



## Obituary for Robert W. Knight

Robert Westford Knight of Holden, MA died on April 2, 2018 at age 93. He is survived by his beloved wife, Joanne Root; his daughter, Pamela Wetherbee of Dover, MA; his son, Kendall Knight of Grafton, MA; four grandchildren, Christopher Wetherbee (wife Margaret Wetherbee) of Wyckoff, NJ, Lauren Wetherbee (husband Jonathan Williams) of Rutland, MA, Alec Knight of Ivins, UT, and Erin Knight of Bozeman, MT. He also leaves two great-grandchildren, Eloise and Oliver Wetherbee, and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife of 66 years, Constance (Northrop), and his three sisters, Wilma Perrin, Irma Longfellow, and Lorraine Coomber.

Robert was born in Medfield, MA in 1925, the son of Arthur and Grace (Tibbetts) Knight. He served in the US Navy as a radioman from 1943-1946 aboard the USS Boston, a heavy cruiser, in the Pacific. His ship was involved in several major engagements including the Iwo Jima invasion and was in Tokyo Bay at the signing of the Japanese surrender. He remained an active member of the USS Boston reunion committee until his death.

After returning from his service, he worked in his father's business, Medfield Custom Laundry, then moved to Newington, CT, in 1961 as a salesman for Radio Frequency Co. of Medfield. He started his own business, Accurate Brazing Co., in 1963, and in 1993, he sold the business and retired. With the kids grown, he and Connie enjoyed traveling, especially to Antigua, where they bought a November time-share and made dear friends from near and far.

He was involved with the Boy Scouts, Troop 347 in Newington for several years and served for 35 years on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army, New Britain, CT, including three terms as Chairman.

After moving to the Overlook Community in Charlton, MA in 2007 to be closer to his children, he served on numerous committees and was an active participant in many groups, including the Overlook Chorus, the play-reading group and the spiritual circle. In 2012 he joined Second Church of Christ, Scientist in Worcester, MA, where he served as Treasurer, and where he met his second wife, Joanne. They were married in 2015. Both were active church members. They enjoyed trips to Hawaii; Antigua; Florida; Chagrin Falls, Ohio; and Principia's Lifelong Learning sessions in New England and Elsau, Illinois. Spending time at their Lake House in the Berkshires was a favorite activity. Bob quipped that he was growing "long hair" since they regularly attended New York Philharmonic concerts with his son-in-law Marshal.

Bob was devoted to his family, and was seen as the kind, witty patriarch and anchor of his extended family. He loved technology, and was an early adopter of computers, smartphones, and gadgets of any kind. He also loved cars and driving, starting with an old Model T. His road trips, continuing up until the week before he died, were legendary.

His childhood home was full of music, and he could pick up almost any instrument and play it. One of his prized possessions as a sailor was his accordion, which somehow disappeared as he was being transported home at the end of the war. He was never bored, had a wide-ranging interest in many subjects, and until the day he died, was always looking forward to the next adventure. He loved to help others, and was happy when he could repair a broken chair, assemble his son's grill, install wiring in his daughter's cottage, run errands for his granddaughter as she prepared for her wedding. He loved to be near the water, as befits a Navy man, and spent many happy times at his parents' summer home on Peak's Island, his daughter's home on Vinalhaven, ME, and, most recently, at his wife's home on Otis Reservoir in the Berkshires. Most of all, he loved life and lived it to the fullest during his 93 years.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Robert's memory to the Salvation Army, 78 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06050, or to the charity of your choice. A graveside service will be held at the Vine Lake Cemetery in Medfield, MA on Friday, April 20 at 11:00 AM, followed by a celebration of his life and a luncheon at The Ice House at Kingsbury in Medfield.