

Campground Memories

2022 - 2023



*188th Season of the Campmeeting
MVCMA, Oak Bluffs, MA*



Campground Members who have Passed Away

June 2022 - July 2023

Robert L. Falkenburg

Joan M. Falkenburg

Esther Farland

Barbara Jean Fehl

Robert Norton Ganz, Jr.

Francis Joseph Gould

Robert W. Jones

Linda Mazzotta

Irene Murdoch



Philip Joseph Newcomb

Dorothy Novakouski

Calvin Powell

John Raisian

Estelle Reagan

Ronald Edward Schupner

Shirley San Soucie

Allan Sutherland Tait

Annabelle Williamson Tait

Herbert Wass

Douglas West



Bob L. Falkenburg

May 1927 - July 2023

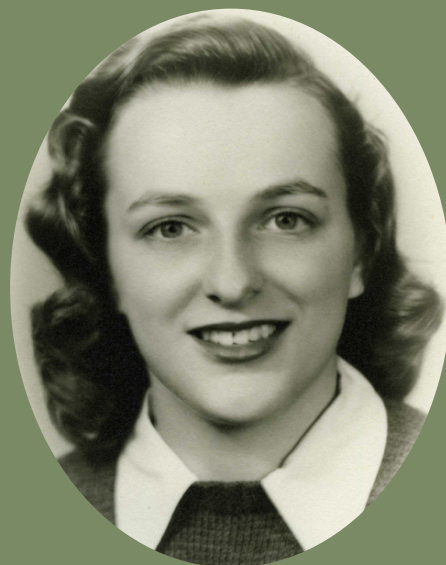
Joan M. Falkenburg

June 1930 - December 2022

Bob & Jodie Falkenburg started bringing their family to the Vineyard, specifically the Campground, every summer after Bob's dad & mom, George & Peg, bought a cottage on West Clinton in 1962. After Bob retired, they started staying here from May to October and then about 20 years ago started living in the Campgrounds year round.

Through their time here, Bob managed the Campground Shop for about 15 years. After that, he started managing the Information Booth in downtown Oak Bluffs. He loved to joke that he got to tell people where to go! Jodie started volunteering as a docent giving tours of the Campgrounds and did that for about 20 years. Having the gift of being dramatic, it was a wonderful creative outlet for her, and she was quite passionate about it. She continued to conduct tours through last summer when she was 92, using a golf cart and then a scooter when the walking got too difficult.

She loved helping to raise funds for the Tabernacle Restoration Project and would be thrilled that the roof work will be starting this fall. Both of them were mainstays in the Campground which was a deep love for both of them. Jodie kept everyone in the neighborhood informed of all the comings and goings of all. They are both terribly missed by their many friends and their family, all of whom meant the world to them.



Esther May Farland

December 1927 - June 2023



Esther May (Kirkpatrick) Farland , 95, passed away on June 20, 2023 at Windemere Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Oak Bluffs, MA. Born in Providence, RI on December 28, 1927, she was the daughter of William and Lucinda (Pemberton) Kirkpatrick.

Es grew up in East Providence, RI , graduating from high school in 1945. She attended Bryant College in Providence. Upon graduation, she worked in the Bursars office at Brown University. She later worked part time as a bookkeeper for Kirkpatrick Company.

Esther's love of Martha's Vineyard began when her family vacationed in Oak Bluffs. In 1944, she became a summer resident when her parents purchased the Attleboro House in Oak Bluffs. She met her husband, Raymond Farland, in Oak Bluffs and they married in 1948. Es continued to summer at her husband's family home on Nashawena Park and eventually moved there permanently after raising her family in East Providence.

Es was a skilled knitter, a hobby she and her twin sister, Estelle Reagan, began as teenagers. She was well known for selling her beautiful sweaters at the Tabernacle Craft Fair and the Martha's Vineyard Hospital gift shop as well as donating her knitted goods to many local church sales and local fundraisers. She continued to knit with the supervision of volunteers while at Windemere, often offering them advice if needed.

Es was a longtime member of both the East Chop Beach Club and the East Chop Yacht Club. She enjoyed many a summer day boating, swimming, or knitting on the beach. For many years, she and her husband organized the ECYC annual Sail Away, feeding sailors and staff when they arrived at State Beach before embarking on their return sail to Oak Bluffs.

An avid sports fan, she had season tickets to the Boston Celtics and would travel often from the Vineyard to Boston during the 1980s championship years. In her family room she had to have three televisions so she could watch her Boston teams if they were all playing at once.

