



NH Senator Robert F. Preston

May 11, 1929 - December 27, 2021

Hampton - Former Senator Robert F. Preston, 92, of Hampton passed away on Monday December 27, 2021 surrounded by family members. He was born on May 11, 1929 to Richard and Margaret (Burke) Preston in Lowell, Massachusetts where he attended Keith Academy. He moved to Hampton early in life and served for nearly two decades in the New Hampshire State Senate, eight years as the Democratic leader, and was a longstanding businessman on Hampton Beach alongside his beloved wife Charlotte.

Robert, known as “Bob”, lost his father while still a child, leaving their mother to raise Bob and his brothers alone. Bob’s older brothers fought in WWII, and while Bob was too young to join while the war was going on, he convinced his mother to let him sign up for the US Army when he was still 17 years old, just in time to be sent to Italy following the war to repatriate German soldiers and help the Italian people rebuild their communities. He also later served again in Germany during the Korean War.

Bob met his wife at Hampton Beach in the summer of 1948 when she was a clerk at the Donovan and Fallon Rexall drug store; while he was working as a dishwasher at Kelley’s Restaurant. Bob would often go down to the drug store and have a 10-cent Coca Cola at the soda fountain to get acquainted with Charlotte, and the two fell in love. He was honored when she asked him to take her to her senior prom and often said she was the “prettiest girl in

Lawrence.”

They were married October 4, 1952 and would be married for 63 years until her passing in 2016. Together they owned and operated numerous beach businesses, like Preston Fine Foods & Preston Real Estate. They were also involved in many fundraisers for charitable endeavors for the enrichment of Hampton and the Seacoast area. Their family was also heavily committed to the 100 Club of New Hampshire which provides assistance to families of fire and police personnel that lost their lives in the line of duty.

Senator Bob, a Democrat, won his first senate seat in 1964 then served 18 consecutive years in the senate starting in 1972. During that time Bob became acquainted with presidents, vice presidents and presidential candidates, even attending inaugurations. Bob was also very proud of his work on the Pease Development Authority, created when the federal government shut down Pease Air Force Base. Bob, along with his PDA associates, oversaw the transformation of the former base into an economic engine for the Seacoast area, adding hundreds of companies and thousands of employees.

Bob leaves behind his five children, Bob Preston and fiancé Angela Anderson of Hampton, Charlie Preston and partner Susanne Kolosey, Martha Preston and partner Paul Himmer of Seabrook Beach, Jimi Preston of Seabrook Beach, Maryrae Preston and her husband, Kevin Reusch of Hampton Beach along with many grandchildren and great grandchildren. He also leaves behind his brother John Preston of Stratham.

In addition to his parents Bob was predeceased by his loving wife Charlotte (Keefe) Preston, his brothers Richard and Russell Preston, and his daughter-in-law Heather Preston.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 AM on Friday, December

31, 2021 at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church, 289 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH. The Mass will be livestreamed starting at 11 AM, by visiting OLMM Livestream (<https://olmmparish.org/home/live-streaming/>). A celebration of Bob's life will be in the spring; please check the funeral home website for date and time. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to either, Experience Hampton, PO Box 444 , Hampton, NH 03842 or the Hampton Beach Village District for playground improvements, PO Box 1472, Hampton, NH 03843-1472 or Hampton Historical Society, 40 Park Ave, Hampton, NH 03842.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

DEC 31. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church
289 Lafayette Road
Hampton, NH

Tribute Wall



“ *Remick & Gendron Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of NH Senator Robert F. Preston*



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - December 30, 2021 at 08:49 AM

JA

Amazing pictures of an amazing man. It was my great pleasure to know him! RIP Senator, pool 5 will never be the same!

jan - December 30, 2021 at 03:25 PM

AM

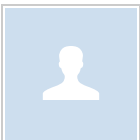
What a fantastic couple, Bob and Charlotte were. We, the people are going to miss Bob and all the good that he has done. Rest in Peace, you have earned it, give Charlotte a hug for us , well goodbye for now, and if we are good enough, we will see you on the other side.

Andy and Marcia - December 30, 2021 at 04:17 PM

MD

You are the the best

Matthew Denis - February 17, 2022 at 10:33 AM



“ *NH Senator Robert F. Preston*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM

AT

“ My deepest sympathy to Bob Preston's family. I was searching for his address to notify him that my sister, Jean Minahan, had passed away Sept. 30th, and found his obituary. Jeanie worked for him at the restaurant decades ago, and became devoted to Bob, Charlotte and all the children, for whom she often babysat. Bob was a dear friend and advisor to Jeanie for many years.

