



## Milton Ernest Schumacher

May 28, 2024

Milton Ernest Schumacher, of Scituate Rhode Island, passed away on May 28 at the age of 79. Son of Arthur and Amy, brother of Kathy, Russell, Wanda, Val, Loretta, and Lorna, Milt is survived by his wife Phyllis and sons Kris, Erich, and Brad, along with his daughters in law Liza and Arghavan, and grandchildren, Saera, Cameron, James, and Darya.

Born to a farming family in Drayton, North Dakota in 1944, Milt grew up helping on the farm from a young age. Life on the farm was a great learning ground, whether it was operating the brake and the clutch so his older brother could drive the truck or climbing to the top of the windmill to go for a ride, adventures abounded. He excelled in school, being a member of the wrestling team, the football team and serving on the student council in high school. Finishing in the top of his class, he earned a scholarship to the University of North Dakota, where he was the president of the engineering club. From there, he left to earn his master's degree in electrical engineering at the University of Rhode Island where he would meet the love of his life, Phyllis Pella.

The couple would go on to marry, have three children, and settle down in an old farmhouse in Scituate Rhode Island that Milt restored and renovated into their dream home. One of his great passions in life was forestry and the land provided him ample opportunity to explore that, establishing a tree farm and

milling lumber to use on his various carpentry projects. Eschewing the 9-5, Milt took pride in never having a “real” job. He worked as a carpenter, more concerned with helping those who needed it than building a business. And he worked as a landlord and property manager, more concerned with ensuring his tenants had an affordable place to live than maximizing rental income.

Loved by all who were lucky enough to know him, he was an active member of the community.

With his church, he was active in community outreach, both as a member of the Genesis community in Providence and later at Trinity Episcopal Church in Scituate, including the Trinity Church food pantry and thrift store. He was a member of the Scituate Lions Club, served as a volunteer fire firefighter, and donated his time to local 4H and Boy Scout programs. He was a member of RIFCO and served as the Rhode Island chair of the American tree farm association. Much of his time was dedicated to preserving our natural forests and ensuring that people would benefit from them for decades to come.

Another of Milt’s passions was running, which he discovered later in life. After a back injury left him unable to play basketball in his forties, he fell into running and fell hard. He joined the Rhode Island Road runners and made a group of lifelong friends who would push each other to new achievements. For Milt, that meant running in countless road races and frequently finishing at or near the top of his age group. He participated in races across the country, from the Boston Marathon to the Mount Washington road race to Grandma’s marathon in Minnesota, leaving him with an overflowing shelf of trophies and medals. In addition, he organized and directed charitable and memorial road races, including Running with Bob, in honor of his brother-in-law, and the Scituate Fall Classic for the Trinity food bank.

Eight years ago, Milt was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. Despite the progression of the disease, his humility, selflessness and positive outlook

remained to the end. Always quick with a smile, he continued to take enjoyment from being in nature on long walks with his wife and continued to volunteer at the Trinity food bank. To his loved ones, some solace can come from knowing that Milt died as he took so much joy from in life, walking the woods behind his home.

Calling hours will be held at Winfield & Sons Funeral Home and Crematory 571 W Greenville Road in Scituate on Friday evening, August 2nd from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for Milt's life will be held on Saturday, August 3rd at 10:00 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal church in North Scituate. A collation will be held in Aldrich Hall immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association or to the Trinity Church Food Pantry.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Winfield & Sons Funeral Home and Crematory  
571 West Greenville Road (Route 116)  
Scituate, RI 02857  
(401) 647-5421

## Funeral Service

AUG 3. 10:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Episcopal Church  
249 Danielson Pike  
Scituate, RI 02857

# Tribute Wall

GL

“ Milt was a very special person, so kind and supportive, a man you were lucky to meet!

Gaytha Langlois - August 01, 2024 at 09:28 PM

MK

“ Phyllis, thinking of you and all of your family as you prepare to celebrate Milt's wonderful life and continued journey with Christ. I will always treasure our time of study in EFM and memories of Milt's kind smile, thoughtful reflections and farm stories. My heart aches for you in your loss; I know Milt has his place with our God and will watch over you and all of your loved ones always. May God's love and the love of family and friends give you comfort. Elizabeth sends her thoughts and sympathy as well.

Mary Ann Kolakowski

Mary Ann Kolakowski - August 01, 2024 at 04:40 PM

PO

“ Surprised party for Milt's 70 in 2014. 10th annual RTR 10 15K in March, 2017. And the last race I saw Milt at Fall Foliage 5K & 10 K in fall of 2017. I missed him ☐ Poyee



Poyee Oster - August 01, 2024 at 12:18 PM

PO

“ 2 files added to the album Tribute Wall



Poyee - August 01, 2024 at 11:51 AM

PO

*We will miss your smile and your ease, Milt. RIP <3*

Poyee - August 01, 2024 at 11:53 AM

ES

“ *Milt will always be in my family's heart. Our sons grew up together, meals were shared with our children, play dates, and fond memories from attending school together. We approached him to help us with a second bathroom and he not only made it affordable, but he also suggested we dorm out the two rooms for more space for our large family. Having Milt in our home for those days was a joy. He was always so calm, appreciative of life, and caring to us all. It was an honor to get to know Milt and his family and we will never forget the kindness and caring he displayed and acted on in life.*

Ellen Lenox Smith - August 01, 2024 at 06:03 AM

LD

“ *Milt was such a kind, thoughtful, sweet man who always thought of doing well for others. He will be truly missed*