Having a kind, generous, and loving heart, Es will be missed by her family. She was predeceased by her husband of 69 years, Raymond Farland. Es is survived by her son , Raymond Farland of Oak Bluffs and her daughter, Nancy Gardner and her husband Paul of Hanover, MA.

A devoted grandmother, she is survived by her three grandchildren , Keith Gardner and his wife, Julie of Marshfield, MA; Jaimee Hobson and her husband, Keegan of Pembroke; and Justin Gardner and his wife, Rachael of Norwell, MA. She also leaves four great grandchildren, Elliot and Ainsley Gardner and Ellie and Maggie Hobson. Es is survived by her twin sister, Estelle Reagan of Oak Bluffs. She was predeceased by her sister, Claire Palangio of Oak Bluffs.



Barbara Jean Fehl

July 1948 - December 2022

Barbara Jean Fehl (born Barbara McKinnon) died peacefully in her home with her family by her side on December 14th, 2022. She was 74 years old. Barbara was born in Queens, NY, to Edythe and Alexander McKinnon. She was raised as one of five children in East Meadow, NY, where she graduated from East Meadow High School, and then went on to attend West Virginia Wesleyan College on a cello scholarship. She later earned two Master's degrees, from Queens College (English) and Rutgers University (Library Science). Barbara also taught elementary school and worked as a librarian for primary and secondary schools and Princeton University, as well as public libraries in New Jersey, Virginia, and Massachusetts.

Barbara felt a strong connection to her Scottish heritage. She loved music and travel and toured Europe with her collegiate choir. She also performed in Carnegie Hall with Princeton Pro Musica, an ensemble of amateur and professional singers, educators, and musicians from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. When Barbara moved to Martha's Vineyard, she co-founded the Island Community Chorus, serving as the group's first vice president. She continued to play cello throughout her life.

Barbara married Gordon Smith in 1969, and they raised three children together in central New Jersey, spending summers on Martha's Vineyard. It was during this time that she formed a deep connection with the Island, where later, after her marriage ended, she would continue to visit.

*In 1994, during a Homecoming weekend at Wesleyan, Barbara reconnected with former acquaintance and fellow graduate Bo Fehl. They fell in love, married, and moved to Oak Bluffs in 1996, where they have lived ever since. Barbara enjoyed golfing with friends and writing poetry. She self-published two books, *East Chop* and *Wait for Me*. She also loved the theater – both being in the audience and on the stage – and performed in a number of local productions.*

Barbara's family is grateful to Martha's Vineyard Hospital for their excellent care of her, both at the end of her life and during the twenty-six years she lived on the Island.

She is predeceased by her siblings, Edythe Nelson and Christine Viets, and is survived by her brothers, Donald McKinnon and Bruce McKinnon, her husband Bo Fehl, and her children Scott, Danielle and Ashley, as well as 14 grandchildren.



Robert Norton Ganz, Jr.

July 1925 - April 2023

Robert Norton Ganz Jr. of Chilmark, an English professor and World War II veteran who earned a Purple Heart, died on April 9 after a brave battle with sarcoma. He was 97 and had been a Vineyarder for 85 years.

“Here lies the late Bob Ganz — but better late than never” was the epitaph he once joked he wanted. He died late in age but all too soon for his family. He was born in Boston on July 27, 1925 to Claire Louise MacIntyre Ganz and Robert N. Ganz Sr., a pediatrician. He attended Browne and Nichols School — which later became the Buckingham Browne & Nichols School — in Cambridge. His best friends at Brown and Nichols included Robert Whitman, Norwood Smith, and Peter Powers. Mr. Powers was, with Bob, a co-captain of their track team, and he died during the Battle of the Bulge.

Bob first came to Martha’s Vineyard with his parents in the summer of 1936 to visit Dr. Thomas Goethals and his wife Mary. At their suggestion, Bob’s parents bought Hollyholm, a summer home in Chilmark, just in time for the 1938 hurricane.

After the war, he returned to Harvard, where he became the jazz reviewer for The Harvard Crimson and co-founder of the Harvard Jazz Club. He graduated with an AB in American Studies and stayed on to complete his MA and PhD in English, studying the poetry of Robert Frost.

Bob met Anne Hotchkiss in the summer of 1962. After an autumn of correspondence, their first date occurred when he invited her to Robert Frost’s funeral in February 1963. Bob said afterwards that Frost, as an ironist, would not have minded it being the occasion for him to fall in love.

They were married August 28, 1963, at the Old Whaling Church in Edgartown.

