



Dean Aubrey Quinlan

September 19, 1939 - August 1, 2025

Kittery, ME - Dean Aubrey Quinlan, of Kittery, Maine, passed peacefully surrounded by family on August 1, 2025.

Dean was born in Malden, MA on September 19, 1939. He was the oldest of 6 children born to Juliette and Aubrey Quinlan. Dean graduated from Wakefield High School in 1957, where he was a stand-out basketball player and broke numerous records in track and field.

Dean graduated with a degree in business from Merrimack College in 1961, where he was the student council president and an avid player of team sports. He proudly joined the Coast Guard and served in the reserve until 1968.

Dean was the founder and president of two companies, Safetyloid Reclamation and Northeast Medical Archives, which he led successfully for over 40 years, with great care for his employees and their families.

Dean delighted in life. From his early days as a lifeguard on Hampton Beach, he loved to be near the ocean, particularly Plaice Cove and Fort Foster. Some of his other favorite things, included: a well-tended garden, native birds, riding his scooter along the ocean road, world travel, a good laugh, sunsets overlooking Spruce Creek, the excitement of a new adventure and of course, ice cream. Most treasured to him was time spent with his beloved wife, Sandy,

their blended family and his many friends. Many of his friendships were over 70 years in duration, and he still enjoyed weekly breakfasts with a few of his long-time pals.

Dean had a keen sense of humor and told stories that would have him, and his audience, doubled over in laughter. He was kind, accepting and loving. He served as a mentor and role model to many, of all ages. As a father, grandfather and friend, he was the first person people could turn to for wisdom in times of difficulty, to lend a hand when planting a garden, and to celebrate in times of joy.

He is survived and will be dearly missed by his wife, Sandy, his four children, Martha Indelicato (and Al) of Hampton, NH, Kate Mortenson (and David) of Minneapolis, MN, Jennifer Chinburg (and Eric) of Exeter, NH, Matt Quinlan (and Allison) of Hampton, NH and step-bonus children, Kris Eielson (and Tara) of Hingham, MA and Kerry Eielson-Fanning (and John) of Saco, Maine, and 18 grandchildren in his blended family. He was predeceased by his parents, Aubrey and Juliette Quinlan, his sisters Jeanne Marie and Diane Quinlan. He is survived by his brothers, Tom Quinlan (and Trish), Paul Quinlan (and Terry) and sister, Cheryl Goryl (and Dennis).

A celebration of life will be planned for friends and family in the future. Donations can be made in lieu of flowers to the Merrimack College Dean A. Quinlan Scholarship Fund (Information on how to make a donation will be made available shortly, please check back).

Tribute Wall

JC

“ John Caron planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dean Aubrey Quinlan.

John Caron - September 04, 2025 at 08:18 AM

PF

“ Pete, Laura, Kate and the Landry Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dean Aubrey Quinlan.

Pete, Laura, Kate and the Landry Family - August 11, 2025 at 03:48 PM

PF

“ Pete, Laura, Kate and the Landry Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dean Aubrey Quinlan.



Pete, Laura, Kate and the Landry Family - August 11, 2025 at 03:48 PM

AR

“ Dear Paul and Terry, so sorry to hear of Dean's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Love, Anne Mary Ronan

Anne M Ronan - August 09, 2025 at 10:17 PM

JF

“ Josh Helgesen Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dean Aubrey Quinlan.

Josh Helgesen Family - August 04, 2025 at 07:00 AM

JF

“ Josh Helgesen Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dean Aubrey Quinlan.



Josh Helgesen Family - August 04, 2025 at 07:00 AM

SI

“ Any day spent with Puppa was truly memorable. A few moments especially stand out to me—like the time he made sure I received my birthday gift, even during one of his final days. That small gesture spoke volumes about his spirit and unwavering dedication to his family.

I also remember visiting him in Florida and going on a drive-through safari with him and Mamere. They were trying to surprise my sister and me with the destination, but Grandpa didn't realize I had already learned how to spell “Z-O-O.” I was so excited, but I kept it to myself for the sake of the surprise they had so lovingly planned. Celebrating his birthday this past year and having the honor to say a few words about him was another moment I'll never forget. I've never spoken so easily or from the heart as I did then—every word about how wonderful he was flowed effortlessly.

I vividly remember watching the older cousins body surf while I struggled to get the hang of it. As dusk settled during a family bonfire, Grandpa waded into the water with me. He stood beside me, gently coaching me on when and where a wave would break. Thanks to him, I caught my first wave that evening.

There was also the time we went kayaking in Kittery with him and Mamere, and afterward we shared what felt like the best sandwich in the world—even though it was just Wonder Bread and deli meats. Somehow, everything tasted better with them.

Sophie Indelicato - August 02, 2025 at 08:44 PM

BT

“ My earliest memories of a beach include sand, of course, and Mr Quinlan...of course. And he even places prominently in my earliest skiing memories, with the many epic trips to North Conway. The most lasting memory though is Mr Quinlan as my dad's friend. Friendship is an essential nutrient in anyone's life, and I'll always be grateful that my dad got such over-abundance of nutrition that he did from Dean. My Dad was very lucky.

Billy Tattan - August 02, 2025 at 04:14 PM

JG

Dean, my friend, I was sad to see your passing but thinking about it I am happy and thankful I got to know you and be able to call you my friend. Dixie and I moved to the Cove in 2006. You and Sandy were one of the first we met and it turned into a great relationship. I could always count on you to say and do the right things. You were the 'historian' of the Cove and I appreciated it. As I look back on August 1st, I know I was thinking about you and believe it was stimulated by you saying goodbye. Thank you for the times we had and know you had an impact on my life. You and Sandy were definitely role models for all you met. I know you were soul mates. RIP my friend

Joe Grillo - August 12, 2025 at 09:17 AM

VM

Sandy, having lost Anne last October, I know what you are going through now with the passing of Dean. Anne and I always looked forward to getting together with you at Shephard's Cove. You and I share a connection, having gone to the same school in Methuen. You have a wonderful, supportive family, including your Shepard's Cove ones.

With fond memories,

Vance Morgan

Vance Morgan - August 14, 2025 at 01:36 PM

JJ

My condolences to the Quinlan families upon Mr. Quinlan's passing. Many thanks for your hospitality, friendship, kindness and fond memories extended to me. I'll never forget the double rainbow over Cranberry Lane and Plaice Cove while playing tennis on Quinlan court. May Mr. Quinlan rest in peace. My prayers are with you all. Sincerely,
John D. Caron Jr.

John D. Caron Jr. - September 04, 2025 at 08:29 AM