



## Robert W. Dunn

February 14, 1928 - April 18, 2023

Rye Beach, NH - Robert William Dunn (Bob), ski industry veteran, passed away peacefully at home in Rye Beach, NH, surrounded by his family on April 18, 2023 at the age of 95.

Bob was “the sweetheart of 1928,” born in Malden, Massachusetts on February 14th. A devoted and much-loved husband and father, Bob served two terms in the Army Air Corps (at the end of WW II, and then re-enlisting for the Korean conflict). Following his service, he enrolled at Boston University and earned an MA in Education and Counseling, putting himself through school as the owner and operator of the Dairy Whiz, an ice cream stand in Malden which served, as Bob would say, “the best soft serve there is”. He soon married the love of his life, Marion O'Connor, also of Malden. In his childhood, he and his friends walked miles with their hickory skis to “learn to turn” at local Mt Hood in Medford, Massachusetts. Later, the North Station Snow Train would take him from Boston many a weekend to join buddies for a day of skiing at Cranmore Mountain in North Conway. At BU, he was a star skier on the ski team. Bob taught school briefly, but soon followed his love of skiing and made that his lifetime career. He started in the ski business as the manager of Boston Hill Ski Area in North Andover, Massachusetts, which he eventually owned, expanded and operated for over 40 years. Boston Hill was one of the very first ski areas in the world to make snow, and for over four decades Bob continued to try out new technologies and activities on the ski

slopes. He was among the earliest to be certified as a Professional Ski Instructor of America and maintained that certification for over 50 years. Boston Hill was a busy bump, hosting busloads of Boston area children and adults during the 1960 and '70s to attend the "Bob Dunn Ski School" learn-to-ski lesson programs. Thousands learned to ski from his multiple ski schools throughout New England. In the '60's, with the sponsorship of the Boston Globe, he launched both pre-season and on-the-snow ski clinics to entice young and old to take up the sport and hit the slopes. In addition, Bob wrote seasonal articles and a regular 'Ask the Expert' ski column for the Globe. In true entrepreneurial spirit, Bob looked for new innovations to make ski areas a year-round outdoor recreation site with warm-weather activities like Frisbee golf, brush (Dendix) skiing all year round, and the Alpine Slide. The success of the Alpine Slide in North Andover led him to install one on Snow King Mountain in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, which still remains a popular summer attraction. Among his many skills as an area operator, working with Hall chairlift company he coordinated and installed the First Rafferty Chair lift on Snow King Mountain in Jackson as well. Later in his career, Bob became director of skiing at Bretton Woods and continued to work with the Boston Globe conducting ski clinics and amateur fun ski races throughout New England. He truly and actively spread his love of skiing to thousands.

Most of all, Bob was a devoted husband to Marion, his wife of 67 years, and father to his "3 girls," Carol, Marianne, and Lisa. Family life was always an amazing adventure, whether skiing or enjoying ice cream sundaes at the Dairy Whiz. Bob was an active member of the Rye Beach, NH, community for over 60 years. He was one of the first Jenness Beach surfers circa 1965, and organized volleyball games and beach cleanups over the years. For many years he contributed articles to Rye Reflections, a local online publication in the NH seacoast. Bob loved people and was a consummate storyteller, sharing many tales of his lifetime full of adventures with those he encountered. He approached life with an attitude of 'I can do that' and shared

his humor, experience and tales with many.

He is survived by his wife Marion and his daughters Carol Dunn of Bristol, NH, and her husband Ken Chorney, Marianne Dunn of York, ME, and Elisabeth (Lisa) Dunn of Waltham, MA; and by his grandsons David Chorney of Concord, NH, and Matthew Chorney of Jackson, WY.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Y.E.S (Youth Enrichment Services) Operation SnowSports at <https://yeskids.org/> or to the Amedisys Foundation at <https://www.amedisys.com/about/foundation>.

Visiting hours will be from 2 to 4 PM on Sunday, April 23, 2023 in the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home – Crematory, Hampton, NH. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 AM on Monday at St. Theresa Church, 815 Central Rd., Rye Beach, NH. Burial will be private.