He and Anne had four children. He was a loving and amusing father and said he enjoyed coming home to a group of people who were in his corner. Anne and Bob moved to Chilmark to live year-round in 2013. He had long suspected his “better self lay beneath the leaves on Martha’s Vineyard,” as he wrote in an early letter to Anne. This retreat to the woods of Hollyholm allowed him to observe the seasons, deepen relationships with friends and family both on and off the Island, and continue his scholarship.

Bob is survived by his wife Anne; children Claire, Jennie, Holly and Robert 3rd; and grandchildren Owen and Hugh Singer and Henry and Mina Ganz.



Francis Joseph Gould

October 1949 - December 2022



Francis (Frank) Joseph Gould of Bethlehem, Pa. died on Dec. 19, 2022. He fought relentlessly against ALS but ultimately succumbed to the disease, dying peacefully with his children and wife Deborah at his side. He was 73.

He was born Oct. 28, 1949 to Joseph Anthony and Carole Loughlin Gould. He grew up in North Philadelphia with siblings Mary Ann and Joseph Jr. and younger brothers William and Robert.

He graduated from LaSalle College with a B.A. in 1971. He enrolled at Notre Dame and earned his J.D in 1974, finishing first in his class together with one other student who also maintained a perfect straight-A record — which was a first at the law school. He then attended New York University School of Law and earned his tax LLM in 1975.

After a judicial clerkship in Doylestown, Pa., he accepted a position at the Appellate Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He argued many cases before the United States Supreme Court, advocating for the people of this country. After four years with Justice, Frank was hired at Prudential in Newark, N.J. He eventually took a business role at Prudential to become head of the structured transactions group and earned the Chairman's Award in 2000.

He met his wife, Deborah Jean Contreras, in Washington, D.C. in 1976. In search of a loan for a MGB sports car, he walked into a credit union and saw a beautiful woman sitting inside. He immediately asked her for a date. They married on Nov. 4, 1978, at Saint Matthew's Cathedral in D.C. The couple had three children: Paige, Logan and Halley.

In 1981, Deborah and Frank took a vacation that would change their lives: they visited Martha's Vineyard. They would then spend the next 38 summers on Island, initially for only a few weeks and eventually for entire summers.

In 1992 they purchased a cottage on the grounds of the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association. The house was a labor of love; they spent years remodeling, building, re-building and annually re-painting the salt-licked gingerbread. They transformed the cottage into a home that became the center of their family and community life. After retirement, Frank focused on the preservation work of the MVCMA. He later joined the Board of Directors to lead efforts to rehabilitate the Tabernacle and grounds and to resurrect Montgomery Square. It was among the oaks and cottages that Frank found great joy and peace.

Frank is survived by his loving wife Deborah Gould; brothers Joseph Gould Jr. of River Vale, N.J., Robert Gould of Coatesville, Pa. and William Gould of Humble, Tex.; his children Paige Black of Takoma Park, Md., Zachary Logan Gould of Yardley, Pa, and Halley Contreras-Gould of Riegelsville, Pa.; and his grandchildren, Jude Black, Callum Black, Hopkins (Poppy) Gould, and Hans Gould. He was predeceased by his sister, Mary Ann Gould, of Richboro, Pa.



Robert W. Jones

July 1929 - July 2022

After a period of declining health, Robert Willard Jones died peacefully in Framingham on May 24, 2023. He was 84. He was the son of the late Herbert and Evelyn (Chambers) Jones, and the beloved husband of Martha (Chen) Jones. Robert is also survived by his brother, Peter Jones and his wife Carol of Rochester, NY, his nephew, Michael Jones, and his niece Debra Jones-Pierce.

Robert was born and raised in Dorchester and spent the summer months, and many weekends off-season, at the family cottage at 42 Trinity Park. After high school he enlisted in the U. S. Army and served his country proudly for 3 years. After his discharge he enjoyed a 38-year career with the USPS. Never one to stay idle, Robert went to work at Stop & Shop for another 12 years after his retirement. He joined the First United Methodist Church in Framingham in 1985, and participated in almost all of the church activities, and eventually became a quiet leader of the church community.



Linda Mazzotta

1943 - 2023

Linda Mazzotta, 80, of Vineyard Haven and Wolcott, Conn., died peacefully on Feb. 26, 2023.

Linda will be remembered as a kind and loving friend who will be greatly missed. She loved all animals, but especially cats.

During her years on the Vineyard, Linda was employed at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital, Martha's Vineyard Community Services, and the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association. The Campground is deeply grateful for her years of dedicated service to the community.

