



## Fredda J. Cole

January 6, 1947 - January 31, 2018

CLARKSVILLE – Fredda J. Cole, 71, of Clarksville and Stow, Mass., passed away on Wednesday morning, Jan. 31, 2018, at the Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital in Colebrook after a very brief illness.

She was born in Quincy, Mass., on Jan. 6, 1947, the daughter of the late William and Laura (Rodman) Hoffman. She attended schools locally, and graduated from North Quincy High School with the Class of 1964. She then attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, graduating in 1968.

Her command of mathematics and computer technology served her well her entire career, which was spent as an engineer and technician in the world of international finance and banking. Fredda worked as systems specialist setting up the information technology for many leading firms in international banking, eventually retiring from the Swift Company based in Brussels, Belgium.

Always a bit of a daredevil, she was an avid motorcycle enthusiast, and remains the holder of the “World Land Speed Record” on her Russian Ural motorcycle (complete with sidecar), set in Utah in 2000 on the Bonneville Salt Flats. Fredda also enjoyed snowmobiling and fishing. She was a lover of music, especially at live venues, and she loved building and living in her new home on the shores of Lake Francis in Clarksville. She also loved to volunteer and become active in charity work wherever she was.

Fredda leaves behind her beloved husband, James ‘Russ’ Fitch of Clarksville; two siblings, Donald Hoffman and wife Valeria of Greenville, NC, and Marjorie Serrano of Randolph, Mass.; two step-daughters, Allison Burrows and husband Gerry of Northbrook, Ill., and Shaina Cormier and husband Joseph of Cherry Valley, Mass.; her sister-in-law, Mary Lyons of Westwood, Mass.; four grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She is predeceased by her first husband, Francis X. Cole in 2002.

A Celebration of Fredda's Life will be held on Sunday, March 4, 2018, from Noon to 4 p.m. at the Wayside Inn in Sudbury, Mass.

Expressions of sympathy in memory of Ms. Cole may be made to the Tillotson Center, 14 Carriage Lane, Colebrook, NH 03576; or to the Great North Woods Committee for the Arts, P.O. Box 302, Colebrook, NH 03576; or to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation – Greater Illinois Chapter, 150 N. Michigan Ave. #1550, Chicago, IL 60601, or online at <http://www.cff.org>.

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to <http://www.jenkinsnewman.com>.

Funeral arrangements in NH are under the direction of Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook.

# Comments

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“ Fredda was my girlfriend through much of junior high and high school. We were in rival schools (me Quincy High, she North Quincy). Senior year we went to each other's prom. Sunday afternoons I would sometimes go to her house to have dinner with her family, feeling like a giant because her brother, the tallest in the family, was only 5'4" and I am 5'10"! A few years ago we managed to have a reunion for lunch near Seattle. I was visiting some relatives in Kent and she was doing consulting work for Bill Gates at Microsoft!

Except for that lunch, our paths didn't cross after we went our separate ways in college over 53 years ago. That doesn't lessen the pain of losing someone who was at that time so dear to me.

My deepest sympathy to her brother and sister!

Joe Haletky

Joseph Haletky - February 24, 2018 at 03:56 PM

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“ I remember Freda as a sweet, cheerful, and intelligent classmate at North Quincy High School who always brightened my day, and had the best answers to the teachers' questions. I'm so sorry she is gone, and much too soon. My sincere condolences to her family. Pete Bono

Pete Bono - February 24, 2018 at 08:14 AM

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“ Fredda and I had many classes together over the six years that we tracked the same course schedule, from seventh grade at Central through senior year at North.

In seventh grade, Fredda had a long, long, long ponytail. I can still picture her in the front row of Miss Taylor's math class at Central Junior High. There were several math adepts in that group, but Fredda's talents were second to none. I'd say she was the most brilliant young woman in the NQHS class of 1964, and her career seems to have borne that out.

We were friends as well as classmates. Fredda had a friendly smile and a personal warmth that made it easy to be friends with her. Her parents were very welcoming and provided hospitality for many get-togethers at their home over those years. When Fredda's mother passed away, many of us felt the loss personally. Now I feel Fredda's loss very personally and extend my condolences to her family. Donald and Marjorie, I remember you too, and hope the kind thoughts and memories of old friends will bring you comfort.