The world has lost a wonderful, wise and caring person, but we are so very fortunate to have known him. Thank you for all you gave us, Bob. Rest in peace.

Aline (Lin) Minahan Tetrault

Aline (Lin) Minahan Tetrault - January 31, 2022 at 04:02 PM

JC

“ We are so sorry for your loss. The Senator was an interesting man full of life. Martha, you and your brothers and sister, cared for your father and he loved you all. We will miss him at Heritage Palms. Peace.

Jodi and Tony Cantone - January 17, 2022 at 06:56 PM

CT

“ Please accept our heartfelt condolences. Fond memories of Senator Preston and the entire Preston Family from summers growing up at the beach. Thanks for being so special and such a great example for us all.

God Bless!

The Tyros Family



Charlie Tyros - January 15, 2022 at 12:14 PM

SC

“ It was my honor & pleasure to have known Senator Preston. I served in the house and was also a lobbyist for a non profit called Common Cause/NH. Robert was a gracious, knowledgeable and fine person. He never failed to give people a fair listen and made his decisions based upon what was best for N.H. He once gave myself and a good friend; Arlene Burns; a chance to rent one of his fine properties at Hampton Beach. I am so sorry for the loss to your family.

Susan J. Clay - January 12, 2022 at 03:23 PM

ET

“ To all the Wonderful Preston Family
I am so saddened to hear of Bob's passing.
He made "Our World" a Better Place!
He was " The Best of the Best!"
I will miss sitting on "The Bench"with him and just talking.
My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.
Sincerely,
Evelyn Thornton

Evelyn Thornton - January 05, 2022 at 09:02 AM

TM

“ A truly fine person. We need a few more Bob Prestons.
Tony McManus

Tony McManus - January 03, 2022 at 08:41 AM

RH

“ Roger & Jeannie Hammond lit a candle in memory of NH Senator Robert F. Preston



Roger & Jeannie Hammond - January 02, 2022 at 11:40 PM

PO

“ So very sorry for the loss of your Dad! Was a great soul ! I have wonderful memories of the “good ol days” in the 70’s when my family lived at 69 Ocean Blvd -
It was great to reconnect with him at Moes during the later years -
Big hugs to you all -
Fond memories of your mom and dad
Rest In Peace.....

patricia oleary - January 02, 2022 at 12:21 PM



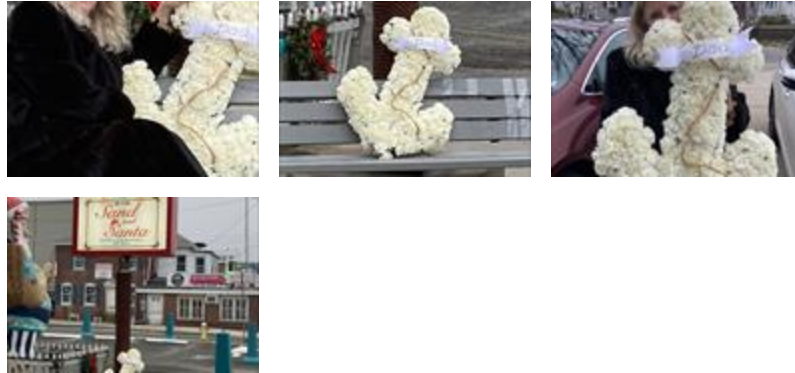
Thomas
Brown

“ Our deepest Sympathy to the family...

Thomas Brown - December 31, 2021 at 05:40 PM

KR

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Kevin Reusch - December 31, 2021 at 04:18 PM

JO

“ We met Bob when we stayed at 163
We loved chatting with him. He reminded us of our dads we lost
years ago. We will miss him.
God bless and our prayers are with you

Jennifer & Neil O'Regan

Jennifer O'Regan - December 30, 2021 at 07:19 PM

MO

“ Sending our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Preston family
as you mourn the loss of a truly great man.

