



Robert "Bob" Grasty

November 16, 1925 - December 14, 2018

Robert "Bob" Grasty was born November 16, 1925 in Springfield, Kentucky to Reverend John Ellis and Janey Robbins Grasty. He had three siblings: George, Joseph and Betty, all now deceased.

The Grasty family moved frequently while Bob was growing up, living in small towns in Kentucky, Mississippi, and Virginia before settling in Bayard in western Nebraska for his high school years. At Bayard High he played football, and was co-captain his senior year.

After graduating high school in 1943, he joined the Merchant Marine and was sent to the Sheepshead Bay Service Training Center in Brooklyn before serving at sea during WW II. When the war ended Bob enrolled at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute to study industrial engineering. He graduated in 1950.

After college Bob moved to Washington D.C. It was there that, through a connection from his brother George, he met Mary Jane Farnsworth, a graduate of Mount Holyoke and Wellesley College, who at the time was a teacher at the National Cathedral School. They married in 1952 and remained so until Mary Jane's passing in 2015.

Bob and Mary Jane relocated to Cincinnati, Ohio in 1953 for Bob to take an entry-level position at the General Electric jet engine plant in Evendale. Bob and Mary Jane's children Tom, Peter and Sheila were all born in Cincinnati.

Bob worked for General Electric for the next 25 years. While with GE he later worked in Erie, Pennsylvania and Lynn, Massachusetts before becoming a plant manager in Everett, Massachusetts. In 1978 he left General Electric to become vice president of Hitchiner Manufacturing in Milford, New Hampshire. He lived in New Hampshire for the remainder of his life. Bob and Mary Jane spent many happy years in their welcoming home in rural New Ipswich.

Bob enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, working in his garden, chopping wood

for long winters, playing golf, barbequing on the deck, listening to the Reds (and later the Red Sox) on the radio, family boat trips down the Ohio, summers on Lake Sunapee, and reading the morning papers at the kitchen table over a pot of coffee and blueberry pancakes.

Bob, affectionately known to his family as Bubba, died peacefully on December 14, 2018 at the Edgewood Centre in Portsmouth in the company of loving family and staff after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Bob will be remembered by family and friends for his kind smile, generous spirit and sense of humor; he is greatly missed.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife Mary Jane and son Peter. He is survived by son Tom and wife Sara, daughter Sheila and husband Chris, grandchildren Keith, Jesse and Molly and great-grandchildren Kyle, Alicia, Sydney and Bay.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the Alzheimers Foundation of America (<https://alzfdn.org/support-us/donate>) , 322 8th Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

Comments



“ Bob Grasty was my American dad- he and Mary Jane protected me better than my own parents were prepared to. I was a Chinese immigrant kid, lonely! The Grastys took me under their wing and showed me such kindness and love, introduced me to foods and card games and a world beyond my bubble. I credit Mom Grasty with getting me into college and shaping who I am today. They probably never guessed the deep love I have for them and Sheila, but now they know! Priscilla Lee

Priscilla Lee - November 07, 2020 at 09:20 AM



“ I was saddened to hear of Bob's passing. His bright smile, humor and kindness will be so missed. Some of my fondest memories are of me and Peter visiting the Grasty clan in New Hampshire. I am comforted that Bob, Mary Jane and Peter are reunited in heaven.

David Dao - March 19, 2019 at 07:52 PM



“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Sheila Cowing - March 02, 2019 at 12:17 PM



“ I just heard of Bob's passing yesterday. As my sister said, he was a great friend of my dad's. I remember well his gentle, caring nature and his wonderful smile. I was so pleased that he and Mary Jane came to my wedding many years ago. My dad had passed by then so I felt as though Bob was a bit like having my dad there since they were such good friends. I am sure he will be missed by many. Hopefully he is with Mary Jane again...best to you all. Sue Wheeler

sue wheeler - March 01, 2019 at 11:09 PM



“ I well remember "Mr. Grasty" and his wonderful sense of humor. I have fond memories of when he spent a few months sharing an apartment with my father, Colin Wheeler, in Melrose when he was in the middle of moving back east to GE from Ohio in the early 1970s. He was very neat and tidy; my dad, well, he was not. So we used to laugh about them being like Oscar Madison and Felix Unger from "The Odd Couple."

I'm sorry I lost track of your dad once he moved to NH beyond the occasional xmas card. He was a man who I remember had a twinkle in his eye and a lot of pride in his children and grandchildren.

My condolences to Sheila and Tom and their families.

Katie (formerly known as Kathy) Wheeler

Katie Wheeler - February 27, 2019 at 07:49 PM



“ I met your father and mother when I was running for state rep when they lived in New Ipswich (I live in Peterborough). I visited with your mother a few times and met Tom (from Epping working environment?) at Monadnock Hospital, and Sheila. Sorry for your loss of your sweet mother and now your father. I heard so much about his trips to Winchendon, MA to swim! Kath Allen

Kathleen R. Allen - February 27, 2019 at 04:58 PM



“ So sad to read about Mr. Grasty's passing. He and MaryJane were my surrogate grandparents growing up on Timbertop Rd. in New Ipswich. They were always happy to welcome a precocious child into their home for a cup of hot chocolate and a chat about living out in the middle of the woods. I send Tom, Sheila and the rest of the family my sincere condolences.
Erica (Chernis) MacLeod

Erica MacLeod - February 21, 2019 at 01:42 PM