



George William Newman Sr.

February 12, 2021

George William Newman, Sr., “Huffy”, of Foster, passed away at home on February 12, 2021. Born in Johnston, RI on January 29, 1925 to Mildred Cole and George Newman. His father died when George was 4 and his mother remarried Earl Pray. At age 13 moved to Hopkins Mills, Foster RI after the Hurricane of 38 damaged their home in Johnston. Served in the Army Air Corps during World War II from 1943-1946 as a P-61 airplane mechanic in the 549th Night Fighter Squadron; earned a Purple Heart from wounds suffered in combat on Iwo Jima. Discharged with the rank of Sgt.

Returned to Foster where he lived the rest of his life. He was an active community volunteer – member of South Foster Volunteer Fire Company from age 14 to his death, serving as President for many years. Helped build the fire hall. Member of the American Legion Post 101, Foster, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Was Assistant Boy Scout Troop leader with Troop 101, Foster. Member of the Foster Old Home Days committee and Foster Preservation Society. Helped build (and rebuild) the Swamp Meadow Bridge. Member of the RI State and the Woonasquatucket Valley Firemen’s Leagues.

One of eight children, he was predeceased by his sisters Virginia Newman Lawton, Jean Newman Sheldon, Shirley Newman St. Germain, Patricia Pray Coyle and Joanne Pray. Survived by his brother Burke Pray and sister Lee Pray Niles. Married to Catherine (Kay) Harrington from 1950 until her death in

2005.

Trained as a carpenter, he worked for the state Division of Forestry (later Department of Environmental Management) from 1954, retiring in 1986 as Chief Fire Control Officer and Principal Forester. He then worked for Stewarts Heating and Oil until he left to care for Kay who had developed Alzheimer's. While she was cared for at Nancy Ann Nursing Home, he visited her every day, and helped serve meals and do other tasks for the home, including baking cookies and cakes, which he continued to do for many years after Kay's death. George enjoyed woodworking, gardening, cooking and reading, especially history.

Survived by his sons George Jr. of Moosup, CT, and Daniel of Pomfret Center, CT and his wife Pamela, and daughter Ann Newman of Pawtucket, RI. Also survived by four grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 7 great-great grandchildren.

The Newman family would like to thank the team of caregivers who attended to George in his latter years, especially Joy Crochiere.

A collation will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the South Foster Volunteer Fire Company, or the charity of your choice, in his name.

Tribute Wall

RO

“ Danny, Chuck, Tracy and family, I'm sorry to hear about George's passing. He was one of a kind. I loved listening to his stories and experiences. He will be missed. God Bless

Robin - March 18, 2021 at 08:27 AM

PO

“ I have many fond memories of the love and care he gave his wife in her later years. George was a gentleman and a friend. On Halloween you were invited in to take a picture near the paper skeleton...many good memories. Rest in everlasting peace George now you are with your sweetheart in eternal peace and love....my sincere heartfelt condolences to his family whom he lived so much!!

Peggie Ogert - March 08, 2021 at 02:41 PM

RC

“ Wonderful memories love, Aunt Roberta.

Roberta Cox - February 21, 2021 at 04:58 PM

CW

“ Burke, we are very sorry for the loss of your brother. Our deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Charles & Ellen Wilkinson - February 21, 2021 at 03:18 PM

TB

“ Chucky and Danny. So sorry for your loss. I knew him as MR. NEWMAN in my book. As a member of American Legion Post 101 of Foster - I was always happy to see him at our monthly meetings and listen to his many adventures in life. We are going to miss him greatly.

Terry L. Benson

TERRY BENSON - February 19, 2021 at 12:12 PM

LV

“ So many fun times at the pool - having blueberry slump and Schwann chocolate ice cream bars. He, as well as Kay, were great people and fun to be around. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Letty Arndt Velleca - February 17, 2021 at 03:12 PM

AN

Thanks. So sorry to hear about your dad

Annie Newman - February 17, 2021 at 05:08 PM

LS

“ Chucky, Danny and Tracy,

So many memories I don't know where to begin. From our summer back to school cook outs either at our house, your house or Carbuncle Pond to the numerous trips to our camp in Maine, George always made things interesting and fun. I loved calling him Georgie Porgie and he in turn had several nicknames for me, namely Dizzy Lizzy. I think that was his favorite. I have thought of him many times over these last few months and have sorely missed running into him at Shady's and sharing a smile and laugh. He will forever be in my heart.

