



Raynold S. Jackson

August 9, 1940 - October 9, 2022

Townsend: Raynold S. Jackson, 82, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, October 9, 2022.

Ray was born August 19, 1940, in Ridley Park, PA. to Raynold Allen Jackson and Roberta (Pearson) Jackson.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years Jane Lois (Thorpe) Jackson; son Brian of Northborough, and daughter Heather MacNeil, her husband Glen and grandchildren Connor and Violette all of Littleton; his sister Winnie Bierman of Morrisville, PA, and brother Kenneth Jackson of Levittown, PA, and several nieces and nephews. Also, his brother-in-law James Thorpe and his family of Bensalem, PA and was predeceased by his brother-in-law John Thorpe of Manchester, PA.

He met Jane in April 1966 on the 5:09 West Trenton local commuter rail from Philadelphia - their stops being Cornwells Heights and Levittown respectively. After a marriage proposal in three months and a wedding in Bristol, PA the following April they were a one-stop couple. Employment with AT&T took them to Washington DC and in March 1969 relocated with AT&T to Ashburnham, MA. They moved to Townsend in October 1969 and have remained in the same home for 53 years.

Ray proudly served in the United States Navy aboard the submarine USS Gudgeon for five-plus years. His post-Navy and first-time full-time job were for AT&T and he had a 25-year run in telecommunications. After a three-year hiatus from the telephone environment, he reentered the labor force to work for the FAA in Nashua, NH as a field engineer in the telecommunications division retiring a second time at age 72.

We often thought his middle name was “Volunteer.” Need a helping hand? Speak up and Ray was there. He and Jane were recognized by the Friends of the Townsend Seniors for the annual Wm E May Endowment award in honor of their numerous activities in Townsend. He was a long-time member of the Council on Aging and a Troop 10 scoutmaster. He was an active member of the Congregational Church of Littleton and once a month he helped dish up the breakfasts, a former scout leader of Townsend’s Troop 10. Vacations were often combined with service projects including volunteering aboard the USS Missouri in Hawaii; thatching roofs in Williamsburg, VA, or putting thousands of flowers in mini-vases for floats in the Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena, CA. But his true passion was trails.

Telephone test equipment was replaced on weekends with hazel hoes, pick-axes, lopers, blazing tape, and just about every item needed to improve the view and footing on hiking trails from the peaks of the White Mountains to trails in Leominster and Royston, MA. He enjoyed working with the Squannacook River Rail Trail team to build the proposed bike and footpath from Townsend Center to Townsend Harbor.

A time for visiting with family members will be held on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 2 to 5 pm at the Anderson Funeral Home, 250 Main St., Townsend.

A Celebration of Ray’s life will be held at the Congregational Church of Littleton, 330 King Street, Littleton, MA on Sunday, October 16 at 1 pm.

Casual dress is suggested – trail t-shirts and/or sports-related clothing are welcome. He'd like that.

Interment will be held at a date to be determined.

The Anderson Funeral Home, 250 Main Street, Townsend is assisting the family with arrangements, for additional information or to leave an online condolence please visit their website at www.andersonfuneral.com.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

OCT **15**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Townsend
250 Main Street ~ Route 119
Townsend, MA 01469
(978) 597-2692

Funeral Service

OCT **16**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Congregational Church of Littleton
330 King Street
Littleton, MA 01460

Tribute Wall

DT

“*Raynold Jackson was my uncle by marriage. He was a kind uncle and always a gentleman. I remember a man who was a good father and a good and reliable provider for his family. I have many happy memories of holidays (shared); and sometimes just days for family get-togethers (just because- family time was important in and of itself... no holiday necessary). Many condolences for the loss of a good neighbor, friend and family member; to all who knew him, and to those who loved him. With kind regards, Diane Thorpe*

Diane Thorpe - July 19, 2023 at 12:31 PM

DF

“*I just found out about Ray's passing only yesterday. He was good man who I first met when he became Scout Master for Townsend Boy Scout Troop 10 many years ago. I have many memories of Ray and his family, and I congratulate him on a life well-lived, and I offer my thoughts and prayers for his grieving family.*



Dave Funaiole

Dave Funaiole - October 17, 2022 at 01:18 PM

JM

“*Thinking of today and wishing you God's peace and hope for tomorrow.*

Love to each and every one of you,

Joyce & Dick

Joyce H Marinel - October 16, 2022 at 10:25 AM

JM

“ I think one of the first impressions I had when I met Ray was that he was soft-spoken and comfortable with who he was. This made me feel comfortable talking with him and getting to know him.

