

Half Staff – Irving W. ("Tut") Tuttle

August 4, 2009



HANOVER, N.H. - Irving W. ("Tut") Tuttle, 90, died peacefully at his home in Hanover, N.H., on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009.

Though failing in health for several years, Mr. Tuttle retained the graciousness, generosity of spirit and consideration for others that distinguished him throughout his life until the end.

"Tut" Tuttle, as he was always known, was born in 1918 in Carlstadt, N.J. He was the first member of his family to attend college and it was through his studies that he met Elizabeth ("Betty") Gates, a school librarian, to whom he was married in 1941, for more than 60 years, until her death in 2003, and with whom he raised two children, Peter and Leslie.

Tut graduated from Dartmouth in 1949, after serving in the U.S. Army in Korea, and he was a purchasing director in the papermaking industry for most of his professional career.

But once the children were raised and educated, Tut was able to give more of himself to small boat racing and sailing, which was the great passion of his later adult life. He was twice the national champion of the Bullseye Sloop Class in 1981 and 1984, and he served in 1985 as commodore of the Sandy Bay Yacht Club, in Rockport, where the couple lived for many years. Subsequently, they lived in Northborough, to be near Leslie and their grandchildren.

Tut and Betty's move to the Kendal retirement community in Hanover, New Hampshire, followed Tut's retirement from competitive sailing. Betty died of cancer in 2003, and in 2004 Tut married Rebecca ("Becky") Nussdorfer, and for the rest of his life Tut marveled at his good fortune and happiness to be married to a second wonderful woman.

Tut is survived by his wife, Rebecca Tuttle; son, Peter Tuttle, of Dublin, N.H.; daughter, Leslie Tuttle, of Cambridge; daughter-in-law, Edith Tuttle; son-in-law, Lawrence Susskind; and his grandchildren, Noah Susskind, of New York, Lily Susskind, of Baltimore; sisters-in-law, Marion Tuttle, of Silver Spring, Md., Katherine Gates, of Paragonah, Utah; nieces and nephews from both Gates and Tuttle families, and stepchildren from Becky's first marriage.

ARRANGEMENTS: Memorial celebrations will be scheduled for early autumn in Hanover and Rockport. The family hopes that Tut's friends will remember him by teaching a child to identify a flower, or by taking a child sailing.