



George H. Knittel

February 23, 1934 - March 12, 2022

SHIRLEY: George H. Knittel, 88, former long-time Shirley resident, died Saturday, March 12, 2022 at the home of his daughter in Westminster.

George leaves his children, Bridget Atkinson of Ashburn, VA, James Knittel of Groton, Maggie Porpora of Westminster, Matthew Knittel, of Mechanicsburg, PA and Timothy Knittel of Groton.

George was predeceased by his wife, Mary. C. (O'Shea) Knittel in February of last year and, many years ago, his son, George Michael Knittel. They celebrated 61 years of marriage together.

George was born in Brooklyn, NY, February 23, 1934, a son of George and Margaret Anna Knittel (Machold) and was educated at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute where he received his PhD degree in electrical engineering. He has resided in Shirley for nearly 50 years. Post WWII George served his country in the United States Army in Germany.

After teaching briefly at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, George went to work for MIT- Lincoln Laboratories in Lexington, retiring in 2000.

George was a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and had served on the Shirley School Committee and for many years served

as the Shirley Town Moderator. He was a licensed airplane pilot and enjoyed working in his garden. When you passed the Shirley Center house George was always out in the yard working and ready to talk or give someone directions. His flowers in his front garden were the envy of all – red tulips, mums, petunias. He attended St. Anthony's Church in Shirley where he served as a lector and was also involved with Pepperell Christian Fellowship.

George was a spiritual rock to his family. He believed that God had a place and purpose in all of our lives and he lived it. He shared his message with all. He loved to hike, travel, and spend time with family. Places he liked to visit were Kwajalein, Moosehead Lake, road trips out west, Delaware beaches and around the world with Mary.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend visiting hours on Saturday, March 19, 2022 from 2-5 PM at Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Road, (Rte. 2A) Ayer.

George will be privately laid to rest at Shirley Center Cemetery in Shirley in the spring.

Donations can be made to St Jude' Children's Hospital to support cancer research and support for families.

For directions or to place an online condolence, please visit www.andersonfuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Center Cemetery

Brown Rd.
Shirley, MA 01464

Previous Events

Calling Hours

MAR **19**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Ayer
25 Fitchburg Road ~ Route 2A
Ayer, MA 01432
(978) 772-2355

Tribute Wall

Jl

“ To Bridget, James, Maggie, Matthew, and Timothy, I am so sorry to hear about George. The last time I saw him was at my 50th wedding anniversary. I always enjoyed talking to him. He was always interested in how you were doing. I will keep him in my prayers. Your cousin, Joe Ivers

Joseph Ivers - March 19, 2022 at 02:23 PM



“ White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of George H. Knittel.



March 18, 2022 at 12:48 PM

TR

“ I have always respected George. He always listened. Attention is a powerful, and loving thing. I last saw him at Emerson when I was getting blood drawn, I said hello, we spoke about Shirley, wished each other well. George will shine on forever.

Traicy - March 17, 2022 at 08:54 PM

KJ

“ To the Knittle Family and all who knew George,

It was a pleasure and a blessing to have known George. He was the most organized person I have ever known. I don't think he ever had a paper clip out of place. From home, to his yard, to his vegetable and flower gardens, he was organized! BUT, what stands out to me MOST was his faith in Jesus Christ and his love and dedication to his family.

I was on his emailing list for the last few years. In "narrative 85", May 2020, he mentioned he had been contending with cancer for 19 months. The net result of his suffering convinced him to warn people of their eternal reality. George wrote, "I developed a compassion for people in Hell and a sorrow that most of them had no idea, while on earth, of what lay ahead of them without salvation through Jesus Christ. They had not been warned. Nearly all Christians, including pastors, do not speak about hell". For this purpose he gave out many copies of a book, "23 Minutes in Hell" by Bill Wiese.

George has eternal life. It started when he accepted Jesus as his Savior.

Kenneth W, (Bill) Wood Jr.

Kenneth W.(Bill) Wood Jr. - March 17, 2022 at 02:20 PM

NA

“ *To the Knittel Family,*

Please accept my deepest condolences on the loss of George. We have known each other for many years, you can not get a nicer man than George Knittel.

Know you family is in my thoughts and prayers. Keep his memories close to your heart.

*Sincerely,
Nancy Tremblay*

Nancy - March 17, 2022 at 01:04 PM

DL

“ *My sincere condolences. RIP Mr Knittel*

David Lambert - March 16, 2022 at 05:33 PM

TQ

“ *Having grown up in Shirley Center and a good friend of is is son Matt it was an honor to have met the Knittel family and Mr. Knittel was a very influential person in our lives with both is wisdom and religious views.*

It was an honor to know you and will see you in the future.

Thomas Quigley, JR

Thomas Quigley - March 15, 2022 at 06:40 PM

SC

“ When I met George, he was still the Shirley Town Moderator. One time we had a brief chat during the Farmer's Market that was held next to the house where he and Mary lived. Based on that chat, George asked me if I would volunteer for a newly opened position on the Town Finance Committee. I respectfully declined. The following year I started volunteering at the Loaves and Fishes food pantry where he and Mary were volunteering as well. Again, he asked me about submitting for membership on the FinCom and this time I accepted. Over the following years I saw George at his house or at the Farmer's Market. If I asked for advice, it was always well considered and thoughtful. I don't think he ever said an unkind word about anyone. He might think it, but never said it. George was a strong example of his faith.

Stewart Cady - March 15, 2022 at 05:16 PM

KM

“ Mr. Knittel really was legend on Kwajalein Atoll. I had the pleasure to visit in 2011 during my service in the Army and when I asked if anyone knew of him they all responded with a, " Who doesn't know of him". Many fond memories during high school stopping by to visit Matt and Mr. Knittel telling us boys to be careful and of course we were.
RIP Mr. Knittel.

Kevin McKenna - March 15, 2022 at 04:36 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of George H. Knittel.



March 15, 2022 at 03:15 PM

DC

“ *The last time I saw George was just before they sold the house. He was ready to move on for his wife's sake and told me he had wonderful, incredible children whom always had their parents best interest in mind. This is so sad for me as well because he spoke so highly of my husband Graham Claydon who died nine years ago. 123 Great Road. It was an honor knowing him.*

Dorothy Claydon - March 14, 2022 at 08:11 PM