



Carl T. Carlson

April 11, 1931 - August 16, 2021

PITTSBURG – Carl “Tom” Carlson, 90, released his death-grip on life on Monday, Aug. 16, 2021, at the Gosnell Memorial Hospice House in Scarborough, Maine.

Born April 11, 1931 in Somerville, Mass., Carl first set his mother’s teeth on edge at the ripe age of five, when he and a buddy decided to skip a day of kindergarten and were found wandering along the trolley tracks - the first of many teeth-gritting episodes for his mother. Carl had a fraught relationship with educators until he reached the middle grades, when he reached a truce with the principal who asked for Carl’s belt to punish him. At nearly 6 feet tall, Carl declined, responding “Why don’t you try to take it!”

Outside the classroom, Carl had a deep love of wildlife and brought home a steady stream of “pets” of all species, to his mother’s deep consternation. This love stayed with him into the U.S. Marine Corps. Carl once deposited a live skunk in his commanding officer’s quarters. The sergeant who received this pungent gift responded by having him scrub the floors with a toothbrush. Carl spent three years and three months in the Marines, serving in the Korean War, and returned home to attend the University of New Hampshire.

At UNH, he met and married Beverly Bishop, with whom he moved to Pittsburg, N.H., to take a job as a NH Conservation Officer. Carl and Beverly

had two children, Tammy and Tim, before Beverly passed away in 1963. With the help of friends Ginny and Jim Berry, Carl juggled his grief, job, and parenting duties. Jim later introduced Carl to Joanne Jackson, and after a brief courtship Carl asked Joanne to join his crew. She said yes, later quipping “I didn’t know I would be joining as galley slave!” Carl and Joanne were married, and Joanne became a mother to Tammy and Tim. Three additional children - Heather, Karen, and Tom – were born, filling their home in Pittsburg. Carl also had a very special relationship with Joanne’s son Joshua.

Throughout his life Carl was “once a Marine, always a Marine.” His children received regular reminders of this when he gleefully blasted Reveille on the record player to wake them on a school day. Every year, Carl celebrated the Marines’ birthday on November 10 with a cake cut with a sword and a rousing rendition of The Marines’ Hymn. Attendees were expected to participate and know all the words.

Carl spent 31 years as a Conservation Officer in Pittsburg, earning a reputation as a tough but fair arbiter of conservation laws, and the nicknames “Sarge” or “Jolly Green Giant.” His concern for law and order was deep, which is why, upon meeting his daughters’ dates, he liked to ask, “Have you ever been arrested?” In addition to working six days a week for NH Fish & Game, Carl was a volunteer firefighter, volunteered on the ambulance corps, served on the school board, and was president of the PTO in Pittsburg. He served as Chief of the Pittsburg Fire Department for 25 years. During his free time, Carl enjoyed gardening and swapping police stories with Leslie Lord and Dave Perry.

After retiring from the NH Fish & Game Department, he worked for the NH Marine Patrol and as a part-time police officer for a few years. Carl was a 71-year member of the National Geographic Society and has every issue of its magazine to prove it. This membership sparked his interests in travel, history,

and photography. After they retired, Carl and Joanne bought an RV and traveled throughout the U.S. and Canada. They took three memorable trips to Alaska, visited numerous national parks and historical sites, and made it to every state but Hawaii, meeting new friends at each campground. Carl documented these travels on video, in photos, and in hand-done sketches, filling numerous albums and regaling children and grandchildren with every (yes, every) detail of the adventures. Joanne was in a few of the photos, mostly for size comparison against tall trees and buildings.

Carl survived Stage 4 colon cancer, enduring five surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation over five years. This was the first of several health conditions that he endured with tenacity and humor. In his later years, Carl and Joanne moved in with their daughter Heather, son-in-law Michael, and grandchildren.

Throughout his life he was an avid singer with a sonorous voice, and though he never knew all the words to a song, he did not hesitate to make up his own. Although it did eventually annoy his wife, Carl's ability to start each day singing was a marvel to his grandchildren, who also enjoyed watching him dance around the kitchen with the family dog.

Carl leaves a giant hole in the hearts of his devoted wife of 57 years, Joanne; his six ornery children (Tammy, Joshua, Tim, Heather, Karen, and Tom); eleven grandchildren (Jessica, Tiffany, Nate, Meg, Colin, Emma, Bailey, Christopher, Jacob, Olivia, Cameron); three great-grandchildren (Julia, Leland, and Quinton); brother Walter; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was more brother than brother-in-law to Joanne's siblings.

Carl was an enduring friend and mentor to his fellow officer, Dave Perry.

Carl was predeceased by two brothers, David and Winston, and several

members of Joanne's family.