She was also a committed volunteer at Second Chance Animal Rescue and helped to care for and place many cats in their new homes.

She was the mother of Duane Mazzotta of Connecticut; grandmother to Christopher and Danielle; and great-grandmother to their children, Ethan, Mila, Weston, Catarina, Bria, and Callie. She was predeceased by her son, Douglas Mazzotta; her sister, Nancy Melchior; and her mother, Betty Melchior. She is survived by her brother, Ricky Melchior.



Irene Murdoch

November 1922 - January 2023

She was born Irene Smith on Long Island, NY, in 1922, and married her high school sweetheart, John, in 1942. As John was in the Navy at that time, she took a train from New York to Oklahoma, where John was stationed. They got married, and the next day she took the train back to New York. As it was during WWII and John was in the Navy, she did not see John again for 3 years, until he was discharged at the end of the war. They were married for 73 years until John's death in 2015.

John and Irene bought their cottage at 26 Allen Avenue in 1986, and she spent every summer there until 2022.

The cottage remains in the family.

During their marriage, they had 3 children – Gary, Linda, and Bruce (Ian). Linda died in 1998, but provided Irene with 2 grandsons, Matthew and Andrew. In 2021, a great-grandson, Artemis (Arlo), was born making Irene very, very happy!

In addition to her family, Irene worked for over 40 years with the Girl Scouts of America, first as a troop leader and then for many years as an executive in the Girl Scout office in Kingston, NY.

Irene Murdoch had a long, full, wonderful life and passed away at the age of 100. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and a true friend to all who met her.



Phillip Joseph
Newcomb

March 1988 - July 2023

Philip Joseph Newcomb Jr., 35, of Beverly, passed away unexpectedly on July 17, 2023, at his home. Phil was born in Weymouth, MA, on March 4, 1988, and graduated from Randolph High School in 2006. He was an avid baseball, soccer, basketball, and hockey fan. Although he was a true Boston Fan, Phil's favorite team was always the Dallas Cowboys. Phil, who had a larger-than-life personality, made everyone smile and feel so loved. He was a ray of light to all who met him, and he instantly made them feel loved and comfortable to be around him. Martha's Vineyard was an integral part of Phil's fabric. He summered on the Island for each of his 35 years and was recently engaged and subsequently married there as well. Part of his love for family and friends manifested itself in his love of cooking. He loved cooking for any and all who would gather for cookouts, holidays, and family gatherings. Phil cherished his times with his wife Candice, whom he loved very much and their beloved dog, Joy.

Phil is survived by his loving wife, Candice (Dangora) Newcomb of Beverly, his parents Philip J. Sr. and Margo Newcomb of Randolph, MA, his brothers, Ernie Newcomb and his fiancée Jackie Bruttaniti of New Bedford, Steve Reid of Fall River, MA, Evan Thayer of Clinton, MA and Glen Arsenault of Milford, MA, and his sister Renee (Arsenault) Schmidt of North Carolina. He is also survived by his mother-in-law and father-in-law Laurie DeJongh and Mark Jaques of Middleton, brother-in-law Stephen Dangora and his fiancée Krystie Stanioski of Beverly Farms, MA, as well as nieces and nephews, Landen Newcomb of New Bedford, MA, Stephan J. Arsenault of Canton, MA, and Arya Reid of Chelmsford, MA. Phil was also predeceased by his mother Katherine (Diloreti) Newcomb.



Dorothy Novakowski

June 1930 - December 2022



Dorothy (Dot) Scott Novakouski was born in Stafford Springs, CT on November 5, 1941. She acquired a college degree in psychology from American University. She spent a few years working in a lab at Harvard and thrived on attending Red Sox games regularly. She moved to California for a few years to enjoy seeing more of the world. When she returned to New England she did so driving her beloved light blue Volkswagen bug. She purchased 70 Trinity Park in the late 80's from her parents Barbara and Edwin Scott and moved here full time in February of 1997. She loved 'The Island' with a passion, especially beaches, sunsets, her porch, friends, and visits from her sister Margery's family. Dot was a sports fanatic and lifelong fan of the Red Sox, UConn basketball, and the Patriots. She will be dearly missed by family and friends.