A dozen or so years ago I was spending a few days in the hospital. Those days seemed to drag along and about the only things I had to look forward to each day were having my temperature and blood pressure taken. Everyone is busy and I didn't expect visitors but one day, Ray and Jane showed up. That was a good day.

Last time I saw Ray was at a gathering of friends and family. He showed me photos of some of the trail work he'd done recently. I think it had to do with placing rocks as stepping stones, big, flat stones, where a hiking trail crossed a brook. I pictured a long day of driving, breakfast at the Tilton (or is it, Tilt'n) Diner, and then heavy lifting. I marveled at his strength and energy and enthusiasm.

I just assumed I'd have more conversations like that in the future. ... There's a life lesson. When I heard of his passing, I wrote to one of my cousins about how Ray was such a good guy, curious, energetic, hard-working, and a strong family man. My cousin wrote back, " ... I wish I had known Ray. A very special person. Not surprising, seeing what a woman Heather has become."

I'll miss Ray and his dry, understated wit. Thanks, Ray for the example you set.

John MacNeil

John MacNeil - October 15, 2022 at 10:24 AM

MZ

“ Mike & Sue Zlogar purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of Raynold S. Jackson.



Mike & Sue Zlogar - October 15, 2022 at 08:58 AM

TD

“ He was always a great ambassador for nature and the forest. I will miss him and his opinion at the next NH trails advisory meeting.
Rest in peace
Tom DiMaggio
STAT chairman

Tom DiMaggio - October 14, 2022 at 03:07 PM

AC

“ 3 files added to the album Tribute Wall



Andy Crowley - October 13, 2022 at 12:57 PM



“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Raynold S. Jackson.



October 13, 2022 at 12:33 PM

JW

“ The sayings "life well lived" and "on his own terms" come to mind when thinking of Ray. But another characteristic made him truly unique: No one could match him for a day of hard work!

His handiwork left wonderful trails as far away as Mt. Katahdin. But right here at home in Townsend, we have him to thank for some of our finest. Not only was he a major contributor to the Squannacook River Rail Trail, but his legacy includes a network of gorgeous "Friends" trails in Willard Brook and Pearl Hill State Parks. He built the little foot path that winds through dense hemlocks near the Senior Center, which always brings a smile and makes us think of Ray.

Joan Wotkowicz and Paul Sebring

Joan Wotkowicz - October 13, 2022 at 08:35 AM

DD

“ When the waterbars of Heaven need maintenance, or the stairways need an extra special stone step, Ray will be there with his hazelhoe and crowbar...working "smarter not harder" and training others in his own unique style. I will miss our pre-workday breakfasts at the Tilton Diner. R.I P. Mr. President. Dave Dick, Trailwrights

David Dick - October 12, 2022 at 10:38 PM

LH

“ Dear Jane and family, Sending much love to all. Lisa Hunt and family.

Lisa Hunt - October 12, 2022 at 09:13 PM

KL

“ Raynold was such a kind, jovial man that I always loved talking to. We shared interest in health, poliitics, and social issues. I loved his camaraderie and spirit. I'm sorry to hear that he passed away, will miss him, and wish his family all the best. My sincere condolences.

Kathy Lynch - October 12, 2022 at 06:04 PM

VK

“ Ray was such a great volunteer over the years helping Townsend Conservation Land Trust with trail planning and maintenance on the land trust trails here in Townsend. We will miss him immensely. Our condolences to Jane and family.

Ronnie Kell and Dennis Argo



Veronica Kell - October 12, 2022 at 12:41 PM

HM

Thank you for the pictures. I often referred to my dad as "a beast" I love the show of teamwork with the iconic Kermit on his pack.

Heather MacNeil - October 12, 2022 at 01:52 PM

DS

“ Condolences to Ray's family. He was an amazing person with a big heart. So glad I got to learn trail maintenance from him. He will be greatly missed.