Lynn Dion - July 31, 2024 at 09:49 AM

CI

“ *Cheryl Ignacio lit a candle in memory of Milton Ernest Schumacher*



Cheryl Ignacio - July 30, 2024 at 05:53 PM

PF

“ *Phyllis and family, we're so sorry for your loss. Milt will be greatly missed. He always had a smile on his face. It was always pleasant to sit and talk with him. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.*  
*The Paquettes*



Paquette family - July 29, 2024 at 07:16 PM

FT

“ *12 files added to the tribute wall*



Fred Tanner - July 29, 2024 at 06:33 AM

JD

“ I got to know Milt through RIRR and the RI running community. Always enjoyed the conversations we had at races. Fondly remember the day Milt, Keven and a number of runners from RI and Mass ran from my house followed by a barbeque and bocce. Milt was a class guy, great runner and an even better person. Sincerest sympathies to Milts family. Rest in peace my friend.  
*John DiTomasso*

---

**John J DiTomasso** - July 26, 2024 at 01:22 PM

ES

“ 5 files added to the album From Stoeckle's RIRR Library



---

**Elaine and Joe Stoeckle** - July 25, 2024 at 10:08 AM

ES

“ *Phyllis and the rest of the Schumacher family, Elaine and I send our sincerest condolences. What a great man, he will be missed. My best memory of Milt, of course, involves running. I think he had just started running seriously when we went to the Block Island race. He was nervous, but had no reason to be the only time I saw him was after about a mile when he created enough of a breeze with his "Blue Bayou" to cool me off for about 10 seconds. I think he may even have placed in his age group that day. I will post some photos soon.*

*Elaine and Joe Stoeckle*

---

**Elaine and Joe Stoeckle** - July 25, 2024 at 09:40 AM

MW

“ *As I've made my way thru life, I took interest in the great Stoics in history. I found intrigue in quiet resolve. A trait I admittedly didn't possess, yet felt familiar with and had admiration for. Makes sense when I remember I grew up around my Uncle Milt. The man could bring peace to a room just by being in it. I find myself now remembering how many valuable things I learned from him. Often without him saying a word. I knew he knew things. Important life perspectives he seemed not to be compelled to talk about, but would clearly, and simply, demonstrate in personal style. Quiet resolve. In life, and spirit.*

---

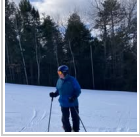
**Mike Watkinson** - July 25, 2024 at 07:23 AM

DL

“ *To think of Milt is to remember his smile and his soft-spoken ways. My sympathies are with Phyllis, his family and all those who knew Milt in his daily routines and many activities. Milt carried himself with a congenial air that many will miss.*

---

**David Lux** - July 25, 2024 at 06:17 AM



“ Prayers for the family. As a RIRR ,I ran with Milt many times on Wednesday nights and at the track. Milt was always one of my favs,always had a good word for everyone. I really liked the fact that he never let his prowess at running get to his head.Total class!  
Scott Caldwell

---

**Scott Caldwell** - July 24, 2024 at 07:39 PM

GR

“ So sorry to hear about this! My deepest sympathies to Phyllis and their children and their extended family. Milt & Phyllis were role models for the community. A very sad loss, indeed. \*\*Gregg Carter

---

**Gregg** - July 24, 2024 at 05:52 PM

PM

“ 2 files added to the album Tribute Wall



---

**PATRICK G MEENAN** - July 24, 2024 at 04:58 PM

BJ

“ Milt and I ran the roads and track in RI and New England. We had many great times together, on the track in Cranston, driving to NH for the Mill Cities Relay. But our greatest race together, and as a 3 man team, was the masters cross country national championship in NC. We finished second by a couple of points. I know I still have the picture of us. I could never quite catch me on the roads, track or XC. We had a great time together, a great competitor and a fun guy to run with.

*brad johnson*

---

**brad johnson** - July 24, 2024 at 07:00 AM

RM

“ My deepest condolences to Phyllis, my colleague for over 50 years at Bryant, and her family. Milt and I crossed paths in 1967 at the University of Rhode Island where I was assigned to teach an advanced computer science class to electrical engineering graduate students. Milt was one of those students. Our paths crossed a second time at a Bryant Mathematics Department function in the early 1970s, which at that time he and Phyllis were a married couple. Milt was the epitome of a gentleman and a "class act," I will miss seeing him.

---

**Robert Muksian** - July 23, 2024 at 11:07 PM

NR

*As a Charter member of RIFCO, I remember and honor Milt's hard work with RIFCO and RI Tree Farmers.. Rhode Islanders owe a lot to Milt by enjoying the beautiful farms and forests that have been KEPT from being developed like I did with my Powder Horn Brook Farm in Scituate. I now live in Flagler County, FL and I am Sorry to report that is very little interest in protecting the Ranches, Farms, and Forests from being developed by "Carpetbagger Developers" Another 1900 house lots were just approved. Thank you Milt for helping to keep Western RI part of the "Last Green Valley"*

---

**Norman Roy** - August 02, 2024 at 03:26 PM

MM

*Phyllis, I want to express my sincere sympathy to you and your family. I didn't know Milt that well but, after reading his obituary, he was a kind, caring man of many talents. I did learn a great deal about his life and he was very hardworking and would help whenever he could. I am keeping you and your family in my prayers. Love, Marilyn*

---

**Marilyn A Intel** - August 02, 2024 at 07:49 PM