



Michael A. Townsend

September 7, 1943 ~ January 15, 2026 (age 82)

Michael Townsend Obituary

Michael Ardean Townsend, 82, a longtime resident of the North Berwick area, passed away on January 15, 2026.

Michael was born on September 7, 1943, in Farmington, Maine, to Ardean and Harriet (Nile) Townsend of Stratton, Maine.

He proudly served in the United States Navy as a Gunner's Mate aboard the USS Boston. In his younger years, Michael was an avid outdoorsman and, for a time, a Maine Guide in the Stratton area. He had many stories from those days, often told with humor and a twinkle in his eye. Michael was never one to punch a clock and spent most of his life working outdoors.

Over the years, he made his living in many ways. Cutting wood in the western Maine mountains, managing a dairy farm in Massachusetts, and later running his own painting and roofing business on Cape Cod. He had a deep appreciation for the simple things in life. He loved sitting on his porch watching hummingbirds dart around the feeders he kept filled, and he took special joy in the bluebirds he carefully supplied with food year after year. His green thumb also produced the most beautiful zinnias, which brightened his gardens and brought him quiet satisfaction.

Michael was known for his love of gardening and fruit trees and was always eager to share his peaches, pears, and apples with family and friends. One of his favorite memories was planting his first seed at the age of seven or eight. Watching it sprout filled him with amazement. A sense of wonder he carried with him for the rest of his life, as he grew many remarkable gardens over the years. He raised greenhouse tomatoes for local farmers markets and vegetable stands and at one point had as many as 5,000 tomato plants growing at a time. He also loved tending his beehives and could sit for hours simply watching them work.

Michael was always raising some variety of chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys for food and eggs, and as with his vegetables and fruit, he took great pleasure in sharing with others. He always had a dog or two for companionship, but his bird dogs Shorty, Moochie, and KitKat held a special place in his heart and took a little piece of it with them when they left.

Michael was a proud member of Mount Olivet Lodge in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and was honored to be a Freemason.

He was predeceased by his parents, Ardean and Harriet, his twin sisters, Joan and Jean, and his nephews Ricky Michael Bean and Scott Ellis.

He is survived by his children: Luke (Christina), Laura (Phil), Tracy, Julie (Michael), and Martin (Katie); his seven grandchildren, Emily (Peter), Dean (Monique), Audrey, Katie, Ella, Lilli, and Jackson; and his three great-grandsons, Theo, Maxwell, and Kayson. All of whom he was immensely proud of. He is also survived by his sisters Betty (Jeff) and his baby sister Peggy (Mike). Michael had many nieces and nephews, all of whom have stories of Uncle Mike's shenanigans from their teenage years. He was especially fond of his many great-nieces and great-nephews and their children, many of whom made a point of staying in touch and bringing their children to visit whenever possible.