



Allie "Pete" Strong

November 4, 1927 - July 18, 2019

ATHOL - Allie "Pete" Strong, 91, passed away at his home on July 18, 2019, after an illness. He was the son of the late Allie and Exina Strong, and proudly lived in Athol all his life.

Often described as a "unique character," Pete lived life on his terms. He felt no need to follow fashion trends and favored old "comfortable" favorites. Gifts of new clothing often went straight to the drawer to be worn "if I need them." The drawer is where they stayed. Pete was not likely to get any speeding tickets, and anyone who has been caught in the "Pete parade" will know all about that. Known by many as the guy who brought his cannon every year to start the River Rat race, Pete enjoyed socializing and talking, talking, talking. His home was a gathering place for family, friends, and strays. While operating a shoe business out of his home, many came for the shoes, but it was often about more than the shoes. It was a place people came to sit by the woodstove, have a beer or two, and shoot the breeze. A collector of antiques and just about everything else, Pete enjoyed his stuff. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, hanging out at his camp, blueberry picking, metal detecting and watching old westerns over and over again. (We won't mention chewing tobacco.) He was a World War II veteran, having served in the Navy.

Pete will be sadly missed by many, especially his family. They are his son, Kent Strong, of Athol and his daughter, Kathy Colmenares, of Royalston. His other son, Kris Strong, passed away in 2016. Their mother and Pete's "bride" for more than 60 years, Gerry (Pratt) Strong, passed away in 2008. His daughter-in-law, Suzanne Strong, and son-out-of-law, Robert Cromwell, shared many happy years with Pete as members of the Strong family. He leaves four living and loving grandchildren. They are Michael Strong and wife Maggie of Charlottesville, VA, Melissa Graham and husband Joe of Maynard, Andre Colmenares of Bishop, CA, and Jason Strong and his partner Amanda of Gardner. Another grandson, Andrew Strong, passed away in 1995. Great grandchildren, a source of immense joy for Pete in his later years, are Caroline, Laurel, Emery, Beau, Allie, and Jack. Pete leaves one sister, Judie Oleson and husband Bob, of Connecticut and a sister-in-law, Shirley Recos, of Phillipston, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased

by a brother, Donald Strong, and two other sisters, Lillian Begor and Muriel (Mikey) Watkevich. The family extends deep gratitude to Pete's many friends for enriching his life. You know who you are.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, August 2, 2019 at 11 am in the Fiske-Murphy & Mack Funeral Home 110 New Athol Road, Orange. Burial will be private.

A calling hour will be held on Friday, August 2, 2019 from 10-11 am in the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial donations be made in his memory to a charity of one's choice.

To send an online condolence please visit www.mackfamilyfh.com.

Fiske-Murphy & Mack Funeral Home, 110 New Athol Road is directing arrangements.

Events

AUG **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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Mack Family Funeral Homes Fiske-Murphy & Mack Chapel
110 New Athol Rd, Orange, MA, US, 01364

AUG **Funeral** 11:00AM

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Comments



“ I remember my mother taking me to "Mr. Strong's" to get shoes as a child in the 70's and 80's. He was quite a character and a good soul. I have fond memories of him and always LOVED to go to his little shop in the basement! Condolences to the family and friends who were blessed to know this man.
-Jenny Lozier-Fontaine

Jennifer Lozier-Fontaine - August 02 at 03:48 PM



“ The Legend! What an amazing man. We're sending our thoughts and love. Hope you all find peace in all the fun, "Pete" memories. One of a kind!
- Brian and Jess

Jess Garvey - August 01 at 05:58 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the whole family and especially to Kent.

Randi Shenkman - July 31 at 04:27 PM



“ The man, the myth, the legend. Much loved, he will be sorely missed.

robin & mark - July 30 at 01:46 PM



“ Sending prayers to all.

Bill & Katie Thiem

Katherine A Thiem - July 27 at 09:40 AM



“ What a beautiful man, so generous, I remember when my family was young and money was tight, I brought both kids with me to get my son sneakers, I couldn't afford to get both of them shoes at this time, Pete told my daughter to pick out a pair of sandals and for me not to worry about it! A memory I'll never forget with heartfelt sympathy.

jean cormier - July 27 at 05:35 AM



“ Kent Strong and family. So sorry to hear of your loss. Sending prayers and condolences.
Crystal (Carlson) Kimball

crystal kimball - July 26 at 09:36 PM