



Ralph P. White

August 1, 1926 - April 10, 2025

North Hampton - We mourn our loss and celebrate the life of Ralph White, remembered for a life of love given and received, love of God, family, and country; a man who made and kept life-long friends and a man who laughed often and got others to laugh with him. Central in every aspect of his life was the desire to be of service - service to his country, his community, to the Alzheimer's Association, to Columbia University, and to mentoring leaders. Through all his accomplishments, he remained humble, that humility springing from a deep gratitude for the many blessings and opportunities he received. A sentimental man, he was known to tell stories about family, eyes filling with tears. He deeply loved his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and said while he had many professional accomplishments, the accomplishment he valued most was being a good father. Loyal son, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend, Ralph White leaves a legacy of love.

Born in Watertown, MA, the son of Irving W. and Margaret (McGowan) White, he graduated from Westborough High School (MA) and Columbia University and did graduate work at Columbia and Yale. He attended Columbia on a football scholarship and credits Columbia with charting the course of his professional life. At Columbia, he was elected to Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honor Society.

Ralph married his high school sweetheart, Shirley Christie, in 1947 when he returned from WWII. He was an infantry officer, commissioned at 19, putting him among the youngest officers in the Army. He served a year in Germany in The Army of Occupation. Following his return, he restarted at Columbia while his wife took a responsible position in the Registrar's Office and was the main family breadwinner for the balance of Ralph's college years.

Ralph served in many leadership positions in his career and was recognized as an industrial and civic leader. As President of Davidson Rubber Company of Dover, NH, Ralph led the company through a period of rapid and successful growth to a position as a world class supplier of molded plastic products in the automotive industry. He was promoted to Group Vice President of Ex-Cell-O Corporation, responsible for Davidson Rubber and three other divisions with ten manufacturing plants and 6,000 employees. He later served as Chairman and CEO of Troy Mills in Troy, NH.

Before joining Davidson, he was a partner in the consulting firm of Bavier, Bulger and Goodyear and lived in Woodbury, CT. His early career included work on the development of computer applications for the control of manufacturing operations as a programmer, analyst and consultant. He developed many programs that shortened time necessary for manufacturing and inventory in industrial applications; he was an expert programmer in the early days of computer development.

He also had an extensive record of public leadership, serving as President of the NH Business and Industry Association and served long terms on the NH Industrial Development Authority and the NH Business Finance Authority. Ralph served on the Executive Board of the Whittemore School of Business at the University of New Hampshire and on

the board of the Community College in Stratham. As a member of the original Pease Development Authority, he provided effective leadership to the marketing activities of that board and was credited with playing a significant role in the Authority's successful conversion of Pease Air Force Base to civilian use. In addition, Ralph served on the board of directors for a series of companies including Strafford Savings Bank, Public Service Company of New Hampshire, Exeter Trust Company, Troy Mills, Inc, J.A. Wright Company, J.D. Cahill Company, and D.G. O'Brien Company.

When Shirley developed Alzheimer's disease, Ralph used his leadership experience on the Alzheimer's Board of NH and MA, raising over \$150,000 for Alzheimer's research. He lobbied NH Senators each year in Washington, DC to illicit support to eliminate the disease. But it was his patient approach to the disease and his skill at finding solutions to her difficulties that allowed her to live at home for many years. When she moved to a memory facility, he learned to play guitar at age 85 so Shirley and the other residents could have daily singing sessions. He brought joy to Shirley and all the residents.

Ralph's life-long interest in sports started when he helped lead Westborough High School to its first state football championship in 1943. As a scholarship student at Columbia University, he was a key member of coach Lou Little's successful post-war teams and received an award from Columbia's president, General Dwight Eisenhower, as the top scholar on the football team. After college, he served many years as a prep school and college football official. In later years, he was active in tennis, golf, and especially skiing.

