



## James "Jim" S. Raynes

September 22, 1934 - September 27, 2021

Rye – James Stephen Raynes “Jim / Jimmy”, 87, of Rye, died Monday, September 27, 2021, at his home with family by his side. He was born in Thetford, VT September 22, 1934 the youngest of six children to the late Charles O. and Nina A. (Coutermarsh) Raynes.

He graduated from Hanover High School, Hanover, NH with the Class of 1953 and later attended Concord Business School in Concord, NH. He was a veteran of the US Army, where he served in post WWII SHAPE headquarters, Paris, France.

Mr. Raynes was employed as an office manager in his earlier years in Dover, NH, Middleborough, MA and later for Peabody Gas & Electric in Peabody, MA. He served as a Gas & Electric Commissioner and Selectman for Town of Middleborough, MA. He retired from the National Passport Center in Newington, NH.

Jim made his home in Rye the past 30 years where he served the Rye Conservation Commission for over 25 years and many as chairman. He also served on the Rockingham County Conservation Commission and the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. He was honored with the prestigious James Hayden Award. The award recognizes those that have made significant contributions in their communities or the greater region in

natural resources conservation and planning. Jim's involvement and achievements illustrate his lifelong commitment and work for conservation in greater NH. He also received the President's Award from the NH Conservation Districts and last year was honored by Rye with the renaming of 56 acres in town "The Jim Raynes Forest".

He previously lived in Dover, NH, Middleborough and Peabody, MA.

Jim was a 50-year member of the Masons, out of the Jewell Lodge in Suncook, NH. During that time, he served as a DeMolay leader. He was a Boy Scout leader for many years as all three of his boys enjoyed the scouting experience. In 1972 he was a Scout leader for his son Stephen's Dover NH troop, when they did a 100-mile canoe trip that culminated at Great Bay. In 1981 he joined his sons Matthew and Charles on a weeklong High Adventure trip out of Seboomook ME.

He shared 65 years of marriage with his wife Nancy (Gault) Raynes.

In addition to his wife, he leaves two sons, Matthew Raynes and his wife Elizabeth of New Durham; Charles Raynes and his wife Catherine of Rye; four granddaughters, Brianna, Cassandra, Amanda and Skylar; great grandsons Stephen and Joshua, nieces and nephews. Jim was passionate about spending as much time possible with his family and loved telling endless "dad jokes".

He was predeceased by his son, Stephen, his parents and his five siblings.

Special thanks from all the Raynes' to Rockingham VNA & Hospice for their compassion over the last two years!

A public celebration of his life will take place at 1P.M. Saturday, October 16,

2021 at The Goss Farm, Harbor Road, Rye, NH. In lieu of traditional remembrances donations may be made to Future In Sight (<https://futureinsight.org/>)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT **16**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Goss Farm  
Harbor Road  
Rye, NH 03870

# Tribute Wall

BG

“ Sorry to hear of Mr Raynes Passing. Mrs. Raynes was so kind to me during my High school years when I would camp and backpack with Steve. And, as a DeMolay, I appreciate Mr. Raynes commitment . Thank you Dad Raynes. Rest in Peace. Bill Grant

Bill Grant - June 18, 2024 at 04:00 PM



“ James "Jim" S. Raynes

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM

BK

“ I am sorry to hear of Jim's passing. My deepest sympathies to Nancy, Matt, Charles, the grandchildren and the great grandchildren. I had the pleasure of working with Jim and Nancy in Portsmouth in the early nineties. Jim and Nancy went out of their way to make me feel at home in Rye. I enjoyed many good times and dinners at their house. I also greatly appreciated that they took care of my border collie many times while I was away. You will be missed, Jim. RIP.

Bill Karlson - October 10, 2021 at 09:49 AM

NR

Bill, Thank you. We've shared so many good times with you. Jim and I often spoke of you and wondered how you are. I appreciate your words and memories.

nancy raynes - October 17, 2021 at 09:37 PM

MR

“ Yesterday, Sept. 27, Rye lost a gracious and doggedly principled citizen. Jim Raynes led Rye's Conservation Commission for many years, and many of the town's forests, wetlands and open spaces are preserved because Jim had a conservationist's vision that he worked tirelessly to enact.

*In an era of far too much egotism among our civic leaders, Jim stands apart; he never sought public recognition nor did he regard one's political orientation of much importance. What Jim valued was team work and a deep respect for the natural world – our oceans, our woodlands; our salt marshes – that enrich our lives here on New Hampshire's Seacoast. Jim Raynes was an unusual civic leader – I wish we had more like him.*

*Ronnie Werner*

*Rye*

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**Matt Raynes** - October 05, 2021 at 02:40 PM

NR

*Ronnie, Your words describe his character with such truth. He loved Rye and hoped to help preserve it's wetlands and open spaces and especially Goss Farm.*

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**nancy raynes** - October 17, 2021 at 09:52 PM

MA

“ *What a treasure! My most favorite uncle! Always and forever! Loved our get togethers and chats on the phone. Miss those monthly calls. I cherish my memories. My heart goes out to my special Aunt Nancy and my cousins.*

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**Mary Adella** - October 04, 2021 at 10:05 AM



“ *Have many wonderful memories with Jim and Nancy at over many years. At their homes and at family gatherings. Sorry for your families loss.*

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**Tom Armitage** - October 03, 2021 at 02:25 PM

SL

“ *so very sorry, such great memories - rest in peace uncle jim*

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**stacey potwin leeman** - September 30, 2021 at 09:06 AM

MR

“ *4 files added to the album Memories Album*



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**Matthew Raynes** - September 29, 2021 at 02:30 PM