

John J. Fitzhenry

Aug 13, 2018



John James Fitzhenry of Durham, N.H. and formerly of Foxboro passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Aug. 1, with his sons and daughter near his side.

He was a selfless and loving father, grandfather, and husband. He was born in Everett, and spent his early years in East Hartford, Conn., surviving the Hartford Circus Fire along with his brother, Paul, and father Robert Emmet Fitzhenry, who had taken them that day.

His father and mother, Mary Helena Fitzhenry, later moved the family back to Massachusetts, raising their five children in Lynn, where John graduated St. Mary's Boys High School in 1957 and where he married Lynn native Maureen Crighton 10 years later.

John grew up with pictures of horses on his walls and model airplanes in his room. He did not live vicariously, he lived his ambitions, working at stables and jumping horses through his teens, before becoming a pilot.

He rode to trophies at the Deerfield Fair and others circa 1956, entered the Air Force upon graduating Northeastern University in 1962, piloted B-52s for the Strategic Air Command, and flew more than 300 combat missions in Vietnam as forward air controller COVEY21. He retired as a Captain from U.S. Airways in 1999.

John and Maureen started their family after his Vietnam tour ended. They raised their sons and daughters in Foxboro, moving "home" to the North Shore as retirement neared and their oldest children graduated college. They lived in Marblehead for many years, before finally settling in Durham to be near their grandchildren there and to have space for family gatherings.

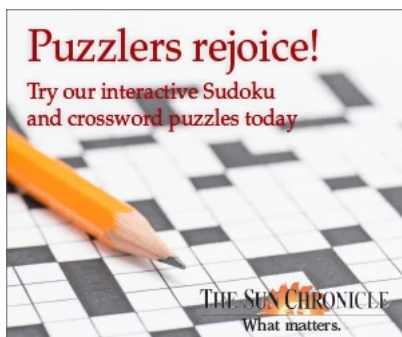
John's greatest fulfillment, joy, and pride in his life's achievements came when his kids and grandkids were with him, whether at his home, on a ski slope, or out for a simple dinner.

Maureen and John were married for 49 years. She passed in 2016. Their daughter, Sharon Fitzhenry, passed in 2009. He was predeceased by his brother, Paul Fitzhenry, and sister, Roberta Kiley.

John's daughter Paula Fitzhenry of Durham, and sons David Fitzhenry of Weston and Robert Fitzhenry of Durham, N.H. survive him. Also carrying his graced spirit on in the world are his grandchildren Connor, Sean, Jackson, Nolan, Maggie, and Grey; his daughters-in-law Michelle and Jill; his brother George; and his sister Mary Daniels.

A memorial mass will be held Friday, Aug. 24, 2018, at 11 a.m. at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 6 Madbury Rd., Durham, N.H., followed by a reception at the Three Chimneys Inn, 17 Newmarket Road, Durham, N.H.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in John's memory to Friends in Action, PO 866, Durham, NH 03824



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