



Peter K. Johnston

December 14, 2017

Peter was born on June 18, 1928, on Mission Hill in Boston. Peter grew up on a farm in Harvard and when he married, settled in Ayer and raised his family.

A proud father and Papa, he is survived by his six children – Kevin, and his wife Susan, Karen, and her husband Theodore, Thomas, and his wife Sharon, Colleen, and her husband Peter, Timothy, and his wife Cheryl, and Keith, his 12 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

Peter was a hard working man who held many jobs. In his early years, he worked on the Griffin Family farm, at the Cream Crest dairy, at the First National Store, and delivered produce. He then went to work for the U.S. Postal Service delivering mail to the good people of Ayer and Fort Devens for over twenty-five years. Peter then embarked on a second career at the Ayer Housing Authority, from which he later retired. For forty years, he spent countless hours mowing grass and digging graves at St. Mary's Cemetery and responding to calls as a volunteer firefighter, retiring as a Deputy Chief of the Ayer Fire Department. In his spare time, he volunteered on many town boards.

Peter proudly served his country, along side his twin brother Paul, in the United States Army Transportation Corps during the Korean Conflict from 1950 to 1952, and was stationed in the Azore Islands. He was passionate

about the Town of Ayer, St. Mary's Church, the Ayer Fire Department, Boy Scout Troop 3, and the Knights of Columbus.

Peter enjoyed listening to all types of music. While residing at Nashoba Park he made sure he was present for all musical activities.

We were given a gift in Peter- his smile, his wink, the smell of vanilla pipe tobacco, his joyful life. His undying legacy will be the lessons he taught us- surround yourself with family, dedicate yourself to your faith, love your country, sing an Irish jingle, play the tambourine, savor a good Manhattan, and find a good dance partner.

See you in church...if the windows are clean.

Tribute Wall

CG

“ *This is exactly what I was looking for*

<http://www.horny4u.club>

Coleen Gallipeau - April 08, 2018 at 07:41 AM

AP

“ *We were so sorry to hear of Peter's passing. He was such a gentle and loving man with a heart of gold. He will be truly missed forever. Our condolences to the family, friends and all who knew him
Al and Pam*

Albert Pettirossi - December 27, 2017 at 10:00 AM

FR

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about your loss and would like to extend my condolences .
2 Corinthians 1;3:4. 3.Praised be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort,4. Who comforts us in all our trials, so that we may be able to comfort others, in any sort of trial with the comfort we receive from God.*

Friend - December 21, 2017 at 07:59 PM

CL

“ *My deepest condolences to the Johnston family, Pete was a great guy to deal with and friends with my Grandparents The Butlers, I my self had great dealing and friend ship with Pete when i was a volunteer for the Ayer Fire Dept Pete will be dearly missed by all but always remembered.*

Craig & Becky Lauderback - December 19, 2017 at 10:44 PM

CF

“ *My deepest condolences to the Johnston family. Pete was the epitome of a true gentleman and someone who instilled ethics, integrity, service, and love of country in his family. I hope your memories of him provide comfort in the days ahead.*

Cindy Guthrie Fischer - December 19, 2017 at 10:33 PM

KF

“ *My sincere condolences to the Johnston family. Pete will always be remembered as one of the great ones--he contributed so much to the town of Ayer. Rest in peace Sir*

Kathie Carlson Feltus - December 19, 2017 at 09:35 PM

LM

“ *To a Good friend the keeper of Saint Marys see ya soon.*

Lindsey Mullan - December 19, 2017 at 08:35 PM

PT

“ *Wonderful, giving man! Sweet dreams, Pete!*

Patti Thorsen - December 19, 2017 at 06:10 PM

PC

“ *Johnston family;*

My sincere condolences to all of Pete's family. I knew he and Cathy very well and enjoyed their company on many occasions. They also helped to provide emotional support during some difficult times in the loss of family members. We worked together on many occasions involving St Mary's. I never saw him in a bad mood. A life lesson we should all learn. I am sure he left many wonderful memories that will help get you through this difficult time.

God Speed.

