



John Henry Andersen

May 16, 2022

John Henry Andersen, 76, of Hillsborough, New Hampshire, and conqueror of the great outdoors, ascended to Heaven on May 16, 2022 where he will eternally enjoy his capstone scenic vista. As with so many mountains before, he was with family during his final ascent, finally passing beyond a height they could not follow, and although they held onto him dearly, he peacefully achieved the summit of a full and impactful life.

John was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, one of three children to Reverend H Gardner Andersen and Helen Hattie Hallas. During his formative years at Benton Harbor High School in Michigan, he found his love of athletics. He became an exceptional runner and while earning a BA in History from the University of Massachusetts, he was only ever bested in the 400m hurdles by David Hemery, who later became an Olympic gold medalist.

It was during his time at UMass that John received the most providential rejection of his life. Asking one young lady out on a date, she declined, and instead convinced him to ask her roommate - Ms. Donna Yurko. God was smiling on John that day, for the two of them hit it off and were married in Levittown, New Jersey, on August 18, 1967. This year was to be their 55th wedding anniversary, and as he would tell it, maybe only the fourth or fifth one he forgot.

John's discipline in athletics translated well to military service, and he enrolled in the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps program while attending college. He entered military service on August 5, 1968 as a Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. Five days into a tour in Korea, Donna had their first child back in the states. John had to use shortwave radio to celebrate the birth with his wife! He eventually reached the rank of Captain - and was promoted into fatherhood a second time - before being honorably discharged.

After the service, John and Donna moved to New Jersey and then on to Connecticut, where they lived for 29 years, cultivating friendships and renovating an 1853 colonial into a beautiful home. (The downstairs bathroom probably took 9 of those 29 years, but who's counting?) Together, they spent 17 years as innkeepers at the Breakfast on the Connecticut, an 18 room bed and breakfast in Lyme, New Hampshire. Ultimately, they retired to the family property in Hillsboro, NH, their lifelong retreat from every-day life.

All through his life, John maintained his passion for the great outdoors. He challenged himself by biking "centuries", running marathons, camping, hiking, and mountain climbing - including the Presidential Range and the Appalachian Trail. He would continuously test his limits, so that, exhausted, he could better contemplate the beauty around him. He seemed most at peace quietly sitting atop a mountain, as if the view laid before him brought him closer to God.

Gentle and kind, John's love of nature extended to animals. Whether it was the family of flying squirrels he helped raise, or the mutt, Dennis, he rescued from starvation, John's empathy for all creatures - big and small - was legendary. He couldn't even bring himself to kill spiders or wasps! While innkeeping with Donna, the two of them sponsored several senior dogs, allowing them to relish their last days exploring the fields around the inn.

Of all the things John loved, though, God and family were at the top of the list.

Unfortunately, no words can easily describe how much he will be missed by those closest to him. He supported us, he guided us, and he made us laugh. We will miss asparagus fangs at the dinner table. We will miss the fact that he never outgrew fart humor. We will miss the mischievous smile telling us to prepare for another round of tomfoolery.

That smile - amazingly enough - came back to him three hours after passing. It was his final gift to us.

John is survived by his wife, Donna; his daughter Betsy (husband Matthew) McShea of Hainesport, NJ, and their children Tyler, Katie, and Sara; his son, Gardner (wife Tina) Andersen of Unionville, NC, and their children Eva and Reagan; his brother Harry (wife Elsa Quiles) Andersen of Odenton, MD; and his sister Dorothy Jean Murdough of Hillsboro, NH. John is further survived by numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services are set for Saturday, June 18th, 2022, at 11:30 AM at East Washington Baptist Church in East Washington, NH. Interment to take place in the East Washington Cemetery.

In honor of John's love of animals and the excellent care he received at home during his final days, donations in John's name may be made to Hospice and Palliative Care, Charlotte Region, www.hpccr.org or to a local animal shelter of your choice.

John's family has given the family of Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home the privilege of caring for him and for them.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

JUN 18. 11:30 AM (ET)

East Washington Baptist Church
2234 East Washington Road
Washington, NH 03280

Tribute Wall



“ *Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Henry Andersen*



Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home - June 03, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *John Henry Andersen*

October 05, 2023 at 07:26 AM



“ *John Henry Andersen*

October 24, 2022 at 08:52 PM

RY

“ I think the highest praise that one can offer of a man upon departure from this life is to say that "He was a good man and he lived a good and noble life." John Andersen was a good man and he lived a good and noble life. As his brother-in-law, I first met him when Donna brought him home from UMass to meet our loud, boisterous, fast-talking, fast-eating family. I remember that we were all done with dinner and the plates were about to be cleared when I saw that slow-eating thoughtful John had barely made in-roads into his meal. I thought to myself, oh, no, he is never going to survive the Yurko family! But he did more than survive, he thrived. He was the perfect counterpoint, the balance and the ballast that made his and Donna's marriage grow and build for more than half a century. Every so often, his calm and purposeful life with Donna was invaded by hordes of Yurkos. He accepted all of us and our foibles with grace and dignity and calm. I have attached a photo of one Christmas in the 1990s when we had the holiday celebrations at his and Donna's home in Connecticut. He never sought the limelight, he just made sure that everything worked. For more than two decades, Donna and he were business partners with me at the B&B. He charmed guests with his sense of New England humor and, again, he made sure everything worked. He loved animals and he and Donna housed successively over the years so many orphaned dogs and cats, there was always someone to pet and scratch and comfort when I was at at the B&B. John was also intentional and careful, by that I mean he was a measure twice, cut once sort of person.

He will sorely be missed by everyone. He was a good man and he lived a good and noble life.



Rich Yurko - June 13, 2022 at 11:56 AM

SP

“ How do you spell “Love”, you don’t you feel it. John & Donna came into my life through the world of quilting. The two of them spoiled about 20 ladies for several years at Breakfast on the CT. How lucky I am to have met someone that makes saying goodbye so hard.

Sharon Petersen - June 07, 2022 at 08:12 AM



Oh Sharon thank you so much. John loved those retreats as much as the ladies and he would travel around looking at the projects and continually comment on how I needed to get the patterns. Most of my best moments at the Inn were with you, your quilting ladies and Andy.

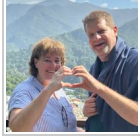
Donna Andersen - June 12, 2022 at 02:17 PM

GA

“ Our last big hike together. The 100 Mile Wilderness. Mountaintop view was on Chairback Mountain.



Gardner - June 05, 2022 at 03:36 PM



“ 35 files added to the tribute wall



Betsy McShea - June 04, 2022 at 07:23 PM



“ 17 files added to the album Memories Album



Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home - June 03, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ YERTI lit a candle in memory of John Henry Andersen



YERTI - June 03, 2022 at 01:22 PM

PE

“ *Sending deepest condolences to all the family. Cherish all the wonderful memories. Thinking of you all. Take care!*

Pat & Len Ewanishan - June 02, 2022 at 11:06 AM

PD

*Andersen and McShea family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this very difficult time. Will never forget his smile. See you in NH for John's Memorial Service.
Love, Pat and Gary Dekin*

Patricia Dekin - June 06, 2022 at 12:04 PM