Carl was truly larger than life, collecting acquaintances who quickly became friends wherever he went through his 90 years. His energy, optimism, sense of humor, dedication to public service, and generosity of spirit are a lasting legacy for us all.

“When great trees fall, rocks on distant hills shudder, lions hunker down in tall grasses, and even elephants lumber after safety.” -- Maya Angelou

Calling hours will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, August 22, 2021, at the Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook, N.H, and a funeral service will be held at the Pittsburg Fire Department on Monday morning, August 23, at 11 a.m. The family requests that everyone attending the visitation or funeral wear a face mask indoors regardless of vaccination status. Interment with military honors will immediately follow at the Lake Cemetery in Pittsburg.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in Carl's memory to any wildlife or land conservation society, or to the Pittsburg, N.H. Volunteer Fire Department.

Condolences may be offered on-line by going to www.jenkinsnewman.com.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home, Colebrook, NH.

Cemetery Details

Lake Cemetery

US Route 3
Pittsburg, NH

Previous Events

Calling Hour

AUG **22**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home
103 Main St
Colebrook, NH 03576

Funeral Service

AUG **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pittsburg Fire Department
Main Street, U.S. Route 3
Pittsburg, NH 03592

Tribute Wall

BD

“ Carl was a true friend. Worked with him for many years while working on the Pittsburg P.D. and also as a Forest Ranger. Worked many years with him doing road checks during hunting season. He will be missed. Also his book is awesome.
Bert and Kris von Dohrmann

bert von dohrmann - August 23, 2021 at 10:41 AM

 Joshua Frost

“ For us, Tom was an institution and an inspiration. Whatever the challenge, he was most capable, kindly, and fearless. He will live on in our thoughts and gratitude. Sending love and compassion to his widow, his children, and his extended family.
Josh & Deb

Joshua Frost - August 23, 2021 at 01:32 AM

LD

“ Love from Josh and Deb purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Carl T. Carlson.



Love from Josh and Deb - August 23, 2021 at 01:28 AM

TF

“ *The Barbara and Ann (Noah) Families purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Carl T. Carlson.*



The Barbara and Ann (Noah) Families - August 21, 2021 at 12:43 PM

KW

“ *Joanne, I am thinking of you and your family, I am so very sorry for your loss. I remember a kind and gentle soul when I would see you both at Uncle Bob's and Audrey's. Always the biggest smile for everyone. I am grateful I was able to spend time with you all at family gatherings. I am sending my heartfelt prayers to you all. What a wonderful life Tom had with his family. Love, Karen*

KAREN WHITE - August 20, 2021 at 07:59 PM

HS

“ *Hudson Memorial School purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Carl T. Carlson.*



Hudson Memorial School - August 20, 2021 at 06:59 PM

TY

“ *Tami Young lit a candle in memory of Carl T. Carlson*



Tami Young - August 20, 2021 at 10:27 AM

TY

My deepest sympathies to Joanne and family. Tom will be greatly missed. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Tami Young - August 20, 2021 at 10:30 AM

JD

I walked almost a mile to and from elementary school for 8 years with the Carlson boys. Being well under 5 feet tall I learned to walk very fast and to take long strides. While at UNH after visiting Tommy and his wife at their apartment he would have his dog accompany me safely back to my dorm. I will miss seeing Tommy at the Sanborn Seminary high school reunions. My sincere sympathy to all who loved him.

Joyce Tebbetts Davies - September 22, 2021 at 10:56 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Carl T. Carlson.*



August 19, 2021 at 08:56 PM

LK

“ *I have many fond memories of Tom. He was a force to be reckoned with and you always knew it when he was around. He had a positive impact on the town of Pittsburg, law enforcement in the north country and everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. Thoughts and prayers to Joanne and his family.*

Les Klinefelter

Leslie Klinefelter - August 19, 2021 at 03:52 PM

TF

“ Tom & Laurie Lynch and Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Carl T. Carlson.



Tom & Laurie Lynch and Family - August 19, 2021 at 03:34 PM

JJ

“ Jimmy purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Carl T. Carlson.



Jimmy - August 19, 2021 at 01:53 PM

JS

“ The very first evening with Tom, Joe & Shirley at a really cool crab shack he asked me if I had witnessed any "wild" soldiers in the field. I replied that yes I had, who asked and I said that I didn't, know what others were saying but I called them Marines! Tom let out a great belly laugh...

James Shedno - August 19, 2021 at 01:05 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Carl T. Carlson.