With love,
The Koleszar family

monica - December 30, 2021 at 06:49 PM

PF

*To the Preston family
My deepest sympathy and condolences. To me he will always be
Senator Bob. He was such a pillar of the community and made
Hampton a wonderful place to live. He was a true gentleman. May he
Rest In Peace.*

*Warmest Regards,
Pamela Ford*

Pamela Ford - December 31, 2021 at 02:54 PM

JF

“ *The Preston family-
We were saddened to hear of Bobs passing.
We met Bob several years ago in Heritage
Palms in Fort Myers. He always had a smile,
and asked how were you doing. He always
said it was great to be alive, his greeting and smile will be missed.
The positive is he is now with his beloved wife Charlotte. Your family
is in our thoughts and prayers. Jim and Quinta Furtado*



Jim Furtado - December 30, 2021 at 03:24 PM

Joe
Poirier

“ Gramps was a Great Person. He loved his family and friends. We had many drive in Jeep up Route 16 to North Conway on Vacations. Usually a Lecture on I could be better behaved in school. He took us Sledding many times up the mountains. He and I would go out to Eat for dinner often and he would tell me about Italy in 1946 when he was over there. He would always explain to me how much being a good person meant. He always said “Joe, Pal, The right thing to do is the right thing to do. Especially when it’s hard.” I will miss him very much. However he is with his Favorite Person in his life. My Grammy Charlotte. He used to say. Joe, “I’m the luckiest man in the world. I married my dream girl.” He loved her above all others. Knowing they are together Eternally in The Kingdom of Heaven is a great Comfort. Godspeed Gramps! Give Grammy a hug for me. Keep an eye me from up there. I love you both so much. Love Joseph John, Poirier. 🙏🍀🍀🍀💚🙏



Joe Poirier - December 30, 2021 at 02:51 PM

FT

“ I’m very sorry for the passing of Senator Bob. I had the pleasure of serving with him in the Senate and in the PDA. He was a great guy and a true gentleman. The State of NH has lost a true friend ~ Frank Torr, Dover NH

Frank Torr - December 30, 2021 at 02:51 PM

KR

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Kevin Reusch - December 30, 2021 at 01:24 PM



Alot of memories for me in that house.

Kathy Gagne - December 30, 2021 at 02:36 PM

RB

“ *Robin Remick and Barbara Blinn purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of NH Senator Robert F. Preston.*



Robin Remick and Barbara Blinn - December 30, 2021 at 01:21 PM

MJ

“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



mjp - December 30, 2021 at 12:24 PM

KR

“ 6 files added to the album Life Tributes



Kevin Reusch - December 30, 2021 at 10:41 AM

Sue Moriarty

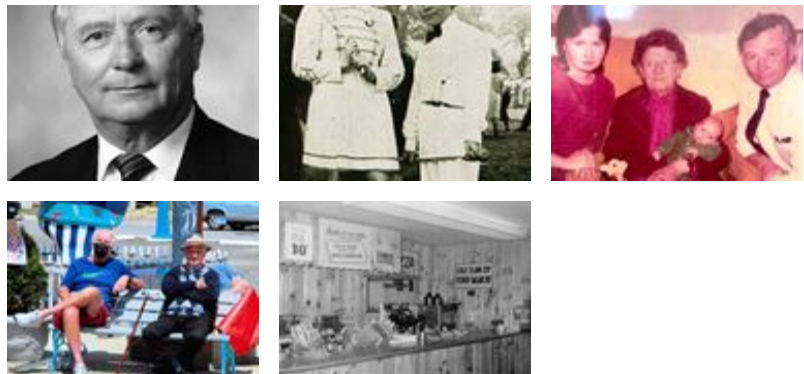
“ Sue Moriarty sent a virtual gift in memory of NH Senator Robert F. Preston



Sue Moriarty - December 30, 2021 at 10:32 AM



“ 209 files added to the album Life Tributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - December 30, 2021 at 08:41 AM

NK

“ We had many Real Estate dealings through Bob over the years and were lucky enough to also have Bob and Charlotte as personal friends.

Norman Krukonis - December 30, 2021 at 08:33 AM

SD

“ Bob was an outstanding public servant and a dear friend. His work on the Pease Development Authority was very special. He was always thinking about what was best for New Hampshire. My condolences to his family.