He learned to ski in his 40's along with his then teenage children. Skiing became a family tradition, and his four grandchildren learned to ski at the family's ski house in Jackson, NH. Ralph was known in his hometown by his license plate which read, "SKI290," and he proved it to be true by skiing

during his 90th year.

Ralph is survived by two children, Karin White Ericson and her husband Dave of Isle la Motte, VT and Eric White and wife Jodi of St. Clair, MI. He also leaves four grandchildren and ten great grandchildren: Tim Ericson and his wife Marie and children Karina, Neil and Paul; Christie Ericson Boven and husband Tom Boven and children Lilly and Emma; Andrea White Porter and husband Caleb and children Colin, Jake and Stella; and Brian White and wife Kelly and sons Gus and Wes. He was predeceased by his wife Shirley of 64 years; his parents Irving and Margaret; his sister Betty; and countless beloved dogs.

Visiting hours will be from 5-7 pm on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 in the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton. A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11 am on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at St. Theresa Church, 815 Central Road, Rye Beach (The mass can be viewed via livestream by clicking here) (<https://www.sainttheresachurchrye.org/live-stream/>). Burial will follow in the Center Cemetery North Hampton. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N Michigan Avenue, Floor 17 Chicago, IL 60601 or online by clicking here (<https://www.alz.org/?form=FUNDHYMMBXU>).

Cemetery Details

Center Cemetery

186 Post Road
North Hampton, NH 03862

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

APR **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Theresa Church
815 Central Rd
(603) 964-6440
Rye Beach, NH 03871

Tribute Wall

KE

“ So sorry for your loss. I knew “Ralphie” through my dad Bob Hynes. He hired my dad at Davidson and they became fast and forever friends. I remember going to your ski house in Jackson as a kid and later in life ran into my dad and Ralphie at Gunstock for a run. Loved his plate ski290. Best part is he did just that. Easy to see why he was such great friends with my dad. Rip Ralphie 💙

Kelly - April 21, 2025 at 09:32 AM

KE

Thank you Kelly. Their friendship was a very special one for sure! They had lots of ski trips together and lots of laughs, too. Your Mom and my Mom were at Watson Fields together. Your Dad and mine were the epitome of loving husbands. Now they are all together.

Karin White Ericson - April 21, 2025 at 03:03 PM

DN

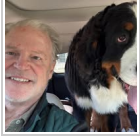
“ So sorry to hear of Mr. White’s passing. My Mom worked for your parents many years ago. They were always so good to her. She loved them both.
Debbie Manix Nelson

Debbie Nelson - April 18, 2025 at 02:48 PM

KE

Thank you so much.

Karin White Ericson - April 19, 2025 at 12:12 PM



“ My association with Ralph was through our families’ memberships at Abeniqui Country Club. Ralph, Shirley and the kids were always there on the tennis courts and golf course. Ralph was a kind and humble man. He never failed to say hello and have a conversation when our paths crossed. I enjoyed dinner with him 2 years ago and was amazed at his stories of the past. My sympathies to Karin and Eric and all those who were fortunate to call Ralph a friend.

Stephen Bottomley - April 16, 2025 at 06:05 PM

KE

Thank you so much! He loved your family. It was so nice of you to write.

Karin White Ericson - April 17, 2025 at 04:46 PM

PP

“ I had the pleasure of serving on a corporate Board of Directors for 20 years with Ralph. A true gentleman personally and professionally. As a business man ,he had extraordinary focus and insights. He got to the crux of the matter quickly and accurately. He spoke glowingly of his family. He shared his interest and love of sports with all of us. Socially and professionally there was never a dull moment with Ralph. Heaven has another good man who will ski forever! God bless him and his family. Paul E Peltier

Paul E Peltier - April 15, 2025 at 04:45 PM

KE

Thank you so much Paul for your comments. You really captured our Dad.