Liz Smith

Liz Smith - February 16, 2021 at 05:53 PM

DN

Liz, He missed his trips to Shady's and seeing all his friends.

Daniel E Newman - February 16, 2021 at 06:28 PM

TS

“ *George will be missed. He enjoyed his membership in the American Legion and we enjoyed his company.*

*Thomas Sederback
Commander American Legion Post 101, Foster.*

Thomas J Sederback - February 16, 2021 at 05:13 PM

TS

“ George was a good man and a true Patriot.



Thomas J Sederback - February 16, 2021 at 05:09 PM

NA

“ I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. George was a good friend to both my husband and me. I have lots of good memories of trips we took .

Nancy Arndt - February 16, 2021 at 04:22 PM

EZ

“ George was one the nicest and kindest people I've ever met. I will miss him. Ed Zuromski, Vice Commander American Legion Post 101, Foster.

Ed Zuromski - February 16, 2021 at 04:17 PM

SO

“ I'll always remember the love and kindness Mr. Newman showed me and my family -- dozens of home baked cookies, trips to the movies, little jobs that he paid more than I deserved for, and a bookshelf which I still use and cherish. My first job was at Nancy Ann where I worked in the summers, and Mr. Newman would come in daily to see his wife, Kay. All of the staff and residents loved seeing him on his daily visits. He remained a good friend and mentor throughout the years.

Sarah O'Toole - February 16, 2021 at 02:50 PM

KG

“ Kenneth George sent a virtual gift in memory of George William Newman Sr.



Kenneth George - February 16, 2021 at 02:31 PM

KG

“ To George's Family:
So sad in hearing of George Newman's passing. Sorry for your loss.. Being a former cook of 'Nancy Ann's Nursing Home", we became good friends. Seeing him visiting his beloved Katherine on a daily basis, walking with his trusted 'walking stick". Always bringing over homemade baked desserts, especially the brownies! He told me the secret ingredient were the 'farm fresh eggs". My wife & I always made sure he received a Christmas card from us, as we thought of him through the years..... I know he is smiling in Heaven as he joins his beloved wife Katherine. The Town of Foster will truly miss this wonderful man!

Rest in Peace my friend.....

Your Friend,
Kenny George

Kenneth George - February 16, 2021 at 02:30 PM

RH

“ Growing up in the Mills I had four hero's Huffy, Norm Tucker, George Brayton, and Virginia Spingler. Four of the "Greatest Generation"
My deepest condolences
Richard Hall

Richard Hall - February 16, 2021 at 09:31 AM

DB

“ So sorry to hear of the loss of George. He was truly a good man. He was a pillar of Foster. I have never met a more loving and devoted husband. He was also a good friend and supporter of Nancy Ann Nursing Home. A life well lived! Deb Barbarita

Debra Barbarita - February 16, 2021 at 08:32 AM

BT

“ The family of the late Richard A. Stein Sr. sends our sincere condolences to Huffy Newman's family. Richard often spoke of his friendship with the kids from Hopkins Mills in the 30's and 40's. We knew George to be a wonderful caring kind man!

Beverly Tirrell - February 16, 2021 at 07:31 AM

CS

“ I remember Uncle George taking me home after babysitting for my cousins. We would talk about school and he probably overpaid me. But what I remember most is the living care he gave Aunt Kay. And who can ever forget his clamcakes? His memory will be a blessing for us all. Rest well, Uncle George.

Cynthia S Scotkin - February 15, 2021 at 08:27 PM

NF

“ Chuckie, Danny, Annie,
As you lay your heads to rest tonight you will do so knowing that you have done your very best in helping your father to live the life that he wanted in his retirement years. And no parent could ask for any better. You are an example for all of your Newman/Pray cousins. ❤️

Niles Family, Hopkins Mills, Foster - February 15, 2021 at 07:39 PM