The Mass will be livestreamed at <http://www.sainttheresachurchrye.org/live-stream/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **23**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

## Funeral Mass

APR **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Remick & Gendron Funeral Home created a Mass Livestream in memory of Robert W. Dunn*



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**Remick & Gendron Funeral Home** - April 21, 2023 at 02:02 PM

VB

“ *Thank you Bob for all the foundest memories. You enriched so many lives as you did mine. The times at Boston Hills, Ragged Mt and Bretton Woods will forever be cherished. Thank you for being such a great leader, coach and visionary. You are deeply missed.*

*Vince Van den Briel*

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**Vincent Van den Briel** - March 15, 2024 at 06:52 PM

UK

“ *So sorry to hear that Bob passed away. Such a special and wonderful person - it was my privilege to be involved in his care.*  
*Ursula Kaiser*

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**Ursula Kaiser** - May 04, 2023 at 01:26 PM

SC

“ I was sorry to hear of Bob's passing.

*I fondly remember the many conversations I had with Bob at the counter of Rye Beach Post Office. Loved talking with him about his days at The Boston Globe working with the other legendary sports reporters.*

*To Marion and the rest of the Dunn family...Bob left a legacy of memories and friends and I am happy to say I am one of those lucky people.*

*Someday, on the other side I may take him up on ski lessons.*

*Sherm Chester  
Exeter*

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**Sherm Chester** - May 01, 2023 at 03:52 PM

PC

“ *Bob was a great leader for all the Clark's when he patiently taught us how to ski at Boston Hill so many years ago! Further, my friendship continued with Bob in Rye Beach....often at the Post Office! Bob was a good friend, and will be forever missed.*  
*Peter Clark*

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**Peter Clark** - April 28, 2023 at 02:34 PM

CE

“ *Carol and family,  
Bob was an influential giant of the ski industry. My memories go back almost 40 years when I was introduced to Bob in the parking lot of Ragged Mountain. What a great legacy he leaves! Please tell your mom we are thinking of her.*  
*Chris Ellms*

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**Chris Ellms** - April 24, 2023 at 12:58 PM

CA

*Thank you Chris..he is surely at peace.. on a snow covered mountain carving some turns..hope to see you this winter.*

Carol - April 25, 2023 at 07:16 AM

PF

“ *My deepest sympathy on the passing of Bob Dunn. He was truly an inspiration for those of us who knew him in passing by his Old Beach Road home on the way to the beach. Early in life I skied at Boston Ski Hill in North Andover and then very happy to know he was a neighbor in Rye Beach beginning in 1975. The funeral Mass live-streamed from St. Theresa's was a beautiful tribute to a wonderful man. Rest in peace Bob. You will be missed. Pat Flynn Kenphil Ave.*

patricia a. flynn - April 24, 2023 at 12:17 PM

SC

“ *We will so miss seeing Bob on our daily walks as he was such a kind and pleasant person. What an incredible life he led and legacy he has left. Even at 95 he was so full of joy and vitality; you could tell that Bob always cherished every day. Although we didn't know Bob as a younger man, we knew of his accomplishments from conversations with family and friends, and ironically, when we think of him now, we see that incredible young man at the prime of his life, and what a life he lived!*

Sharon and Bob Consentino - April 24, 2023 at 09:19 AM

FJ

“ *Condolences from the family of Frank Wright. Our father, Frank, knew Bob from growing up in Maplewood, skiing first @ Mt Hood, then the ski train and the Massa-shushers ski club. My father's last time skiing after he was retired was with Bob and some of the old ski crew. Here's a photo posted on Facebook by the Weston family. Our condolences on your loss. Frank Wright, Jr.*



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**Frank Wright, Jr.** - April 23, 2023 at 11:28 AM

AC

“ *To a life well lived. To adventures others dream about. We worked together, skied together, sailed together and absolutely partied together.*

*The following piece from an unknow author, I believe, Bob would agree with:*

*"Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming -- WOW -- What a Ride!"*

*Alice & Jack Caunter*

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**Alice & Jack Caunter** - April 22, 2023 at 03:31 PM

DD

“ I learned to ski in the late 50's because of Bob Dunn. I remember getting 10 lessons for \$10 at Boston Hill. We also could get a season pass for \$20 or something like that. He made skiing reachable for anybody. Bob made Boston Hill a go to place for a whole generation of kids in the late 50's and early 60's.