Senator Lou D'Allesandro

Sen. Lou D'Allesandro - December 29, 2021 at 10:37 PM

MC

“ One Great Man. Nothing more needs to be said

Margo B Colinss - December 29, 2021 at 09:02 PM

RJ

“ Deepest condolences to the Preston family. May God be with you. Jeff and Robin Josselyn



Robin Josselyn - December 29, 2021 at 07:01 PM

FB

“ To Bobby, Charlie, Martha, Maryrae, and Jimmy,

I first met your Dad back in the summer of 77 when, as a young Trooper/Trainee, I walked into the office in Seabrook and asked him for a room at the old Helena. Being as gracious as he was, he quickly said yes, provided of course that it was okay with his wife. All the while thinking that your mom would say no way. Well, as good fortune would have it for me, Charlotte, who wasn't crazy about the idea either, assumed your dad had okayed it, and took me in. What followed was a summer of great memories, and many decades of a cherished friendship for both Judi and I.

Bob was one of those rare people we meet in life who had an inherent sense of right and wrong, and was never one to waiver when it came to doing the right thing. He cared deeply about his family, his friends, his community, and especially those in need of a helping hand. Bob's contributions and legacy are such that he will long be remembered with great fondness by all of us who had the great fortune of having known him.

We trust you will all find some solace in knowing how much he loved you all, and what a truly special person he was.

*With our heartfelt condolences,
Frank & Judi Breen*

Frank Breen - December 29, 2021 at 04:53 PM

BH

“ Bob certainly will be missed by our family. We had the honor of living next door to Bob & Char for twenty years in Florida . They were very much part of our family . We spent hundreds of hours dining and road trips together . It is very hard to write a short message when I could write a book . We will never forget this great couple.

Bob & Janel Hyberger

Bob & Janel Hyberger - December 29, 2021 at 04:28 PM

GD

“ To The Preston Family,

My deepest condolences, I enjoyed every conversation that I had with Bob.

He was a true gentleman and one of the nicest men that I have ever met in my life.

He will be missed. Hampton Beach will never be the same without Bob Preston.

Sincerely, George Dokos

George Dokos - December 29, 2021 at 03:52 PM

KH

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. He was a big part of the Heritage Palms , Ft Myers Florida family! He always smiling and interested in what you were doing!

Bob and his wife were loved by everyone they met. May they meet again in Heaven❤️ And Rest In Peace . Kathy Haan Hall and Steve Hall

kathy Haan Hall - December 29, 2021 at 03:51 PM

CC

“ *Carole Campobasso lit a candle in memory of NH Senator Robert F. Preston*



carole campobasso - December 29, 2021 at 03:24 PM

CC

“ *To the Preston Family:*

Bob Preston--dedicated & devoted, to his Faith, Family & Political principles.

Always had a smile for everyone!

Reunite with your beloved wife, Charlotte, in Heaven.

carole campobasso - December 29, 2021 at 03:23 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss! I have rented for years and always enjoyed talking to your dad every day we were on vacation. Such a nice man he will be missed.*

Donnie and Connie Zimmermann

Connie Zimmermann - December 29, 2021 at 03:23 PM

JP

“ *Mary Rae and family.....just got to beach and read obituary. Please know we are thinking of all of you at this time. Judi and Ray Phillips.unit 8.*

Judi Phillips - December 29, 2021 at 02:38 PM

Guy
Fragala

“ *Bob and all of the Preston Family, sorry for your loss. Senator Bob was a true, well respected, Hampton Beach icon. He will be sadly missed.*

Guy and Susan Fragala

Guy Fragala - December 29, 2021 at 11:15 AM

PC

“ *Bobby, Charlie, Martha, Jim, & Mary Rae; Rita and I are saddened to hear of Bob's passing and extend our deepest condolences. After moving to NH in '77 and meeting Bob, he shared his unbiased and enthusiastic understanding of NH politics with us along with introductions to many interesting folks from all walks. Bob was a genuine gentleman and friend. We are fortunate to have known him and your family. Enjoy the memories.*

Paul & Rita Connolly

Paul Connolly - December 29, 2021 at 11:00 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of NH Senator Robert F. Preston.*



December 29, 2021 at 10:16 AM

SG

“ *Truly a nice guy with a great life story.*

Steve Gareri - December 29, 2021 at 10:10 AM



“ Dear MaryRae, Kevin and the rest of the family,
My sincere condolences on your loss. I know you all have great memories of Bob and Charlotte. Before I was married, my now ex and I rented an apartment in one of the newer buildings from Preston Real Estate. Bob checked in on us in the winter to be sure all was OK with our stay. Sending you and the family peace. Best,
Patty O'Connor

