



J. Michael Divney Jr.

September 29, 1940 - December 23, 2020

COLEBROOK – John Michael Divney, Jr., “Mike”, 80, of Colebrook, passed away on Wednesday, December 23, 2020, with his family by his side after a short battle with cancer.

Mike was born in Portland, ME, on September 29, 1940, a son to the late John M. and Mary (McNaughton) Divney. Mike graduated from Cheverus High School (Portland, ME) in 1958, where he excelled in his studies of Latin, Greek, and German. He then enlisted in the US Air Force. After completing basic training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Mike was selected to attend an intensive 9-month Chinese language program at the Institute of Far East Languages, Yale University. Upon completion of the rigorous written and oral language training, Mike was stationed at Shu Lin Kou Air Station in Taiwan with the 6987th Radio Squadron Mobile, US Air Force Security Service. While stationed in Taiwan, Mike met a local gal, Joeng, at a mutual friend’s going away party. The two dated for a while, and they married at the Taipei Cathedral in June of 1962. Nearly 58 and a half years later, the two remained married to the day he passed.

After an honorable discharge from the Air Force in 1962, Mike and Joeng settled in Maine. Mike had a variety of jobs, including working at an auto parts store in Portland and later at Cumberland Farms. Upon receiving an offer to manage a store for the Red & White grocery chain in Colebrook in 1970, Mike

and Joeng moved to Colebrook. The entrepreneurial bug soon hit Mike, and he opened what became known as Mike's Chevron, a family-run grocery and gas station. Mike's Chevron offered services that few gas stations could: tow service, auto repairs, used car sales, wood-splitter rentals, groceries, cold beer, a quick story or two, and the occasional well-timed Yankee witticism. There were many adventures for Mike with his friends in law enforcement, including officers from the Colebrook Police Department, NH and VT State Police, U.S. Border Patrol, and NH Fish and Game. All spent time swapping stories and antics at the gas station. Because Mike met people from all over and from all walks of life, he liked to call Mike's Chevron his "window on Main Street." After pumping thousands of gallons of gasoline and dispensing hundreds of Slush Puppies, he sold the gas station and the land in 1985, and it was on to another adventure or two. Mike sold insurance and investment advisory services, and later real estate before embarking on his final career path as a dispatcher for the Town of Colebrook in 1997. Mike loved helping people while dispatching. The job allowed him to remain in contact with the people and their stories in the North Country, and reconnected him with people he knew while working at the gas station. Mike served 20 years as a dispatcher until retiring at age 77 in 2017. People who knew Mike knew he loved that job – which meant it never felt like work for him. Mike embodied the consummate New England Yankee: fiercely independent, resourceful, focused on family, saw the humor in everyday life, and unflinching loyalty to his friends.

Upon moving to Colebrook in 1970, Mike jumped into local activities and clubs. In fact, he joined the Colebrook Jaycees just in time to help celebrate Colebrook's Bicentennial celebration in the summer of 1970. Mike was active in Kiwanis as well. He served as one of Colebrook's Water & Sewer Commissioners, as Bail Commissioner for Colebrook and the surrounding areas, as a Justice of the Peace for many years, and served as Worshipful Master for Evening Star Lodge # 37, F&AM in 1993. Mike loved playing card games with friends, being a Mason, fishing, hunting and target shooting,

reading mystery and spy novels, sipping single malt Scotch, watching all sports New England, and taking family road trips. Mike also enjoyed recording the local weather data for the National Weather Service for 20 years. And he took great pride in his stamina during long-distance drives, including while moving the boys to and from the University of Notre Dame (South Bend, IN), Marquette University (Milwaukee, WI), and Los Angeles, CA. A passion for adventure was always in Mike's genes as he loved traveling to Europe and to Virginia, Wisconsin, and California to visit family. Highlights of his Europe trip with Joeng included visiting Bob, who was serving in the US Army in Mannheim, Germany, and seeing Rome and the Vatican.

Mike leaves behind his beloved wife of almost 59 years, Joeng (Huang) Divney of Colebrook; 3 sons, Steven (Victoria) of San Carlos, California, Jeffrey (Karla) of McLean, Virginia, and Bob (Jenny) of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin; 8 grandchildren, Annaliese and Caroline Divney of San Carlos, California, Brendan and Lauren Divney of McLean, Virginia, and Sarah (Michael Linn), John, Aaron and Leah of Wisconsin; and one great-grandson, Oliver (son of Sarah and Michael Linn of Milwaukee, Wisconsin). Mike is also survived by his sisters, Sister Mary Jo Divney and Debbie Hunter, and by his brother, Daniel Divney.

There are no public calling hours. A graveside Masonic interment service with U.S. Air Force military honors will be held at a later date in 2021 at the NH State Veterans' Cemetery in Boscawen, of which notice will be given.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Mr. Divney may be made to Area Churches Working Together Food Pantry or the St. Brendan's Elevator Fund, both located at 55 Pleasant Street, Colebrook, NH.

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to www.jenkinsnew

man.com.

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

Cemetery Details

New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery

110 Daniel Webster Hwy
U.S. Route 3
Boscawen, NH 03303
(603) 796-2026

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

LK

“ We were sorry to learn of Mike's passing. He was a positive person who was highly respected by everyone. We will miss him.