Calvin Powell

1954-2023

Calvin Wade Powell entered eternal rest surrounded by the love and comfort of his family on June 18, 2023. He was born in Moultrie, Georgia on November 15, 1954, to the late Clarence and Nancy (Wilcox) Powell. He relocated in the early sixties, attended local schools and became a permanent resident of Feeding Hills. Music played a huge part in his life, and he lived his music through drumming. He had a notable career as a drummer traveling the East Coast and through many parts of Canada displaying his skills. His talents led him to perform on stage with several bands of the time. Calvin was a great sportsman and enjoyed engaging in many competitive games of shooting hoops. He was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan, rarely missing a game. His greatest joy was spending time with the love of his life and best friend, Dawn Nardi. Calvin was a spirited, outgoing individual who was unforgettable and very committed to those in his life.

Surviving Calvin are his love, Dawn, and his son Eric Brown of Springfield. He also leaves his beloved siblings Rosie Lee Blakely, Henrietta Frazier, and her husband Sevall, Louise Jones, and Evelyn Owens and her husband Sam. Calvin will be forever missed by his large extended family and countless friends. Sadly, he was predeceased by his brothers Clarence and Robert Powell and his sisters Carrie Mae Powell and Frances Miller.



John Thomas Raisian

July 1949 - April 2023



John Raisian, the Hoover Institution's Tad and Dianne Taube Director for a quarter-century, from his appointment in 1990 until his retirement in 2015, died on April 24, 2023 after battling a long illness. He was 73. During his tenure, Raisian led the Institution to become the most important academic public policy research center in the nation.

"A highly regarded economist, dedicated public servant, and of course, twenty-five-year director of the Hoover Institution, John was the embodiment of putting ideas into service for the betterment of humankind," said Condoleezza Rice, the current director of the Hoover Institution. "His legacy is one that will live on every day as we seek to put ideas into action that will help define and sustain a free society. He was a pillar of the Hoover community, a cherished colleague, and friend to so many." Prior to his arrival at Hoover, Raisian had a distinguished career that spanned the executive branch of government, academia, and the private sector.

After earning his PhD in economics from the University of California–Los Angeles, Raisian was a visiting professor of economics at the University of Washington (1975–76) and an assistant professor of economics at the University of Houston (1976–80).

Raisian began his tenure at the dawn of the post–Cold War era and organized the Institution's research initiatives under three core themes that addressed opportunities and challenges emerging for America and the free world in the coming century: democracy and free markets; American institutions and economic performance; and international rivals and global cooperation.

A defining moment of Raisian's career was his acceptance of the National Humanities Medal on behalf of the Hoover Institution in November 2006.

The prestigious award was presented by President George W. Bush at a White House ceremony. Upon receiving the medal, Raisian said, "To have the medal awarded by the president to the Hoover Institution . . . is a wonderful tribute and a huge source of pride for all of us."

Raisian's colleagues speak of him affectionally as having a unique combination of professional and interpersonal skills and use words to describe his personality such as genial, gracious, accommodating, tenacious, focused, and deeply principled.

John Raisian is survived by his wife, Claudia Morgan, and his daughters.



Estelle Ruth Reagan

December 1927 - July 2023

Estelle Ruth (Kirkpatrick) Reagan, "Stelle," 95, passed away peacefully at her home, the Attleboro House, in Oak Bluffs, on July 27, 2023. She was the beloved wife of Robert ("Bart") I. Reagan Sr.

Estelle was born to William and Lucinda Kirkpatrick in Providence, R.I., on Dec. 28, 1927. She made her entrance about 25 minutes before twin sister Esther May. Throughout their lives, the twins never lived more than one mile from each other, oftentimes even closer. Estelle was raised in East Providence, R.I., and graduated from East Providence High School in 1945. She attended Bryant College (now University), then went on to manage the printing room at Brown University, and later to assist her father with his business, Kirkpatrick Co.

Estelle met her husband, Bart Reagan, a native of Arlington, in Oak Bluffs. They married in 1953, raising a family of six children in East Providence, R.I., while spending summers on Martha's Vineyard, staying at the Top Knot, their summer residence on Ocean Park. After enjoying over 20 summers at the Top Knot, Stelle and Bart purchased the Attleboro House in 1982 from her mother's estate, and together they became the new innkeepers. After Bart's death in 1991, daughter Suzanne assisted Estelle, and together they kept the doors of the inn open to all: newcomers, returning guests, friends, and family alike.