Patty O'Connor - December 29, 2021 at 09:41 AM

DL

“ Bob, Maryrae and family:
So sorry for your loss.
Dick Lutsk
HLN Publishing

Dick Lutsk - December 29, 2021 at 09:18 AM

DB

“ So sorry for your loss, and prayers for your family.
Donna Bennett

Donna Bennett - December 29, 2021 at 08:46 AM

LP

“ To the entire Preston family, we were saddened to hear of Bob's passing, he was a wonderful man, I will miss seeing him sit outside the office early morning when I would walk by with my grand daughter, he was always so sweet to her, and would tell me how much he loved all the children. I will also miss sitting beside him at casino, I have such good memories. He will be missed. Take comfort in all the good memories you have, he is with Charlotte again, he did miss her.

Mark and Linda Paldino

Linda Paldino - December 29, 2021 at 08:18 AM

PS

“ My sincere condolences to the Preston family. One of the nicest men I've ever met! Genuine, honest, and a great sense of humor!

Peter Sheehan - December 29, 2021 at 08:17 AM

MH

“ To the entire family, I am so sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. He was a gentleman and a true leader. He left a legacy in Hampton and was are so grateful for all his contributions. My thoughts are with you at this sad and difficult time.

Mary Beth Hollingworth

Mary Beth Hollingworth - December 29, 2021 at 06:50 AM

RF

“ Senator “Bob” always spoke highly of his brothers who served in the military, while downplaying his own service. Truth be told, Bob served his country honorably overseas. His sacrifices were as significant as those who served in the theaters of war. He was a good man, with a big heart.

Rest easy Senator. You’ve earned it sir.

My condolences to Bob’s family and friends.

Ralph Fatello

Hampton, NH

Ralph Fatello - December 28, 2021 at 11:22 PM

GB

“ Senator Bob was a true gentleman. I was fortunate to work with him at Pease. His citizenship should be a model every young person that wants to be involved politically.

The State of NH lost a real statesman. RIP my friend.

George Bald

George Bald - December 28, 2021 at 10:46 PM

LS

“ *Laura Sagalski lit a candle in memory of NH Senator Robert F. Preston*



Laura Sagalski - December 28, 2021 at 10:44 PM

LS

I am so sorry for your loss! May he rest in peace!

Laura Sagalski - December 28, 2021 at 10:46 PM

BR

“ *Bob Preston was a fine gentleman. As the Portsmouth City Council representative on the PDA I saw him in action as the PDA Commissioner and got to know him. Hampton has lost one of its most prominent citizens. Brad Lown*

Brad - December 28, 2021 at 08:05 PM

EM

“ *I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your father. He always came through my line at Shaw's in Seabrook, and he was just as pleasant as could be. He enjoyed spending his winters down South with Martha... My prayers go out to the entire Preston family, God Bless You All, Love Elizabeth Marshall Marquis*



Elizabeth Marquis - December 28, 2021 at 07:54 PM

BJ

“ *My pleasure to have been part of the Preston family life. An integral part of the Hampton community! And Bob, a real gentleman! God Bless you all.*

Bob Jamieson - December 28, 2021 at 07:44 PM

PM

“ *To the entire Preston Family, we are so very sorry for your loss. Bob was the consummate gentleman, and he will be sorely missed. Our memories of him and your Mom are fond. May he rest in peace. Sincerely, Paul and Priscilla*

Paul and Priscilla McInnis - December 28, 2021 at 07:34 PM

DN

“ Senator Preston was an admired and successful person in the town of Hampton. Someone we looked up to with great respect. To all the Preston "kids" we send our deepest condolences to you. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time.
Stacy & Debbie Noyes

Debra A Noyes - December 28, 2021 at 07:29 PM

RL

“ Hampton and Hampton Beach are a much better place because of Bob Preston thank you for your service not Only to our country but to the state of New Hampshire

Rusty & Louise - December 28, 2021 at 05:48 PM

DJ

“ Bob and Charlotte were really special people.
I feel so fortunate to have been able share a part of life with them. They were so special they made you feel special. I have so many great memories to remember.
Dean

Dean Jenkins - December 28, 2021 at 05:31 PM

SC

“ To the whole Preston Family we are deeply saddened by your Dad's death. He was a wonderful man who did great things with his life. He will be truly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during these difficult times. May God Bless him and all of you and know that he is at peace with your Mom. With Deepest Sympathies, Suzanne & Todd Connell 🙏💔🙏💔



