Hahn, the opposite, helped Seeger with mechanical drawing while Seeger studied calculus with Hahn. Hahn initially was not attracted to the idea of fraternities, but he decided to join Seeger for dinner at the chapter house, met his future brothers and committed to joining the Fraternity.

After college, Hahn worked at the Fuller Co. until 1968. Hahn then joined Pennsylvania Crusher Corp. in 1968, which merged with Penn Virginia Corp., where he served as president from 1969 until 1980. When Penn Virginia Corp. acquired Vibranetics in 1978 and Merrick Corp. in 1980, he became the senior vice president of Penn Virginia Corp. and chairman of Pennsylvania Crusher Corp., Vibranetics, Inc., and Merrick from 1981 until 1986.

Hahn served on the Foundation Board of Directors from 2000-2006, as Villanova's financial advisor from 1993-1997, as Villanova's House Corporation President from 1989-1990 and as a district chief from 1961-1965.

He and his wife and Beta Sweetheart, Helen (dec.), have 4 grown children. His son, William "Bill" Hahn, Jr., *Penn State '80*, son-in-law, Dan Wilhelm, *Penn State '79*, and grandson (Dan's son) Eric Wilhelm, *Penn State '09*, are also members of Beta Theta Pi.