



F. Curtis Johnston

November 25, 1931 - May 8, 2019

Hampton - Frederick Curtis Johnston passed away peacefully on May 8, 2019 at the age of 87 in Rye. He resided in Hampton, since 1986 and previously lived in New London, NH and Rumford, RI.

Curtis is survived by his wife of 16 years, Alison; her daughter Heather (Chris); his children David (Heidi), Gregory (Mary), Sarah Jane (Mike) and Matthew (Julie); his stepchildren Mark (Dee), Diane (Wayne) and Steven; his sister Elaine (Al); his six grandchildren KC (Kristen), Bailey, Sam, Gwen, Zach and Maggie; and many cherished nephews, nieces, cousins, in-laws, and friends. He is predeceased by his wife of 22 years, Grace (Daly) who passed away in 2000, and the mother of his children, Ann (Bailey) who passed away in 2005.

Curtis was born November 25, 1931 to Frederick and Marion (Curtis) Johnston in Providence, RI. He graduated from Cranston High School and received his BS in Economics from the University of Rhode Island in 1954. While at URI he was a member and President of Theta Chi fraternity. He joined the ROTC and served over 30 years in the US Army Reserves retiring as Colonel in 1984. His professional career encompassed 35 years in computer sales and banking with IBM, Burroughs, FDSi, TRW, and State Street. Curtis was a parishioner of Grace Episcopal Church in Providence and served as Senior Warden from 1977-1980.

His favorite job was his first; working as a farmhand during the summers of 1941-1945 in Sunapee, NH. This began his passion for the agrarian history of farming. Curtis was an avid collector of antique farm tools. His vegetable garden, raspberry patch and beautiful green lawn were also favorite hobbies. He was a devoted member of the NH Farm Museum since 1985 where he was a volunteer, board member, President, and Trustee. Curtis was at home in the mountains; as a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club he summited all the 4,000 footers of New England. He loved sports and history and had a deep interest in reading biographies.

Curtis was a proud first-generation American; his father emigrated from Northern Ireland in the early 1900's. He enjoyed sharing his Scottish heritage with others and would sport his kilt "Grampy's skirt" on special occasions. He was a charming extrovert who loved engaging strangers in conversation. He was incredibly proud of his entire family and all their accomplishments. His twinkly blue eyes and straightforward approach to life will be in our memories always. The family extends gratitude to the wonderful staff at Webster-at-Rye, Brookhaven Hospice of NH, and Seniors Helping Seniors for their kind and compassionate care of Curtis. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Visiting hours will be from 5-7 P.M. Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton. Services will be held at 11 A.M. Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in the funeral home with a reception to follow. Burial is private. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Curtis may be made to the NH Farm Museum, 1305 White Mountain Highway, Milton, NH 03851.

Events

MAY **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

14

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ; Hampton, NH, US, 03842

MAY **Service** 11:00AM

15

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Comments



“ Curt was my Uncle. We were brothers in the Theta Chi Fraternity, and brothers in arms in the US Army. I was in my early twenties when I called him Uncle Curt. He sternly said " Tyler, call me Curt". Never, did I call him Uncle Curt in the future . I smile when I think of that!

He was a great man!

Tyler Sanborn, one of Curt's nephews.

Tyler Sanborn - May 17 at 10:05 PM



“ I am sad to learn of Curt's passing. I met him when I was a young girl living in Hampton. My mother was close to Grace. I hadn't seen him since I was a teenager, but recognized his smile right away.
He was also so kind to my brother and I. We lived in the neighborhood behind them. I can still hear his voice.
I am so sorry for your loss.
Christine Gregory

Christine Daye - May 16 at 03:02 PM



“ As Curt's brother-in-law, I enjoyed the friendship and numerous joint activities, with Curt. One special event was when I invited him to join me and two other part-owners of a cabin in the wilds of Quebec.As a consummate outdoorsman, he was a natural participant, of course..
When I mentioned to one of our Canadian friends that he was my brother-in-law, he was quick to point out that, in Quebec, a brother-in-law is called a "Beau Frere" - which means "Beautiful Brother".
Nothing could be more appropriate!

Al Sanborn, Westborough, MA

Al Sanborn - May 10 at 09:28 PM



“ One of the first people I met at the New Hampshire Farm Museum was Curtis Johnston! We shared so much from the start: our love for history, our passion for farming, our military careers, and our very large families. Curt was a people person, a self described go-getter, and a man whose personal and professional life was best described as one who dreamed big! He was one of the original founders of the New Hampshire Farm Museum in Milton. On many an occasion such as Children's Day, or Old Farm Day, Curtis would call looking for

volunteers to assist with the weekend's activities. If he ran short, he would bring one of his many children to help out. They readily came, too! In later years, it was Allison who accompanied him, driving up from the Seacoast in his prize sports car. He spent the year collecting second hand "finds" for the annual auction to benefit the New Hampshire Farm Museum. I remember one time, in particular, when he arrived with a truckload of farm items and a set of 1950's Britannica Encyclopedias. When asked about the encyclopedias, he smiled and said that the woman who gave him the farm items for the auction insisted that he take the encyclopedias. He did, of course! He didnt have the heart to say no. The encyclopedias didn't have any takers, but the rest of his second hand "treasures" yielded over \$6,000 in profit for the farm that year. I will miss him, his stories, his senses of humor, his ability to inspire, and his "can do" attitude. Our doors are open here at the farm for the Johnston family whenever you are in the area. Come and sit on the front porch for awhile. You can almost see Curt coming across the field to greet you wearing his overalls and straw hat!

Jon B. Hotchkiss, President, New Hampshire Farm Museum Board of Trustees
Chief, United States Navy Retired

Jonathan B Hotchkiss - May 14 at 11:52 PM



“ My deepest Sympathy to Allison and all Curtis ,family, I will miss Curtis so much ! at first when I met him At the New Hampshire Farm Museum I was a bit intimidated by The Colonel but we became friends and he taught me how to plant corn , how to make Rhode Island Johnny cakes the right way! As I was the the new Director of the Farm Museum he wanted to show me the ropes and of course this s involved all sorts of farm stories and many escapades involving his buddies and moving antique farm equipment around in the barns and and pursuing interesting artifacts for the annual fund raising auction. Curtis was truly the heart and soul of the New Hampshire Farm Museum. I feel privileged to have known him and the world is poorer with his passing. Sincerely Kathleen Shea.

Kathleen Shea - May 10 at 08:26 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of F. Curtis Johnston.



May 10 at 04:47 PM