



## Jonathan Arthur Brown

July 9, 1944 - April 27, 2021

Rye - Jonathan Arthur Brown, 76, of Rye, died on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at Portsmouth Hospital.

Jon was born in Clairton, Pennsylvania, on July 9, 1944, the son of Carroll J. and Elizabeth (Sherrer) Brown.

Jon was a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy. He attended Oberlin College in Ohio and received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of New Hampshire. He served in the US Army stationed in Fort Dix, New Jersey. After his discharge from the Army, Jon earned a law degree from Temple University.

Jon was a deckhand on an oil tanker in the Mediterranean and was a ranch hand on a cattle ranch in Wyoming between school and the military.

Jon's forty years professional career was spent as a public interest attorney in Washington, DC. He was a staff attorney for Ralph Nader's Public Interest Research Group and later for the Essential Information organization. His area of expertise was the regulation of financial institutions.

Jon authored numerous research papers and testified before the US Congress and regulatory agencies on discriminatory lending practices of banks and other lending institutions. He lent his expertise to community

groups challenging mortgage redlining - the refusal of mortgage lenders to make loans in minority neighborhoods. Jon was also at the forefront of using digital mapping technology to expose mortgage redlining.

Jon worked for the passage and enactment of the landmark Home Mortgage Disclosure Act and the Community Reinvestment Act. Jon was an avid runner and hiker. After law school, Jon and his sister, Betsy, hiked the Pacific Crest Trail from California to Canada.

Jon is survived by his wife Marcia Carroll of Rye, his sister Elizabeth "Betsy" Brown of Middletown, California, and numerous cousins, nephews, and nieces.

A Graveside Service will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, at 11 am at the Central Road Cemetery in Rye. Arrangements are made by the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, Hampton. In place of flowers, donations can be made to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (<https://appalachiantrail.org/>)

We will join together for a celebration of Jon's life this summer when the weather is warmer and people can gather outside.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAY 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Central Cemetery  
20 Central Road  
Rye, NH

# Tribute Wall



“ *Jon was such a dedicated worker and a good friend. I knew him in the 1970s, when he joined the Nader groups in Washington to end the banks' bias against loans to the inner cities. Jon was a brilliant man at the books, and he sure liked the outdoors. Whether it was his time as a lumberjack or his time on a motorcycle, he enjoyed nature up close. Rest in peace.*

*Frank Warner  
Pottstown, PA*

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**Frank Warner** - March 01, 2024 at 03:05 PM



“ *Jonathan Arthur Brown*

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September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *We loved getting to know Jon and Marcia when I worked with them in D.C. Wonderful times and memories with welcoming, kind friends. Mary Brown and Steve Cerny*

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**Mary Brown** - May 25, 2021 at 03:25 PM

YH

“ I had the pleasure of getting to know Jon and Marcia in the 90s in Washington DC. Jon was a fascinating and wonderful person. He and Marcia served as lovely caretakers of the recent college graduates coming to DC to work at the public interest groups they were affiliated with. Always kind and calm, I was lucky to have heard some of his many and varied life adventures and also to be inspired by his unfailing dedication to banking injustices that he took on.

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**Yuri Huta** - May 22, 2021 at 08:08 PM

LL

“ I'm saddened to learn of Jon's passing. Always polite and pleasant in his dealings with the staff of the Cafe at Philbricks Fresh Market. We could count on Jon's appearance each day for his vegetarian sandwich which never altered its ingredients nor presentation. I was glad to watch the Federal Reserve piece Jon's niece included in her reflections. I had the impression Jon was in forestry as he spoke passionately about keeping his property in its natural state, undeveloped. Lots of customers, lots of regulars but Jon was a gentleman who made a lasting impression. My sympathies to his wife and extended family. May he rest in peace.

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**Laurel Lent** - May 04, 2021 at 07:28 PM

ER

“ As Jon and Marcia's niece, I wanted to share a recording of Jon moderating a 2002 panel and answering questions about the Federal Reserve Board and related banking policy. Jon starts at the 1:19 mark: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?168077-2/federal-reserve-system-history-performance>. It's a nice example of his work and expertise on banking policy which led him to testify numerous times before various U.S. House and Senate Congressional panels.

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**Emily Rohlffs** - May 02, 2021 at 04:28 PM

SW

“ We have lived across the street from the Browns since 1992, and first knew Jonathan's dad, Carroll "Pat" Brown as the indefatigable patriarch who took an interest in everything and everyone. It was no surprise that after Pat's death in 2012, we met Jonathan and found him to be a person of intellect and inquiry. He spoke often of transforming the family homestead on Locke Road into a house museum. During one particularly brutal winter (2015), I was out shoveling our driveway before leaving for work and he came over and kept me company for at least an hour, then quietly asked if he could borrow the shovel! The Browns are founders of Rye and preservers of land and history. The town has been blessed by their conservation tradition and thoughtful way of being in the world.

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**Sherry Wood** - May 02, 2021 at 12:03 AM

SB

“ As a younger cousin I always looked up to Jon and have many great memories of shared summers in Rye. Later we hiked a good number of epic hikes in the White Mountains, all with a tinge of competitive spirit!

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**Steve Brown** - April 29, 2021 at 09:08 PM

TH

“ So sad to hear the news of Jon's passing, sincere sympathy to Marcia, Betsy and the family.  
Love and prayers from Agnes and all the Carroll cousins in Tipperary Ireland

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**Tony Hallifax** - April 29, 2021 at 04:35 PM

CR

“ I hadn't seen Jonathan in about 10 years, but am truly saddened by his passing. We all grew up together at Rye Beach and he his one of my many cousins that I have lost track of. Prayers for his wife, Marcia; and especially for his sister, Betsy. Betsy, If you read this, please track me down by Facebook of possible.



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**Carol Spicer Rueter** - April 28, 2021 at 02:03 PM