Rev. David F. Ball

Rev. David F. Ball, 66, a retired Navy chaplain, died Nov. 26 in Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Mich., after a lengthy illness. Born in Evanston, Father Ball always had wanted to be a priest and was ordained in 1962, according to his brother, John. He served at the former Angel Guardian Orphanage in Chicago from 1962 to 1967. In that role he became a father figure for the orphans, listening and caring for them, according to Rev. Robert H. Oldershaw, a former classmate. Father Ball loved working at Angel Guardian and last year attended a reunion of the children from the orphanage in Indianapolis, his brother said. Father Ball left the orphanage to serve as associate pastor of St. Simon the Apostle Church in Chicago and assistant pastor of St. Lambert Church in Skokie. In 1968 he was commissioned in the Navy, his family said. He retired in 1990. "In addition to being a very spiritual man, Dave had a wonderfully exuberant attitude toward life, which touched many people all around the world," his brother said. Other survivors include a sister, Kathleen B. Crain. Mass was said Wednesday.