Patricia Casavecchia - December 19, 2017 at 01:22 PM

DS

“ *My condolences to all of the Johnston family in the loss of your loved one*

Denise Stepleton - December 19, 2017 at 12:47 PM

DF

“ *Sorry for your loss Johnston Family. His legacy lives on in each of you and all the things he did for Ayer.*

Donna & Mike Ferreira - December 19, 2017 at 12:35 AM

TF

“ *So sorry the loss of Peter. He will be missed*

The Drew Family - December 18, 2017 at 03:05 PM

CB

“ I had the privilege and pleasure of knowing Peter, he was such a gentleman with great dignity and love for his family and his community. He had a zest for life that he shared with anyone who knew him. I shared many afternoons singing and dancing and watching him enjoy life! We had many conversations, and shared many laughs together and I will always remember him with warmth and admiration. My sympathy goes to his most dedicated family who loved him because he was an amazing man! Any person who knew him was blessed.

Carol Bakey - December 18, 2017 at 02:24 PM

KS

“ RIP Peter.....Miss your smiling face, dancing through the kitchen, BBQ, making home made ice cream, boxers, taste of Manhattan close by.....seems like just last week, but the past plays tricks on us all. None the less I know they were good times and so much a part of my early life.

Kevin J. Sullivan - December 17, 2017 at 04:53 PM

BP

“ Lived across the street for many years, knew all the family we'll. Great man, always the kindest gentleman. My deepest sympathies to all the kids.

Brian Paige - December 17, 2017 at 04:35 PM

KM

“ Peter was a man with a big heart. He was loyal and dedicated to the Ayer Housing Authority, where he treated the Authority as his second home and the residents an extension of his family. He was loved by all. Although he was retired for a number of years, he spent almost 20 years with the Housing Authority. Some residents remember his smiling face and his greeting, "What can I do for you to make your life better?" He was truly a gentleman and a friend.

Ken Martin - December 17, 2017 at 04:09 PM

MP

“ I am so very sorry to hear of your passing, Uncle Peter (you and Paul were always uncle to me from the Harvard days). You will always make me smile when I think of you... You and Cathy will be dancing in heaven with Uncle Paul and Aunt Dot...hugs to your family from an old Ayer/Harvard friend.

Malcolm and Jean Perkins - December 17, 2017 at 02:34 PM

TM

“ Kevin, so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Tom & D'Arcy

Tom & D'Arcy McCarthy - December 17, 2017 at 12:23 PM

MP

“ Pete,

I am grateful to have known YOU & the entire family throughout my life! I am happy that WE WERE ABLE TO SPEND a little time with each other over the past month at Nashoba Park! I am happy that you & Jon got to hook up during your last days!

I can never repay yoh for the love ‘ generosity that you & Kathy payed to my family on my behalf when I was so sick 47 years ago! I will NEVER GORGET YOU!!! ❤️

Mary Ann Pender Prince - December 17, 2017 at 10:24 AM

AD

“ *In our Irish tradition a life is to be celebrated. In Pete’s case there will be a parade all the way to heaven. The description of Pete as the richest man in the world was written by someone who not only knew him but understood him. St Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit Community, wrote a prayer called “Surrender”. In that prayer Ignatius pleads, “that the only thing he has to offer is My Love and My All”. Pete lived that with reckless abandon and mercifully left those truly remarkable traits with his family as one of the greatest legacies of the Town of Ayer. A remarkable human being and my first words to the bearer of the sad news was, “He is going straight to heaven”.*

Arthur F. Eddy, D.M.D. - December 16, 2017 at 06:24 PM

DL

“ *Pete will be missed by so many! Our sympathy to all of you.*

Dean and Margaret Little - December 16, 2017 at 03:08 PM

WA

“ Our sincere condolences to the entire Johnson family. May your memories be good ones.

William and Rosanne Allen - December 16, 2017 at 02:49 PM

MF

“ Please accept our most sincerest condolences. Our prayers are with you and your family. May God grant your family strength and serenity through this difficult moment your family is enduring. God has promised us that we will soon be reunited with our loved one. "There is going to be a resurrection," the Bible confirms at Acts 24:15. "Do not be amazed at this," Jesus assures us, "for the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out"-John 5:28,29

Magallon family - December 16, 2017 at 10:14 AM

JH

“ From the Ernst family, our deepest condolences. He was a good person. He will be missed.