August 19, 2021 at 11:56 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carl T. Carlson.*



August 19, 2021 at 11:08 AM



“ *Jim O'Brien purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Carl T. Carlson.*



Jim O'Brien - August 19, 2021 at 10:30 AM



“ *I have many fond memories of Tom. Our family's were very close for many years. We had a store in Pittsburg, were I had a little deli and ice cream shop. Many nights Tom and Leslie would stop in to visit and say hi. One night I was cleaning up the ice cream area, had a couple of tubs of ice cream were almost empty. Tom and Les came in, then the big spoons came out, the hats tipped back and Tom and Leslie cleaned those tubs out clean. This became a ritual when ever there were ice cream tubs to be cleaned out. It was so funny to see them. We cherished all the stories that Tom always had, it was always nice to talk with him. It was always great to see him walk through the door. Tom you will truly be missed by so many. Our love and thoughts to the family.*

Ken and Diana Lundberg

Diana Lundberg - August 19, 2021 at 10:30 AM

JR

“ Enjoyed my time with Carl saw most of his territory. Took time to show me Pittsburgh and the beauty of it. I was amazed how quickly we bonded in our first meeting and just got better each time I could feel the friendship growing each time. His face would always light up true friend. Don Ruhl. You will be missed by me

Jacqui carlson Ruhl - August 19, 2021 at 10:15 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Carl T. Carlson.



August 19, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ Sentimental Dreams was purchased for the family of Carl T. Carlson.



August 19, 2021 at 09:37 AM

SA

“ This man took a special interest in me as a teenager running my bait shop on Perry Hill. He taught me the lessons of the North Country and always had time for a quick chat and a fascinating story. Whether in the woods or at Treats & Treasures, it was a great day when I got to spend a few moments with "Sarge". Great to know he will be at First Lake with my Dad. RIP my friend. You will never be forgotten. - Steve Angers

Steven R Angers - August 19, 2021 at 08:56 AM

LC

“ *Linda Clogston lit a candle in memory of Carl T. Carlson*



Linda Clogston - August 19, 2021 at 08:45 AM

JH

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of this great man. When Sam and Beth were young I created a summer fun group and Carl would sign up right away to bring the kids on Nature walks so he could teach them about the great outdoors. He was truly a special man. My condolences to Joanne, and the entire Carlson family. I will never forget him and the friendship we had.*

*Very sincerely,
Joy Hebert*

Joy Hebert - August 18, 2021 at 09:41 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carl T. Carlson.*



August 18, 2021 at 08:39 PM

LF

“ *Love The Rowe Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Carl T. Carlson.*



Love The Rowe Family - August 18, 2021 at 05:31 PM

JR

“ *Remember our children spending many times with Tom and Joanne and there family. Many happy days were shared by his brother Win and there talks. Happy back woods with family. 🙏*

Jacqui carlson Ruhl - August 18, 2021 at 05:11 PM

LM

“ *Lise Marquis lit a candle in memory of Carl T. Carlson*



Lise Marquis - August 18, 2021 at 02:12 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Carl T. Carlson.*



August 18, 2021 at 01:19 PM

BV

“ *My deepest sympathy in Carl passing I had the honor of working with him for 20 years as a CO in District 1 He was a great friend' Bob Vashaw 213*

Bob Vashaw - August 18, 2021 at 11:09 AM

DW

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



DW - August 18, 2021 at 10:47 AM

CE

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Chris Egan - August 18, 2021 at 10:15 AM

BL

What a wonderful picture!

Brent Lyons - August 21, 2021 at 11:04 AM

HH

“ *Our deepest condolences go out to the family on your loss.*

Haven Haynes - August 17, 2021 at 10:27 PM

DP

“ Thanks for allowing me to spend the day with the Sarge 3 weeks ago. It will always be one of my fondest memories with him. Probably the best written obituary Mary Ann and I have ever seen. Our thoughts are with you all and vaya con Dios to the Sarge.

Dave

Dave Perry - August 17, 2021 at 05:43 PM



“ My condolences to the family... I remember playing with Tammy and Tim at the house as kids.... he could have a tough personality, but he also had a lot of love and care for all... he was a good man...

Earl Towle

Earl Towle - August 17, 2021 at 05:29 PM

JS

Very sorry to hear about Carl. He was a great person and we had the honor of talking to him many times. Met him in Pittsburgh NH and remembered it as if it were yesterday'. He will be missed.

jeffrey Searles - August 18, 2021 at 07:21 AM

MN

Joanne, so sorry for your loss! Carl was a awesome man and friend. It will be a big loss for you and the family. Carl and Howard will meet again in heaven. My heart and prayers goes out to you and the family, Love always, Marie Nowell

Marie Nowell - August 18, 2021 at 08:37 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of
Carl T. Carlson.”



August 17, 2021 at 04:54 PM