Karin White Ericson - April 17, 2025 at 04:47 PM

JC

“ i met mr white in the 70 he help a lot people in the seacoast area and farmington we would work on saturday and sunday he was always there asking if we had everything to do the job just a good man raise a good family too r i p mr white

john curran - April 15, 2025 at 12:51 PM

KE

That's beautiful John. Thank you so much. He loved the people of Davidson. They were like family. Karin

Karin White Ericson - April 17, 2025 at 04:48 PM



“ 328 files added to the album LifeTributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - April 15, 2025 at 11:30 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Ralph P. White.



April 15, 2025 at 09:31 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph P. White.

April 15, 2025 at 09:31 AM



“ *Ralph White was good to our family and children. I had the privilege of driving him to the airport to Americas Georgia. I had a one on one conversation with him. He was directing a presentation to save the plant as we were going into a serious downturn, he told all the employees, when the going gets tough the tough get going. They took his advice and saved that plant. I would not have had my great future without men like him and Ed Vale, Robert Hynes, John Cochrane, and Ralph Swain. God Bless Mr Ralph White.*

Sincerely,

*John Gray
32 Cozzie Lane
Pittsburg, NH*

John Gray - April 14, 2025 at 04:49 PM



John, thank you so much for this posting and for the story about my father. Your tribute is lovely.

Karin White Ericson - April 19, 2025 at 12:14 PM

FL

“ 16 files added to the album Ralph



Frank Long - April 14, 2025 at 01:28 PM

SE

“ I remember playing tennis as a youngster at the Whites house. Mrs. White hired me to take care of their dogs now and then if they were out of town. When I was a chauffeur, Mr. White hired me to drive him to Boston a few times. Neighbours and friends, they were. I offer the White family my deepest sympathy for the loss of Mr. Ralph. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this most difficult time.
Sara S. Eames

Sara S Eames - April 13, 2025 at 12:17 PM

KE

Sara, thank you so much for posting this tribute. Their dogs were like children, so they must have trusted you completely! Karin

Karin White Ericson - April 19, 2025 at 12:15 PM

FF

“ From your KW Vermont Family purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Ralph P. White.



From your KW Vermont Family - April 12, 2025 at 02:04 PM

ML

“ WE WERE SO SORRY TO HEAR OF MR. WHITE'S PASSING... NORTH HAMPTON LOSS A WONDERFUL MAN. I WENT TO SCHOOL WITH ERIC IN NORTH HAMPTON AND WHS.. THEY WOULD BRING THE DOGS INTO THE KENNEL AND THEY BOTH WOULD ALWAYS STOP TO TALK. YOUR DAD TOOK SUCH GOOD CARE OF YOUR MOM FOR SO LONG AND WOULD ALWAYS STOP TO TALK TO ME IN THE STORE, BAND CONCERTS, OR WHEN HE SAW ME , ALWAYS ASKING HOW PAM WAS AT THE KENNEL AND WISHED HE HAD A DOG TO BRING TO HER. RIP MY FRIEND GO DANCE WITH THAT WONDERFUL WIFE. TIME TO REST!

mary simmons lambert - April 12, 2025 at 01:31 PM

KE

Mary, thank you for posting this! You captured their relationship so well.

Karin White Ericson - April 19, 2025 at 12:16 PM

EM

“ I didn't know Mr. White however after reading his obituary I send many a Thank You to Heaven, not only did he serve his Country, he also was very involved in his community, along with a great deal of charities as well. My heartfelt prayers go out to Mr. Whites family and friends. It sounds like he lived a wonderful life, never wasting a minute of it, and now he is home with his loving wife, and all that have gone on before him, and most importantly he is with Our Lord, and Savior. May you rest in peace, Condolences from Elizabeth



Elizabeth A Marquis - April 11, 2025 at 04:27 PM

KE

Elizabeth, how sweet and thoughtful of you to post this tribute, even though you didn't know our father. You are right, he lived a wonderful life. Thank you. Karin

Karin White Ericson - April 19, 2025 at 12:17 PM