Patty and Les Klinefelter

Leslie Klinefelter - January 13, 2021 at 11:49 AM

JE

Thank you for your kind words and thoughts.

jeff - January 13, 2021 at 06:55 PM

AG

“ Condolences on your loss. When I first moved to the North Country and rented an apartment from the Coutures (right next to Mike's service station), he looked after my car and gave me advice on how to take care of it during the cold, snowy winters. I still remember how kind he was when he let me put my car in the garage overnight on Halloween night so that none of my students egged it or something. :-). He was a good guy. You will all be in my prayers. Ann Gray

Ann Gray - January 10, 2021 at 12:48 PM

JE

Thank you Ann. We loved you Halloween story — thanks for sharing.

jeff - January 10, 2021 at 01:15 PM

CR

“ Many sympathies to your family. There is never a good time to lose the ones we love.

Cindy Roy

Cindy ROy - January 05, 2021 at 02:25 PM

CR

“ deepest sympathy to the family, Mike was a wonderful man and will be miss .

Carol Rainville - January 03, 2021 at 02:53 PM

JD

Thank you Carol.

Jeff Divney - January 03, 2021 at 05:41 PM

KO

“ My deepest condolences to the Divney family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all!



Kathy Dobson St. Onge - January 03, 2021 at 12:34 PM

JD

Thank you Kathy.

Jeff Divney - January 03, 2021 at 05:41 PM

SC

“ Joeng, Steve, Jeff and Bobby - I'm so sorry for your loss. I hope you get a measure of comfort knowing how many lives Mike touched and enriched. We will add your family to our prayers.

Steve Cavanaugh - December 30, 2020 at 10:46 PM

SD

Thank you, Steve. We really appreciate your prayers and thoughts.

Steve Divney - December 31, 2020 at 08:17 AM

SH

“ Joeng, Our hearts go out to you and the entire family. The life you and Mike built together is remarkable and shines brightly through the accomplishments and goodness of your children and grandchildren. May God continue to bless all of you. With love and sympathy, Steve & Carol Howe

Steve Howe - December 30, 2020 at 02:11 PM

SD

Thank you Steve and Carol. You and yours are the best. Mom appreciates your remarks. And so do I.

Steve Divney - December 31, 2020 at 08:19 AM

PG

“ Joeng & Family, I'm so sorry to hear that Mike has passed away. He was always a great friend and over the years we shared a lot of laughs. God be with you all.
Pete & Tracy Grasso

Peter Grasso - December 30, 2020 at 11:39 AM

OH

“ Joeng and family, Sorry to here of Mike's passing. Our thought and prayers are with you. Diane and Bill Holman

Orrin Holman - December 30, 2020 at 11:09 AM

JC

“ Steve, I'm sorry for your loss. Your Dad lived a fascinating and accomplished life and you must be proud of him. My condolences to your mom and brothers. I know he will be missed.

john carrigan - December 30, 2020 at 08:29 AM

SD

Thank you John. Much appreciated

Steve Divney - December 31, 2020 at 08:20 AM

VK

“ *A consummate New England Yankee - yes, indeed! I could not have asked for a better father-in-law. He held his opinions strong, but opened his heart and ears wide and sincerely to hear and learn about other perspectives — a rare trait these days. I will miss our chats. Rest In Peace, Mike/Grampy.*

victoria Kaempf - December 29, 2020 at 05:41 PM

SD

Well stated Victoria. Thank you.

Steve Divney - December 31, 2020 at 08:22 AM

MA

“ *My condolences to Mrs.Divney Steve , Jeff , and Bobby and their families you are in my thoughts and prayers*

MaxDagesse - December 28, 2020 at 05:23 PM

SD

Thank you Max. We all appreciate it.

Steve Divney - December 28, 2020 at 06:33 PM

BL

“ *So sorry for your loss, Joeng. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.*

Bonnie Lambert - December 28, 2020 at 02:18 PM

JD

Thank you for your kind thoughts.

Jeff Divney - December 28, 2020 at 06:39 PM

TL

“ We are so sorry for your loss! Mr. Divney was a great person. I remember he and Mrs. Divney would pick up Mom, Sophia, and I to go to Norton drive-in when Dad was in Vietnam. It was a great time and of course all us kids would fall asleep pretty much after the cartoons! When we got home, Mr. Divney would help mom carry us in to the house. ❤️ Much love to all of you!

Tami Lewis - December 28, 2020 at 02:04 PM

SD

That is such a great memory! Thank you for your friendship through the years.

Steve Divney - December 28, 2020 at 06:34 PM

KW

“ I was so sorry to hear of your loss! May your fond memories bring you comfort during this difficult time. Holding you all tight in positive thoughts and prayers to help you through the grieving process. Hugs! Kathie Wighton

Kathie Clement Wighton - December 28, 2020 at 10:26 AM

SD

Thank you Kathie. It was so nice of your mom to call my my mom. Be well.

Steve Divney - December 28, 2020 at 06:35 PM



“ Diane West lit a candle in memory of J. Michael Divney Jr.



