



G. Dudley Shepard

January 2, 1932 - January 14, 2025

Exeter - G. Dudley Shepard died peacefully in his sleep at 93 years old on January 14, 2025. He was surrounded by his close family and friends during his final days.

Dudley was born on January 2, 1932, in Exeter NH to Henry B. Shepard Sr and Frances Dudley Shepard, and grew up in West Newton MA. He attended Yale University, graduating in 1954. After two years in the Navy he studied at MIT, receiving his Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering in 1962. Over his career he worked at the Draper Laboratory in Cambridge MA and was a professor in the Mechanical Engineering department at the University of Lowell.

Dudley had many passions in his life, beginning with his professional work, where he was involved from the very beginning in NASA's Apollo space program. Working in uncharted territory, he and his colleagues contemplated, brainstormed and helped design solutions to provide astronauts safe passage to the moon and back. Dudley always mentioned how grateful he was to have been in the “right place at the right time” to be a part of this trailblazing project.

In his personal life, Dudley was known for his lifelong love of sailing. From his childhood days spent with his uncle Fritz in Marblehead MA, where he learned to sail and developed a formidable talent for competition in regattas, to the

annual cruises he took down the coast of Maine and beyond even into his late 80's, the ocean was central to who he was.

Additionally, there was his love of music. This took many forms over his life, including singing in church choirs and choral societies. A particularly memorable experience was when Dudley and his wife Becky travelled with the Manchester Choral Society, where they were invited to sing in several cathedrals across Europe including in Spain, Italy, France, Germany, and England. Of special significance was his clarinet, an instrument he took up in his 60's. Dudley loved playing with the band at the town bandstand and in quartet recitals with fellow music students. In his final years as he struggled with the limitations of his age, his clarinet playing remained intact, allowing him to experience the joy and happiness that music brought to his life right up to his final days.

Dudley was preceded in death by his first wife Mary-Macy Shepard, his sister Perry Shepard, his brother Henry B Shepard Jr, and his sister Anne S. Bullis. He is survived by his wife Becky Shepard; his son Allen Shepard and wife Helena; his son Daniel Shepard and wife Linda; his daughter Nanette Fleming and husband Scott; his grandson Connor Fleming; his granddaughter Leah Fleming and her husband Viraj Jorapur; his stepchildren, Andrew Hayden, Emily Baya and husband Matthew and their children Owen and Marshall.

A Memorial Service will be held at the Congregational Church, 21 Front St., Exeter, NH on Saturday, March 8th at 2pm with a reception to follow in the church vestry. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to South East Land Trust by clicking here (<https://seltnh.org/>) or by mail to 247 North River Road, Epping, NH 03042.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

The Congregational Church in Exeter UCC
21 Front Street
Exeter, NH 03833

Tribute Wall

KM

“ Dudley was a dear friend to Stella and me. I enjoyed many discussions with him in a small group on issues of the day. We went to concerts and shared meals together. Stella's pumpkin bread was a favorite of his. I learned that he enjoyed woodworking, and we spent many hours in his shop making things together. Some of what we made was with northern hardwoods that had been shared with him by his beloved Uncle Fritz. Dudley, may your family be comforted, and I pray that the peace of the Lord will rest upon you!
Ken & Stella Munger

Ken Munger - March 07, 2025 at 01:05 PM

AF

“ I enjoyed working with Dudley over the past 17 years! We had so much in common and we enjoyed talking about life in East Derry, Phillips, and Yale. We enjoyed several nice lunches at Newicks where Dudley could enjoy his cup of chowder. He was a brilliant man but very unassuming about all his accomplishments. Keeping the family in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Anne Farris - March 06, 2025 at 03:00 PM

MB

“ Dudley was a fixture in our daughter's lives at wonderful Acorn School - Johnny Appleseed! We worked on the board together and then they sold us their lovely home in Exeter when they moved into Riverwoods. Such a gentleman with a great sense of humor. We admired him greatly.
Martha and Gary

Martha Byam - March 03, 2025 at 04:48 PM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of G. Dudley Shepard.



March 02, 2025 at 11:34 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of G. Dudley Shepard.

March 02, 2025 at 11:34 AM



“ Dr. Shepard was one of my favorite professors at the University of Lowell. As a professor, he had a special ability to not only teach us engineering, but also to make us problem solvers. He had a wry sense of humor that made for a great classroom presence. I particularly remember his exams which often consisted of just one problem to solve.

*Phil Rombult
University of Lowell Class of 1979*

Phil Rombult - March 02, 2025 at 10:22 AM