Family meant everything to Estelle. She loved her children: Janet, William, Casey, Robert, and John Reagan, and Suzanne (Reagan) Pond. She was an adoring Gram to 14 grandchildren: Lesliann, William, Jacqueline, and Hayley Panek; Rachel Reagan Jones, and William, Felix, Victoria, Samantha, Ellen, and John Reagan; Lauren and Andrea Metell; and the late Jason Reagan. Eight great-grandchildren were lucky enough to know their Great-Gram: Julia, Evalyn, William, Robbie, Jaelynn, Caiden, Teddy, and Charlie. She was the mother-in-law of Wendy Traenkle Reagan, Lisa McGowan Reagan, and Stephan Pond. She leaves several nieces and nephews, including Nancy Gardner, Ray Farland, and Lucinda and David Flint. She was the aunt of the late Jack Palangio. She was predeceased by her sisters, Esther M. Farland and Claire E. Palangio.



Ronald Edward Schupner

February 1951 - November 2022



Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Ronald Edward Schupner, 71, of Smithfield, VA, passed away November 27, 2022. He leaves a legacy of a lifetime of steadfast love for and devoted service to his family and country.

Ron was born Feb. 25, 1951, in Nyack, New York, to Raymond L. and Elizabeth (Wadsworth) Schupner. Ron grew up helping on his grandfather's chicken farm and causing mischief with his three brothers, Raymond, John, and James. He graduated from Nyack High School in 1969 and Pennsylvania Military College in 1973, after which he was commissioned into the United States Army.

Ron served his country for 20 years as an aviation officer and test pilot, flying CH-47 Chinooks. He completed a tour of duty in Germany and three tours in South Korea with the 213 th Aviation Company (Blackcats). Ron was also stationed at Fort Rucker, AL; Forts Eustis and Lee, VA; Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, GA (132 nd Aviation); and Fort Leavenworth, KS. He earned master's degrees from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth (1986) and Florida Institute of Technology (1987).

During his final tour in Korea, as Company Commander of the Blackcats, Ron coordinated aviation support, including antiterrorism, for the 1988 Seoul Olympics. This included coordinating the airdrop and flying the lead Chinook for the Rings Over Seoul skydiving demonstration during the Opening Ceremony (Time Magazine's photo of the year). He considered this his proudest professional accomplishment and was awarded an Olympic medal from the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee for extraordinary support.

Ron earned a third master's degree, in Adult Education, from Kansas State University in 1993. He worked in management at Sprint for 10 years, then as a consultant at Right Management in Kansas City.

After Ron retired fully in 2010, he devoted himself to his family. He showed his great love for them by taking over the kitchen and cooking family and holiday dinners (including Thanksgiving 2022, just before his passing), cultivating his vegetable and financial gardens, spending time at his beloved family cottage on Martha's Vineyard, outmaneuvering his children for triple-word-score squares in Scrabble, and dispensing sage life advice to them.

Ron is survived by his wife, Colette Schupner; son, Brent Schupner; daughter and son-in-law, Tara and Seth Congdon; and granddaughters Aislin Skye and Brighe Isla. He is also survived by his brother John Schupner, sister-in-law, Kathleen, sister-in-law Tracy Nelms (Johnny); three nephews; and five nieces. He was predeceased by his parents and two brothers, Raymond and James.



Shirley San Soucie

March 1933 - April 2023

Shirley San Soucie, a beloved grandmother and cherished friend, died on April 5. She was 90.

She was born on March 29, 1933 in Maplewood, N.J. After graduating from high school, she went to La Salle University, where she majored in nutrition. She worked as a dietitian at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston. She was known for her friendly, compassionate, and helpful personality.

As a child, Shirley spent her summers on Martha's Vineyard in the Campground. Her parents, Melvin and Elizabeth Gibbons were very active in the life of the Campmeeting. This tradition continued for generations, bringing her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to the Island for many years.

Later in life, she lived on the Vineyard year-round and worked as a private caretaker. Her friendly nature and generous compassion touched the lives of countless individuals. She was always eager to lend a helping hand to those in need and to brighten the day of anyone around her. Her delicious baked goods brought joy to the hearts of many during her days working at the Black Dog Bakery and selling her goods at local flea markets. This helped her form lasting connections with friends and neighbors.



Allan Sutherland Tait

February 1931 - July 2022



Allan Sutherland Tait passed on July 13, 2022 at the age of 91. Allan was a second generation MVCMA campground of 72 Years.