**Meredith (Mullen) Amyx** - February 23, 2018 at 07:03 PM

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“ Wow! What an incredible loss with the passing of Freda Hoffman Cole. I am so super proud to have had this incredible, brilliant, funny, trailblazing woman as my high school classmate! It's like speaking of a strong woman in the 21st-century when we hear of her accomplishments: graduating from MIT, winning an International and very prestigious motorcycle race, surviving the death of her spouse and then finding happiness in a late in life marriage, and being a dear friend to those who knew her.

I think of her as a petite elfin woman with hugely understated power and joy. When we met up at the 50th reunion, and I complimented her on her academic and personal and athletic accomplishments, she just giggled and grinned, that's the Fredda who is in all the hearts of our classmates. I know that our NQHS class of 1964 is so very very saddened by this loss.

**Virginia Garland** - February 22, 2018 at 02:50 PM

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“ Marvin Alligood lit a candle in memory of Fredda J. Cole



Marvin Alligood - February 08, 2018 at 11:06 AM

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“ I Can't even grasp this awful news of losing Fredda. It's too surreal. She was SO full of life & love. She was SO proud of her home & was a devoted wife. She was very giving of herself & so much fun to be around. We will miss her tremendously. My heartfelt condolences go to Russ , especially & all her family members. You were lucky to have her in your life, but you already knew that.

Carol Bond - February 03, 2018 at 09:36 PM

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“ My wife and I had met Fredda and Russ, just last year and they were on our short list of intellectual friends we wanted to spend more time with. It is typical that we put off little meetings till a better day but this is often what happens. We are saddened by her sudden death and will find Russ, when it is time, and hold him closer, as a friend. To all Fredda's family, we offer our sincere condolences.  
John and Cindy-Lou Amey

John Amey - February 03, 2018 at 08:48 PM

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“ Russ our deepest condolences go out to you on your loss.

Haven & Peggy Haynes - February 03, 2018 at 05:32 PM

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“ I'm so sad to hear of this. I never met her but had conversed on the old Ural forums. She was to ride my old bike at the salt flats but a fire destroyed it before they left. I will miss her, sue was quite a lady.

Vance Blosser - February 03, 2018 at 11:56 AM



“ She, not sue, sorry.

Vance - February 03, 2018 at 11:57 AM

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“ Russ, I'm so sorry. Fredda was such a wonderful woman - a truly unique, sensitive and deep soul in an era when that is not commonly found. I always looked forward to seeing you both at WICN events and I really enjoyed sharing her personal weather forecasts "from the top of New Hampshire" with our listeners. She will be sorely missed. Deepest sympathy to you and your family - sending much love.

Michelle Willson - February 03, 2018 at 09:05 AM

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“ Sandi and I were so sad to hear of the loss of our cousin Fredda. She will be in our thoughts and we send our condolences to Donald and Marjorie. We will never forget her beautiful smile.

David Rodman - February 02, 2018 at 08:20 PM

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“ Russ I am so sorry to hear about fredda she will be missed ryen loved her and what she did for ride 4 kids I think for the last 8 years that has been ryen side car for the ride he hoped every year on the ride down that she was there so he can ride with her she will be greatly missed the whole blackey family sends there condolences

Ralph blackey - February 02, 2018 at 03:18 PM

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“ Dear Relatives of Fredda,  
I was a close colleague at SWIFT for a few years until she retired.  
I was shocked by this very sad news, thinking that she was way too young and full of energy.

I do remember the numerous moments after long days when she was always surprising me with innovative ideas, we were enjoying a glass of her preferred white wine.

Always with a great sense of humor, modesty and optimism about the life on Earth, we were discussing on any subjects. One of her favorite was motorbikes and she was telling us endless stories and proud of her passion.

I can't forget also the charity she was involved with and her deep sense of altruism.

I will miss her and my warmest thoughts are with you all.  
Alex Coutsouradis (Belgium)

**a coutsouradis** - February 02, 2018 at 01:39 PM



“ I was looking for the right words, but could not find any. Like Alex, I worked with Fredda at SWIFT. I think Alex wrote it well.

I will always remember the little smile she had when explaining things, a smile that said "so obvious, isn't it?".

**Geert Maes** - February 05, 2018 at 03:09 AM