Joan Ernst Howard - December 16, 2017 at 09:37 AM

BG

“ Pete was truly like the Jimmy Stewart character in the movie "It's a Wonderful Life", Ayer, and the world is a much better place, having known Pete. To know even one life has breathed easier because PETE lived, is to have succeeded. Pete, truly was the "richest and most successful " man in town.

Bobby Gardner - December 16, 2017 at 09:15 AM

ST

“ The first time I met Mr Johnson I was wearing a shirt with my family's co. logo on it. It was 15 yrs. ago and my Dad had passed away years before - the first thing he said was "Do you Know Ernie Tavilla?". Well I sure did - my amazing Dad. Now they are both resting in God's arms. My thoughts & prayers are with his loving family.

sonya tavilla - December 16, 2017 at 08:53 AM

KH

“ To the family of Mr. Johnston,
I am sincerely sorry to read of the loss of Mr. Johnston, please accept my condolences. In this time of need, I was reminded of the promise when soon death will be swallowed up forever. But until then it is my hope your family find the strength to endure during the days ahead.- Isaiah 25:8

K Hunter - December 16, 2017 at 08:35 AM

ET

“ Mr. Johnson was our mailman, always had a smile and kind word for all. I am sorry for your loss Johnson Family.

Edward J Tessier - December 15, 2017 at 11:03 PM

BO

“ Pete was a great man and along with his bride raised a wonderful family. He loved the Town of Ayer and the Town loved him right back. He will be missed but always remembered.

Bill Oelfke - December 15, 2017 at 10:19 PM

TH

“ Farewell my friend; have a cup of campfire coffee with Beansie.

Terry Hurley - December 15, 2017 at 09:57 PM

JR

“ Sorry for your lost. Pete was a great person to know.

Jeff Ritter - December 15, 2017 at 08:43 PM

DW

“ The end of an era!!! So sorry to hear about your passing kind gent
go forward and Rest In Peace!

Dot Wicks - December 15, 2017 at 08:41 PM

JA

“ So sorry to hear of Peter's passing on. I have such warm memories
of him and enjoyed working with him many years at the lawn parties
at St Mary's Parish as well as serving on the alter with him. He was
one of the kindest of men I've known. May he rest in peace.

Jim & Vera Austin - December 15, 2017 at 08:16 PM

KK

“ Peter K. We shared many good times that I will never forget, to
include a birthday. The Town of AYER will sadly miss the most
recognized personality it ever had. Say hello to “Scoop”, Paul and
Steven in Heaven for me. My prayers are with the Johnston family.

Keith Keady - December 15, 2017 at 08:08 PM

LC

“ Our deepest sympathy to everyone! , Pete will forever have a
special place in our hearts,
He always brightened our day when we would see him and just
have time to sit and talk!
He will be missed dearly! ❤️

Larry & Deb Cole - December 15, 2017 at 07:19 PM

TF

“ So sorry to hear of Pete’s passing. Your father was a very special gentleman. He always had a smile for you and kind words. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all through this very difficult time. R.I.P. Pete from all of us at Tiny’s❤️

Tiny’s Restaurant/Mauro Family - December 15, 2017 at 06:59 PM

LB

“ I am sorry to hear of Pete's passing... when I first met him he kept me on my toes as a mailman... He was a pleasure to talk with when I did see him....

Lee Bogdan - December 15, 2017 at 05:06 PM

TC

“ May the Johnston family find comfort in all the happy memories of their Dad and "Pa". There have been many citizens of Ayer who have defined the Town, but none as beautiful as Mr. Johnston. As I sit here, I smell the aroma of that familiar tobacco. I will miss seeing Mr. Johnston on his walks. A gentleman, and a citizen of the world. Thank you for your service to our Country. Every Irish jingle I hear going forward, I will remember to dedicate in part to you Mr. Johnston. Tonight, I will celebrate your amazing life, your amazing family and savor that Manhattan.

Tobe (MacLeod) Conway - December 15, 2017 at 04:57 PM