



## Monroe B. Scharff

September 8, 1923 - November 20, 2019

Exeter - Monroe Bernard Scharff peacefully sailed from this earth on November 20, 2019. "Monty" was born on September 8, 1923, in Boston, MA, the son of Bernard Wertheimer Scharff and Minette Switzer Scharff. Monty was a proud veteran of the greatest generation and served in the 8th Army-Air Force in World War II and in the Korean War, earning the rank of 1st lieutenant. As a graduate of Bard College/Columbia University, Monty pioneered the field of financial public and investor relations with the establishment of Monroe B. Scharff & Co. in 1958. He went on to a distinguished career of over 40 years serving institutional clients throughout the country from offices on 49th Street in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, and ultimately from his beloved home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

The State of Maine held a special place in Monty's heart where summered with his father and mother in Bridgton in the 1930s and ultimately lived full time in Kennebunkport with his beloved wife. Monty was married to Edwina K. Scharff for over 70 years, and always referred to her as "Blue Eyes." Monty was a well-known member of the Kennebunkport community, where he could almost always be seen sailing his Cape Dory sloop "Windlass" in and out of the Kennebunk River, and holding court on all matters from the driver's seat of his fire engine red Mazda Miata or the front steps of the post office.

Monty loved sailing, skiing (his favorite ski areas being Shawnee Peak and Sunday River in Maine), cars, and most of all, people. He built his business and his personal life on integrity, a caring and generous attitude towards others, and an uncanny ability to relate with and ultimately charm those around him. Anyone who knew Monty would appreciate the phrase, "Let me tell you a quick story," which would often be the start of a wonderful tale, transforming an ordinary event into a warm, hilarious adventure. Monty was a voracious reader, never seen without a book under his arm and always generous in offering his latest read to others. Most of all, Monty adored his wife Edwina, who survives him. He was a devoted and loving father to his two children, Peter B. Scharff and Stuart M. Scharff, who also survive him along with Peter's wife Janet R. Scharff, Stuart's wife Jodi B. Scharff, four grandchildren, Rachel, Christopher, Emily, and Jennifer, and two great grandchildren, Annabel and Caleb.

Monty was generous with his time and expertise, formerly serving as a director-at-large of the National Investor Relations Institute (Boston Chapter), board member of Maine Capital Corporation, the Foundation for Blood Research, Portland Museum of Art, YMCA of Greater New York, and trustee of the Forman School in Litchfield, CT.

The last months of Monty's life were challenging for him and for those who loved and cared for him. The family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation and thanks for the compassionate care, thoughtfulness, and loving attention Monty and the family received from all the wonderful staff at Riverwoods in Exeter, NH and the caregivers from Extended Family in Portsmouth.

Please join us in celebration of Monty's life on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. at Riverwoods at Exeter, 5 Timber Lane, Exeter, NH. Monty's family will share some brief reflections followed by light refreshments.

One of the institutions closest to Monty's heart was the Forman School in Litchfield, CT, where he attended as a young man after the death of his father when he was 16 years old. Monty credits the school and its then headmaster, John Forman, for so much of his instruction in "life." In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests that donations to the Forman School be made in Monty's honor. Fair winds and following seas Monty!

[The Forman School][www.formanschool.org](http://www.formanschool.org)

12 Norfolk Rd.

Litchfield, CT 06759

# Events

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**DEC**   **Celebration of Life**   11:30AM  
**7**

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Riverwoods Exeter  
5 Timber Lane, Exeter, NH, US, 03833

# Comments

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“ Monty was one of the dearest, smartest people I've had the privilege to know - for 40+ years. From the days back at Cape Arundel Condo's when I was a teen, he was always there as a father-like figure for advice and a humorous tale. He even took the time to stop by The Taft School in CT, where I was working my first post-college job, to check up on me. I'll never forget him hiking across the fields to our Track & Field workouts, a big smile on his face, just to say "Hi!" He was that kind of guy: He made you feel special. Later, at River Tree Arts, where he was a board member, he contributed time, expertise, and many a colorful story to lighten up our otherwise business-as-usual meetings. My mother, Virginia, and I send warmest thoughts and condolences to you, Eddie, Peter and Stuart and to your families. We will miss this wonderful man!

**Audrey Gup-Mathews** - December 09 at 01:00 PM

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“ Dear Eddie--It's a tribute to Monte's nature that even his obit brought smiles to our faces. The "have you got time for a quick story" carried with it many, many fond memories. We often marveled at how he could have so many funny/exciting happenings. My (Jack) most treasured memory of Monte was our many skiing outings. We both skied at the same level and would continually challenge each other to "one more run." We will miss him. The neighborhood was never the same after you moved to Exeter.  
Much love, Dee and Jack Drake.

**John Drake** - November 27 at 10:37 AM

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“ Dear Eddie, Peter and Stuart, please accept my deepest condolences on Monty's passing. Monty possessed such a rare combination of deep intellect, an uncanny sense of humor, and genuine salt-of-the-earth sincerity. I'm not sure I will ever meet another person who loved to spin a tale as much as Monty did. His stories were legendary and each one kept you riveted until the end when you were sure to buckle over in laughter. I would never have considered myself a lover of automobiles before I met him but his passion projected the little boy in him and inevitably brought out the little boy in me too. I will always cherish the few model cars he gave me, the red Lamborghini nudging out the yellow Lotus as my personal favorite. Above it all Monty was the classic definition of a gentleman. If you look that word up in the dictionary there should be a picture of Monty. I am saddened for you and your families for the loss of such a charismatic patriarch, and I feel truly blessed to have known him. My daily prayers are with you all.  
~ Chris Rogers

**Chris Rogers** - November 27 at 07:52 AM



“Any thoughts of Monty always bring smiles to our faces and warmth to our hearts. We are blessed to have known him and shared so many happy memories with him and ‘Blue eyes’. We wish Edwina, Peter, Stuart, and the rest of the family God’s peace and endless joy telling stories about all the humorous things Monty did during his life!

He was a gift to everyone he ever met!

Fondly,

Bob and Mary Lou Smith

**Mary Lou Smith** - November 26 at 02:58 PM

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“My love and deepest sympathy to Eddie and Stuart and Peter. Monroe and I shared a 'favorite cousin' status. My immediate memories are always his red Audi and the sailboat. Eddie, the spider plant cutting you gave me in Maine so many years ago has grown up and had many babies. Thank you for your love and hospitality. Ann.

**Ann Leyens** - November 25 at 11:53 AM