



Robert Carl Clayton

November 14, 1936 - January 19, 2025

Robert Carl Clayton, 88, of Florence, MA passed away on January 19, 2025, at the Cooley Dickinson Hospital. He was born in Boston, MA on November 14, 1936, to the late Carl and Julia Clayton.

He was a graduate of Watertown High School, class of 1964. Before graduating, he belonged to the Sea Scouts and cruised to Maine in an open, motorized Navy lifeboat.

He was a US Air Force Veteran. Bob declined to take over his father's auto glass business on Mt. Auburn Street in Watertown. Instead, he apprenticed as a machinist at Raytheon. When he left Raytheon; he was a tool and die-maker.

While in high school and later, he continued his interest in customizing motorcycles; one being a show winner. Bob loved the open road. At eighteen years old, he drove to Florida and back on his Triumph motorcycle, and two years later, in his MGA Roadster, to Texas to visit his sister Barbara and her family.

Bob took a few flying lessons but decided he would rather jump from airplanes then fly them. After 400 jumps-some from 10,000 feet-his new wife, Jane, caused him to reconsider that risky adventure.

In his spare time, he worked as a gunsmith in his basement workshop, mounting telescopes and making repairs. He was an avid reader of history-everything from the Greeks to World War II.

Spending vacations with Jane at her family's home in Farham, UK, Bob fell in

love with everything British.

“When I met Jane, I left childish things behind and became a farmer,” he said, joking about working in his wife’s garden. Bob you will be greatly missed by all who knew you!

Bob is survived by his niece, Kate Grimmett and her children, Jack, and Alice of Cornwall, UK, and his good friends Fred Greenwood and Beth Altimari.

He was predeceased by his wife Jane (Over) Clayton, who passed away February 2, 2023.

All services will be private and under the direction of Drozdal Funeral Home, 120 Damon Rd., Northampton, MA 01060.

Tribute Wall

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