Diane West - December 27, 2020 at 07:44 PM

JK

“ We just heard of your loss.

Joeng, you and Mike have always been a solid foundation to our neighborhood, that we have been honored to have known all these years.

During our visits, in the past, Mike's pride and love for his family shined through in his stories and smiles, when he updated us about The Divney family adventures.

We are thinking of him and you at this time.

Jules & Barbara and our Family

Jules Kennett - December 27, 2020 at 12:27 PM

SD

Thank you so much!

Steve Divney - December 28, 2020 at 06:36 PM

EJ

“ So sorry for your loss. Sincere condolences to you and your family. My heart goes out to all of you.

Elaina Johnson - December 27, 2020 at 12:10 PM

SD

Thank you for your kind words.

Steve Divney - December 28, 2020 at 06:43 PM

FC

“ So sorry of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you Joeng, your sons, family and friends. " From Francine & Andre Champagne"



Francine Champagne - December 26, 2020 at 09:26 PM

JD

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Jeff Divney - December 28, 2020 at 06:52 PM

RP

“ Sending many prayers to No end and family during this difficult time.

Renee Powers - December 26, 2020 at 05:58 PM

CL

“ Our deepest sympathy to Joeng and family;

So sorry of you loss. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you Joeng.

Thinking of you all,
Christy and Denis Ladd

Christy Ladd - December 26, 2020 at 09:46 AM

JD

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Jeff Divney - December 28, 2020 at 06:53 PM

MS

“ *Our deepest condolences at this very difficult time. May the boys and their families bring memories of happier times to all of you. You are in my prayers. Brad & Meg Sheltry*

Meg & Brad Sheltry - December 25, 2020 at 12:21 PM

SD

Thank you Brad and Meg. We really appreciate your prayers.

Steve Divney - December 28, 2020 at 06:38 PM

GJ

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to Joeng and family at this sad time. I'll miss hearing Mike on my scanner!*

Ginger Jannenga

Ginger Jannenga - December 25, 2020 at 11:32 AM

SD

Thank you for kind words

Steve Divney - December 28, 2020 at 06:42 PM

HH

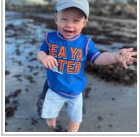
“ *Steve and family our deepest condolences go out to your whole family on your loss.*

Haven Haynes - December 24, 2020 at 09:44 PM

SD

Thank you Haven. Be well.

Steve Divney - December 28, 2020 at 06:39 PM



“ *So sorry to hear this. Our condolences. Luc & Laurie*

Luc Pariseau - December 24, 2020 at 05:28 PM

SD

Thanks Luc. Tough year

Steve Divney - December 28, 2020 at 06:40 PM

LB

“ *Joeng and Boys,*

So Sorry to hear about your husband/father. He was a very kind man! Prayers and thoughts go out to you and your family during this difficult time!

Lisa, Michael, Katelyn & Nicholas Bouchard

LISA Bouchard - December 24, 2020 at 02:40 PM

JD

Thank you Lisa and Michael for your thoughts and prayers.

Jeff Divney - December 28, 2020 at 06:54 PM

SC

“ *My deepest condolences to Joeng and the boys. I was a neighbor on Pleasant St. for my early childhood years. I have fond memories of Mr. Divney and his calm demeanor. May he rest in peace.*

Stephanie Cross - December 24, 2020 at 10:50 AM



Thanks, Stephanie. It means a lot to hear from a fellow Pleasant Street resident. My mom, brothers, and I appreciate your kind words.

Bob Divney - December 27, 2020 at 06:10 PM

BD

“ I am sorry for your loss. My favorite memory of Mike was hearing his calm and gentle voice on dispatch when I would go and answer a call in the community. Not many since him can stay as calm as Mike giving us a reassuring its going to be okay. Thank you Mike may you rest in peace ans keep your star shining bright from up above.

Barbara and Joe Daley

barbara daley - December 24, 2020 at 10:10 AM



Barbara, thank you for sharing memory of my dad. He was a rock for our family so its great he was a steadying force within the community as well.

Bob Divney - December 27, 2020 at 06:14 PM

JM

“ We are very sorry to hear of your loss. I have fond memories of your dad while growing up on Pleasant Street, Keeping you all in our thoughts & prayers.

*Condolences,
Julien & Deb Marquis*

Juluen & Deb Marquis - December 23, 2020 at 06:26 PM

LE

*Joeng & family,
My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. So sorry for your loss.
With heartfelt sympathy,
Leslie Eldridge*

Leslie Eldridge - December 24, 2020 at 04:41 PM

ES

*Joe got and boys,
My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. Please know
that time does help but don't ever forget all the good times and speak
of Mike often.*

Eric Stohl - December 25, 2020 at 11:43 AM

RB

*JOENG, STEVEN, JEFFREY AND Bob so very sorry for your loss. Mike
is at peace and watching over all of you.*

Ronald and Linda Beloin - December 26, 2020 at 10:19 PM

JD

Thanks Julien and Deb. I appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Jeff Divney - December 28, 2020 at 06:41 PM

MG

Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Divney family.

Melanie Gray - December 31, 2020 at 07:16 PM