Allan's parents Donald and Nettie Tait came to the MVCMA in the late 1940's. They purchased the cottage at 9 Bayliss Ave in 1950 naming it in honor of their birthplace, the Orkney Islands of Scotland. In 1952 Allan brought his Bates college sweetheart and future wife Lois Brodin to the cottage. Allan served in the Korean War then he and Lois settled in Belmont, MA to raise their three children: Diane, David and Lauren. Allan worked for his father's building firm, Donald S. Tait Inc, as a construction estimator. Allan loved to tinker and always had many lists of things to do. The Orkney cottage certainly provided much to keep him busy. Allan and Lois assumed the cottage in 1968. The family would spend the month of August at the cottage but Allan, being now a sole proprietor could only spend weekends catching the Friday noon Queen and leaving Monday on the 11:05 am Queen. When he came down this meant flying horses, Giordano's and ice cream though after us kids went to bed, we could usually smell a late night run to Nick's for Allan's favorite fried clams. Family friends Nancy and Ernie Fay, joined us in their camper for a few summers before they decided to buy their own cottage. There were many happy times between us all in the MVCMA.

In January 1978, Lois suddenly passed. Allan was introduced through Nancy Fay to Annabelle Williamson and they married in September 1981. Allan's children then married welcoming Michael, Linda and Ron to the family and soon grandchildren arrived. Allan and Annabelle loved having them at the cottage and Allan particularly loved driving them in their vintage '57 Buick Skylark Convertible with the top down. In 1999, they sold the Orkney cottage to Allan's daughter Diane and her husband Michael Regan. They purchased the cottage at 66 Trinity Park. It was a larger cottage and had baseboard heat. Allan, who loved warm weather enjoyed his State beach time listening to WBZ radio and reading the daily Boston Globe and Herald which he faithfully walked up and got every morning. He enjoyed his time on the Vineyard, and was usually present at community sings and church services.

In Belmont, Allan served Plymouth Congregational Church as a trustee for many years. His quiet demeanor and sound logic not only made him a remarkable father and valued church member but also the longest serving Belmont Lions Club member, 62 years. Allan served the Belmont Lions Club for many years as Secretary as well as President.

Allan's consistent loving devotion to his family as well as his dedication to service, faith and country stands as an example not only for his family but to all that knew him.



*Annabelle Williamson
Tait*

December 1937 - April 2023

Annabelle Williamson Tait passed on April 17, 2023 at the age of 85 years.

Annabelle was the wife of the late Allan Sutherland Tait.

Annabelle was a lifelong resident of Belmont, MA. As a child her family enjoyed spending summers in Maine and later at a second home in Marblehead, MA.

Annabelle had three siblings, her sister Lois and brothers Alan and Leslie. Alan passed away as a child. While her brother and sister married and had families, Annabelle became a career woman, working as an administrative assistant in a Cambridge consulting firm. Annabelle loved her nieces and nephews. When her brother Leslie passed and then his wife suddenly passed she became guardian of their 2 minor children, Stephen and Jenifer and advisor to their brothers David and Scott who were of age. She quit her job and tried to keep this family who had suffered so much together.

During this time, she met Allan Sutherland Tait through a mutual friend, Nancy Fay. Allan, a recent widower, had three children, Diane, David and Lauren. Allan and Annabelle were married in Sept. 1981 and Annabelle, Stephen and Jenifer moved into Allan's family home that had been renovated for Stephen and Jen to have their own living space. It is always difficult to blend a family but Allan and Annabelle worked hard to make it work.

Annabelle's first trip to the Orkney MVCMA cottage was May 25, 1980. Having vacationed by the cliffs of Marblehead, Annabelle enjoyed the Vineyard beaches with warm water and gentle waves. Annabelle had meticulous style and vision with home decorating and her personal fashion. She decorated the Orkney cottage beautifully with white carpet and warm colors, enhancing its coziness.

In 1999 Allan and Annabelle sold the Orkney cottage and purchased 66 Trinity Ave. Stephen and Jen and Allan's children had married and they wanted a place where they all could visit. Allan's grandchildren: Allison, Brian, Tim and Joe and Stephen and Jen's children: Brendan, Brian, Meghan and Sam enjoyed many vineyard themed Christmas presents such as scooters for going round the tabernacle, and Black Dog or Vineyard Vines clothing. Allan and Annabelle greatly enjoyed going out to eat at many of the Vineyard restaurants including The Ocean View, The Square Rigger, The Grill and Sweet Life. They also took annual trips to Maine in September, Daniel Webster Inn in December and other bed and breakfasts during the year. Annabelle enjoyed having her family and family friends visit and recently warmly welcomed Allison and Brian's fiancés, Danny and Briana to the cottage. She will be remembered for her inviting porch of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and her enjoyment of living life at its best.



