



## J. Leo Appel Jr.

November 30, 1928 - September 5, 2017

Rye - J. Leo Appel, Jr., 88, of Rye, died September 5, 2017 at Webster at Rye surrounded by his family.

Leo was born in Boston, Mass., the only child of John Leo and Josephine (Gaquin) Appel. He was a graduate of Newton High School and Dartmouth College, and served in the United States Navy as a lieutenant junior grade during the Korean War. Upon his return, he followed his father into the automobile business, establishing Anchor Buick in Portsmouth, which he owned from 1955 until 1981. He was deeply involved with the New Hampshire Automobile Dealers Association, including serving as its vice president. Leo also served two terms in the New Hampshire State Legislature (1979-1982), representing the towns of Rye and New Castle.

In "retirement" he was a member and chairman of the Seacoast chapter of SCORE, and he served for 28 years as chairman of the board of trustees for Webster at Rye, a skilled nursing and assisted living facility. He enjoyed playing tennis and was a longtime member of the North Church of Portsmouth.

Leo is survived by his wife of 29 years Lee (Stanchfield) Appel and his children: Karen (Appel) Brown and husband Nicholas of Providence, R.I.; Dianne Appel of Albuquerque, N.M.; Gretchen (Appel) McFarland of

Oklahoma City, Okla,; Wendie Appel and husband Todd Abernathy of Manchester, N.H.; and stepdaughter Lynn (Stanchfield) Curcio of Exeter, N.H. He was predeceased by a stepson, Mark Stanchfield. Leo also cherished his ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Visiting hours are 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Saturday, September 9, 2017, at the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton, followed by a reception 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. at Webster at Rye. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Leo's name to the Rannie Webster Endowment Fund, c/o Webster at Rye, 795 Washington, Road, Rye, N.H., 03870.

# Cemetery Details

## Central Cemetery

20 Central Road  
Rye, NH

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 9. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory  
811 Lafayette Road ·  
Hampton, NH 03842  
(603) 926-6500  
[info@remickgendron.com](mailto:info@remickgendron.com)  
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

## Reception

SEP 9. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Webster at Rye  
795 Washington Road  
Rye, NH 03870

# Tribute Wall



“ *J. Leo Appel Jr.*

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September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Leo's passing. He was a gentleman of the highest order thoughtful considerate gracious and willing to listen. I always enjoyed my visits to Rye to see he and Lee. Leo always made you feel welcome*

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**Peter S. Kittredge** - September 12, 2017 at 01:10 PM

TR

“ Dear Karen, Dianne, Gretchen and Wendie:

*I learned of your fathers passing this week and wanted to let you know that your father made an impact on me and many of my high school friends. So many memorable summer weekends where he shared his home and his heart with us. In looking back, I fondly recall rolling into Rye and receiving his warm handshake and his quiet attentiveness- to the background sounds of George Winston. As the house filled with rowdy teenage boys, he always was present- participating in quarters , tossing back Molsens and officiating over our Wiffle ball games in the backyard.*

*His patience was remarkable, for there were a number of occasions where the Rye police or beach patrol arrived in the driveway and Leo would intervene to remind us that riding on the roof of cars wasn't the safest way to get to the beach, or zipping around the streets on 2 wheels needed to be tempered.*

*He clearly loved his girls, and struck me as a man who relished his time with all of you. In hindsight, his Rye home with horses seemed so idyllic and a wonderful place to grow up.*

*He truly had soft a soft heart and I've carried it on as my own children have brought their own friends into our home.*

*Todd Roth  
Highlands Ranch, Colorado*

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**Todd Roth** - September 08, 2017 at 09:25 AM

JR

“ *A truly great man who made the world a better place with his vision, caring, kind ways, wisdom, and leadership. Leo had the rare ability to actively listen and then activate and actualize great plans and teams to create wonderful solutions for others' needs. Such a profound loss to our seacoast community. Personally, he was our beloved neighbor and friend. Our hearts hurt from this great loss. We miss seeing him at his home where like a steady beacon, he sat at his dining room table giving us a supportive, friendly wave as we routinely tore off to school or faced many life events in 17 years: having a baby, fighting for multiple loved ones' lives, funerals and our wedding. We counted on his watchful presence like a guardian angel... like a foundation's cornerstone. Every day. We love Lee & Leo. Prayers & comfort to all who loved this great man. Love, neighbors Jeanie Ryan, Chas Riopel & our kids Danny Ryan & Sophie Rose Riopel*

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**Jeanie Eastman Ryan Riopel & Charles Rio** - September 08, 2017 at 09:20 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of J. Leo Appel Jr..*



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September 08, 2017 at 09:00 AM