Dianne Sikes - October 12, 2022 at 08:30 AM

HM

My dad loved teaching people trail work and just about everything he knew. You are right....he will be missed dearly.

Heather MacNeil - October 12, 2022 at 01:54 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Wall*



Dianne Sikes - October 12, 2022 at 08:28 AM

TH

“ *Very sorry to hear this. Ray was the first person who taught my then-very-young daughters about trailwork. He spoke to them like adults and taught all three of us a ton. Always kind, always respectful. His hard work on the trails is legendary. A great guy in actions and demeanor. ❤️.*

Trish Herr - October 11, 2022 at 10:47 PM

TI

“ *So very sorry for your loss 💔
Bruce & Tuula Ingerson*

Tuula Ingerson - October 11, 2022 at 09:43 PM

BR

“ *From all of your friends at Squannacook Greenways, thank you so much for all you did to help bring about the Squannacook River Rail Trail. You made the world a better place to live in with all your great work. We miss you already, good friend!*



Bill Rideout - October 11, 2022 at 08:37 PM

KA

We love Rail Trails, whether walking or bicycling. Last Saturday when we heard that Ray was instrumental in the Squannacook Rail Trail creation, we had to walk it in his honor. Great job friend. Ray was TRULY a one of a kind man and he will be sorely missed. You definitely left this world a better place than when you found it. Rest In Peace humble servant.

Karl and Janet Anderson - October 18, 2022 at 06:04 AM

TF

“ *Jane and family, we are saddened to read of Rays passing. Always a pleasant, kind and helpful man. He was always willing to participate and educate in a variety of outdoor activities. God Bless you with wonderful memories.*
Ron and Sue

The Funaiole's - October 11, 2022 at 06:02 PM

JZ

“ The staff at NH State Parks are incredibly saddened to learn of Ray's passing. Ray was a long-standing member of Statewide Trails Advisory Committee and dedicated volunteer with the Trailwrights volunteer group and the Belknap Range Trail Tenders volunteer group. Ray donated countless hours both planning and performing trail work on state lands. He was a pleasure to work due to his enthusiastic attitude, his dedication to the trails, and his kind heart. He will be dearly missed.



Jesse Zacrow - October 11, 2022 at 02:15 PM

LS

I got to know Ray through trail work with SPNHF, especially during Monadnock Trails Week. He was a kind and generous man with a great sense of humor. My lasting memory of him will be when he delivered one of his famous wheeled log carriers to me. I believe it was the third one ever made. Just ten minutes before learning of his passing I was showing it off to a neighbor and said his name as he autographed and dated the carrier per my my request. I have been using it this week and it was perfect for the job at hand. Thank you Ray. I will always think ohms you and say your name when the heavy loads are made easier. See you down the trail.

Lew Shelley - October 12, 2022 at 09:10 PM

DA

“ The staff at the Society for the Protection of NH Forests who knew and worked with Ray are deeply saddened to learn of his passing. Several colleagues have fond memories of working on trails at Monadnock and many other conservation properties or catching up with Ray lunch or a meeting at our Concord NH Conservation Center. Nobody was a more dedicated trails community volunteer than Ray Jackson. Stories of his tool collection, heavy backpack, long working days full of good-natured joking and teaching others about tools and the craft of trail work. Unseen and unknown to most passing hikers is a legacy of NH hiking trail improvements: countless water bars, stone steps, drains, bog bridges, brushing back to open trails annually. The hills and hiking trails of NH remember Ray Jackson and will miss him. Dave Anderson, SPNHF



Dave Anderson - October 11, 2022 at 12:59 PM

SZ

“ It is all but impossible to imagine a world without Ray (and Kermit) in it. He has been part of our hearts since the first day Mike and I met him, a treasured friend, confidant and one of the true “helpers” we all look for when the world is off kilter. Everyone we have spoken with has said the same thing “we have a giant hole in our heart” with his passing. Our love and prayers go out to Jane Heather, Glen, Connor, Violette and Brian. God bless and keep you all in this season of sadness...Sue & Mike Zlogar

Sue and Mike Zlogar - October 11, 2022 at 10:00 AM

JK

*May his memory be a blessing and an inspiration for all. Josh Knox,
Holyoke, MA (Trails Team Leader The Trustees of Reservations)*

Josh Knox - October 26, 2022 at 09:22 AM