Suzanne Connell - December 28, 2021 at 05:19 PM

GP

“ *The "Senator" was a kind and gentle person. Never had a negative comment. He was a true gift to Hampton and will be surely missed.*

George Privé - December 28, 2021 at 05:19 PM

BP

Thanks George

Barbara Preston - December 28, 2021 at 07:47 PM

KB

“ *Being the age of Senator Preston's children and growing up on "the beach", I realize that Senator Bob Preston is attached to so many of my memories connected to great summers, community good, the benefits of his service in business and fun. Charlotte and Bob were prominent in my growing up in Hampton. He always shared an approachable dignity. He had a quiet way to generate a laugh for most occasions . Although I can't imagine him not at Hampton Beach I am quite sure Charlotte has an event to welcome his entrance at the pearly gates. With all his prominence at the state level, he was a man dedicated to his family and his community. Thank you Senator Preston! Our hearts are with the family, Kate & Gary Bashline*

Kate Bashline - December 28, 2021 at 04:56 PM

DW

“ *To the Preston family Bob was one of a kind we will all miss him on the seacoast Thank You for sharing him all these years he is a great leader of the people And did so many great things for people of the seacoast. Bob will never be forgetting Rip❤️*



Don Walker - December 28, 2021 at 04:44 PM

JS

*To the Preston Family,
I am deeply sorry for the loss of your father, grandfather and brother.
Senator Preston's commitment to his family, beloved Hampton, his
constituents, and civic duty - exemplary. I am so sorry. Janet Stevens*

janet stevens - December 28, 2021 at 06:52 PM

ES

*My father in law, Paul Goddard was a lifelong friend, having grown up
with Bob. They kept their friendship their whole life. I was honored to
know Bob as was my wife and her sisters and brother. We will miss him
very much, as he was such integral part of of our two families for over
80 years. May our Heavenly Father comfort and console the Preston
family at this time. May you be blessed knowing your dad was such a
blessing to so many he touched.*

*Respectfully and affectionately,
Ernest Shipman (husband to Wendy)*

Ernest Shipman - December 28, 2021 at 07:34 PM

LD

*“ I'm sure the Preston family already misses Bob tremendously. The
entire Community shares in their sadness as we, too, have lost a
wonderful man. Bob was a kind and gentle man. Honest. A doer. A
man who could accomplish great things by working congenially with
both sides of the aisles. He was never too busy to stop and help or
to stop and chat. He was the essence of a Family Man. I am both
proud and humbled to have called him a friend. Whenever I pass his
condo now, I'll look at the bench and fondly remember seeing him
out there, stopping to chat, and having him make me feel like I was
the most important person in the world and that I made his day.
No...he always made mine. There's a Bob Preston-sized hole in my
heart. May he and Charlotte rest in peace and may his memory
bring more smiles than sadness to the family in their time of grief.*

Linda A. Desjardins - December 28, 2021 at 04:22 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of NH Senator Robert F. Preston.*



December 28, 2021 at 04:01 PM



“ *Maureen lit a candle in memory of NH Senator Robert F. Preston*



Maureen - December 28, 2021 at 03:20 PM



“ *What a wonderful man Bob was. We will truly miss him and his stories*
Stephanie and Russ Saunders

Stephanie Cooke-Saunders - December 28, 2021 at 03:02 PM



My thoughts and prayers for the Preston Family...

Maureen - December 28, 2021 at 03:15 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to the Preston family. He will be missed.*

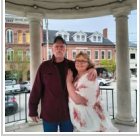
Jason C. Page

Jason C. Page - December 28, 2021 at 02:42 PM

CS

“ *My deepest condolences for you Charlie, Bobby, Jimmy and Mary Rea. Colleen Kehoe Stabile.*

Colleen Kehoe Stabile - December 28, 2021 at 01:58 PM



“ *It was our privilege to know Mr Preston. Our thoughts and love to his family. Rest easy Mr P. Love Sheila and Tom*



Sheila Jo - December 28, 2021 at 01:52 PM

MA

“ *One of the best people anyone would want to know. Mr. Preston goes unmatched. We are saddened to learn of his passing. Please accept our heartfelt sympathies. The Marelli Family*

marcia - December 28, 2021 at 01:49 PM