Herbert Wass

July 1932 - October 2022



Herbert F. Wass of Oak Bluffs and Topsfield, MA, died on Oct. 24 at the family cottage in the Campground. He was 90.

True to the spirit of the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association's Community Sing, he died shortly after his wife and daughters sang "Sing Your Way Home." Although Herb didn't attend the Sings, he loved hearing his daughters and, later, his grandchildren, chorusing their way home. He was born in Fort Wayne, Ind, where his writing and entrepreneurial spirit first ignited, writing and selling a newspaper for a nickel. While at Earlham College he managed to woo Dorothy Teal and write sports and news for the Richmond Palladium. He worked in the cafeteria, a funeral parlor and as a referee.

After graduation he had to choose between scholarships in journalism or economics. Although he chose economics, he was a lifelong letter writer known for his witticisms and infamous Christmas letters in which did not hold back on liberal politics.

Herb was a retired vice president and secretary of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. He had previously taught economics at Babson College, University of Vermont, The City College of New York, and Muskingum College in Ohio. Thanks to the artist William Blakesley, a Muskingum colleague, the Wassses were introduced to the Vineyard as assistant house parents at the youth hostel. In 1963 they bought a gingerbread cottage in the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association — the one closest to the Oak Bluffs fire department engine number four back in the day. Herb once chased off boys flirting with a daughter's friend, when he bound up in a Superman T-shirt. In later years he had the T-shirt gift-wrapped, and he presented it to his wife Dorothy at an anniversary dinner, pronouncing her the real superhero in the family.

Herb is survived by his wife Dorothy; daughters Peggy Sturdivant and her spouse Martin Tollefson, and Gretchen Rehak and her spouse Walter Rehak; and grandchildren Emily, Jonah, Sarah, and Grace. He is also survived by his older sister Nancy Robertson, her husband Kenneth and their children; and the three daughters of his late sister Mary Ellen Osborne, all of whom were his favorite niece.



Douglas West

September 1945 - December 2022



Douglas West, a year round resident of Martha's Vineyard since 2017, died peacefully surrounded by his family on Dec. 16 in Falmouth. He was 77. He first came to the Island in 1952 at the invitation of Phil and Anita Buddington, whom his mother had met at her first post-college job. He came every year thereafter, staying with the Buddingtons until 1960, when his parents bought Reunion, an 1869 gingerbread cottage at 4 Forest Circle in the Campground. His granddaughter Grace is the fourth generation of Wests to make Reunion her summer home.

He was born September 24, 1945, in Bellaire, Ohio. He graduated from Michigan State University with a B.A. in pre-law and played cornet in the marching band.

He graduated cum laude from the Detroit College of Law (now Michigan State University College of Law). He was as a clerk to the Hon. Judge Ralph Freeman of the U.S. District Court, who, until Doug's last day, sat on his shoulder as the good angel consulted for the right course of action. He then joined Ford Motor Company's Office of General Counsel.

He was an executive on loan as chief executive officer and chief operating officer of the U.S. Pavilion at Aichi World Expo 2005, a public-private partnership with the U.S. Department of State in Japan, where he financed, staffed, designed, built, operated, and closed the pavilion operation, hosting more than one million visitors during its six-month term. He and his wife Irene lived in Japan for eight months. In retirement he was commodore of the Balboa Yacht Club in Newport Beach, CA, and an avid yachtsman aboard his Tiara, named Islander after the much-loved ferry that first brought him to Martha's Vineyard.

On the Vineyard he was a director of the Martha's Vineyard Campmeeting Association, a member of the Chilmark Conservation Committee, vice chair of the Vineyard Conservation Society, and a director of VOLF, now known as Vineyard Community Lands. He was passionate about saving open space on the Vineyard. He loved and celebrated his diverse family and was proud to be part of an African American, Danish, Mexican, Afghan, Nigerian, and Filipino family. He was predeceased by his parents Melvin and Jane West, and his brother Thomas Gregory West.

Doug is survived by his wife of 36 years, Irene Ziebarth, stepson Rob Ziebarth and his wife Sadia Raoufi, daughter Michelle Wood and her husband Chris Wood, son Doug DelVigna, daughter Erika West and her husband Azubike Kalu Nwivu Jr, granddaughters Macy and Sally Wood and Grace Kelechi West Kalu-Nwivu, sister in law Darcie West, nephew Brian West and his wife Stephanie West, niece Mallory Carroll and her husband Jamie Carroll, grandnephews Matthew and Micah West and Max and Lee Carroll, and grandniece Jane West.