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**Doug Dodd** - April 22, 2023 at 10:32 AM



“ To the Dunn Family,  
As neighbors in the Jenness Beach community for over 50 years, our sympathies go out to you in this time of sadness. We are grateful to have known and shared time with a person of such character & spirit. Out of habit, we will still look into the front porch on our way to and from the beach to say our hellos, share stories, and report the water temperature & seaweed level!  
The Charlie Riley Families

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**Chuck Riley** - April 21, 2023 at 07:34 PM

JW

“ What a gentleman. Bob was lucky to have such a fine family, but they were also lucky to have him. He will be missed.  
Jeffrey T. Wu, MD

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**Jeff wu** - April 21, 2023 at 12:48 PM

BG

“ Great man, Great life, Great family, Great friend, Great Entrepreneur. Condolences from Florida. Bill & Stephanie Griffith

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**Bill Griffith** - April 21, 2023 at 11:09 AM

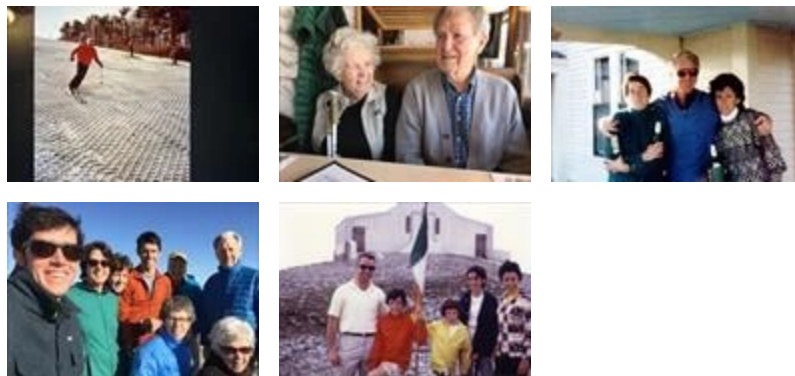
JF

“ TO THE DUNN FAMILY I WISH TO EXPRESS MY SYMPATHY OF THE PASSING OF BOB. I WILL MISS TALKING WITH HIM AFTER A DAY ON THE BEACH. HE WAS ALWAYS PLEASANT AND ALWAYS ASKED HOW THE WATER WAS. MAY HE RIP JOB WELL DONE DEFINITELY AN ISPIRATION TO MY ENTIRE FAMILY SINCERLY JIMMY FLYNN 16 KENPHIL AVE RYE BEACH

James A Flynn - April 21, 2023 at 10:58 AM

CD

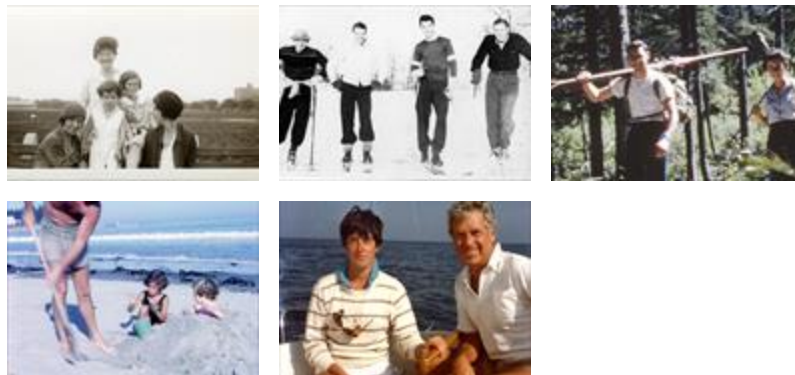
“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Carol Dunn - April 19, 2023 at 05:49 PM

LD

“ 18 files added to the album Bob Dunn



Lisa Dunn - April 19, 2023 at 05:30 PM