

Robert R. Blackington

May 19, 1958 - October 27, 2018

Robert “Bob” Blackington of Portsmouth, NH, a Native American of the Penobscot Tribe, crossed over at the age of 60 on October 27th in Brentwood, New Hampshire. Bob was known to all as a gentle, charismatic, and spiritual soul, who was devoted to his family and friends. The youngest of eight children, Bob grew up in the Brownsville-Windsor area of Vermont. Though predeceased by parents, Elinor, a nurse, Eugene, a machinist, and siblings Betty and Alan, Bob enjoyed spending time with his family on the farm and exploring Mount Ascutney in Vermont.

After graduating high school, he married Wendy Rhoad. The couple moved to New York, so he could attend the Horticultural Management program at SUNY-Cobleskill and where they welcomed their sons, Christopher and Todd. After college, Bob looked all around New England to find the best place for him to begin his career as a horticulturalist and landscape architect. It was then the couple found seacoast New Hampshire, eventually settling in Portsmouth. Bob began his work, and quickly established a great reputation with his clients for his elaborate and detailed work. Some career highlights include the restoration of the Governor Wentworth Mansion lilac garden and restoration of the stone wall at the Temple Israel in Portsmouth. Bob received the President’s Award and several other recognitions for his presentations at multiple Boston Flower Shows. Eventually, Bob opened Gardens East with Kathy McRae, specializing in perennial beds and peonies. Years later, he began his own company, Tenderleaf Perennials, located in Hampton Falls.

In 1996, he became involved with the well-loved Tonry Christmas Tree Farm in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire. For the next twelve years, Bob would help then-farm manager and friend Abby Tonry around the farm. In 2006, Abby and Bob were married at the “Top of the World” in St. John, USVI. Together, they built a beautiful cedar home on the tree farm property; they enjoyed wine parties on their deck with friends overlooking the natural beauty of the farm.

In October 2010, Bob suffered a massive stroke, after which he was forced to find his new normal. During this period, Bob spent time in Lebanon, New Hampshire at the Rogers

House, where he made many new friends. He became especially close to Madeline, his neighbor with whom he'd exchange a Native teaching for a Bible passage; he often remarked at the similarities in the teachings. After several years there, Bob was elated to return to Portsmouth as a resident of Betty's Dream, an independent living facility for adults with disabilities. There, he would tend to his raised garden beds, fatten up his squirrel buddy George, and visit with his sons and grandchildren until his final days.

Throughout his life, Bob embraced his heritage, immersing himself in Native teachings, powwows, and as a member of the Eastern Mountain Spirit Drum. He was a passionate drummer and singer, and eager to share his love for Native culture with his children and grandchildren.

Bob is survived by his sons Christopher and his wife Natalie and Todd, his wife Ashley, their three children Aoife, Beau, and Greta; his beloved Abby Tonry; siblings Barbara, Brian, Dale, Karen, and Leland. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, friends, and members of the Native community.

A celebration of life for Bob will happen in the spring. In lieu of gifts, the family asks all to remember Bob by nourishing, cultivating, contributing to, and appreciating Earth, so her children can see her as Bob did, for years to come.

Comments



“ shared many, many, many good times and laughs with bobby. At one time he was a fixture in my life among the closest friends. My prayers are with you all. Please feel free to reach out if you need anything or would like to hear some great stories.

Melanie 969 -6323



melanie wilkinson - November 04, 2018 at 08:25 AM



“ So sorry for your loss!! Great man gone to soon. Rest in Peace. Prayers to the family!

Carole Crimmin - November 03, 2018 at 11:47 AM



“ Bob always knew how to make me smile even if I was having a hard day. I will always love him for that. rest in peace heaven may have gained another angel but you will always live on in the hearts of those who knew you and loved you!

Kimberly Scott - November 01, 2018 at 06:19 PM



“ Kimberly Scott lit a candle in memory of Robert R. Blackington



Kimberly Scott - November 01, 2018 at 06:10 PM



“ Remember Bob well. He helped us with landscaping our bank at our home on Ascutney Street. He was a kind soul, and our condolences to his family and friends.
Bob & Candy Hingston- Windsor, VT

Bob Hingston - November 01, 2018 at 10:28 AM



“ Tears flow easily in times like these . BOB, Remind me again of our time riding bicycles . Carefree in knowing life had so much in store for us . You are a great soul now ,beat your drum loud and proud .

Gary - November 01, 2018 at 05:24 AM



“ Bob and I spent many many weekends at gathering all over N.E.We would arrive on Fri set up camp ready to drum by noon on Sat..I miss my brother Bob..

Kris snell - November 01, 2018 at 07:04 AM



“ Katherine McRae lit a candle in memory of Robert R. Blackington



Katherine McRae - October 30, 2018 at 09:21 AM



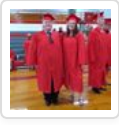
“ We were so blessed to have known you Bob throughout our sons boycott years and after. We enjoyed all the get togethers that we had. Be at peace

Booth - October 29, 2018 at 06:56 PM



“ You were such a joy to see when we walked through the doors of Betty's Dream. Always a smile on your face and a kind word. We will miss you tremendously Bob.

Donna Goodwin - October 29, 2018 at 06:54 PM



“ It is because of Bob, I claimed a new found respect for the environment around me. To this day and for the rest of my life, when I see a deer, fox, an Eagle, or any other wildlife, I say "Grandfather has been good to me". This was a common mantra I heard Bob recite on many an outing, as he served as an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 164, in Portsmouth. Bob has left an indelible mark on me and cherish the friendship we shared, no matter how distant or frequent. RIP

Stephen Gallagher - October 29, 2018 at 04:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Natalie Blackington - October 29, 2018 at 02:20 PM



“ We met Bob Christopher and Natalie's wedding day. He was so excited and happy that day! He shared with us how very proud he was of Christopher and how very happy that he had met and was marrying Natalie. He absolutely adores them both! Rest in peace Bob!!
Art and Elaine Morin

Elaine Morin - October 29, 2018 at 03:33 PM



“ When Leland & I were together, you gave us a hybrid peony plant from your landscaping business. Peonies are my favorite. Surely, the most beautiful flower in the world. Waters of life flow & things changed. Your peony gift thrives in its glory.

Too many fun & funny times to mention. RIP m'friend XO

Linda - November 02, 2018 at 08:38 PM



“ I am really saddened to know that Bobby passed away in Oct, on my birthday, How I loved Bobby and all the Blackingtons they were my play friends in Brownsville I have so many great memory's, RIP my friend God Bless

Royal B Sargent - January 14 at 07:24 AM