



John Gilmore Griffin

July 4, 1920 - March 19, 2013

John Gilmore Griffin

John Gilmore Griffin died at home on March 19, 2013. He was born in Toronto, Canada, September 4, 1920, the son of Sydney Herbert and Ethel Greene Griffin. He moved with his family at an early age to Montreal, where he was educated, then entered the insurance business. During the Second World War, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Artillery of the Canadian army. He was promoted, then commissioned and went overseas where he was posted to the field artillery of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division. He served in Britain, went to France in 1944, and served in Northwest Europe, taking part in every action in which his regiment was engaged until the war ended; during this time he was promoted to captain. He married Beatrice Elizabeth Percy of Montreal on June 5, 1948. The insurance business took him to several Ontario cities before he came to Traverse City in 1959 to establish a property insurance facility for Lake States Mutual Insurance Company, then named Michigan Mutual Auto Insurance Company, which enabled it to become a multiple lines insurer. He remained with the company until he retired in 1985, then joined his wife at Arnold's Books, Antiquarian Booksellers, of Traverse City, which they sold in 1991. He is survived by his beloved family: elder daughter, Beatrice Anne, and her husband, Edmond Louis Papantonio, of Ossining, N.Y.; younger daughter, Jean, and her husband, Donald Malcolm Kerr, of Larchmont, N.Y.; and five grandchildren: Sarah Kerr of Boston; Hilary and Juliet Papantonio, Abigail and Peter Kerr, all of New York City; a sister, Eleanor Henry, in Peterborough, Ontario; a brother, Sydney, in Toronto; several nieces and nephews. Cremation has been arranged by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held in the future, time and place to be announced at a later date. Memorials may be sent to the Hospice at Munson Healthcare in Traverse City.

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Mr Griffin really liked this photo. It is one of many birthday pictures we shared.



Bonnie Young - March 28, 2013 at 06:51 PM



“ Mr Griffin hired me to companion Betty back in 2002, that he could run errands while knowing she was safe. After her passing, my respect for both of them created an endearing and lasting friendship with him. Mr Griffin became the epitome of my dream father, my favorite uncle, my biggest fan, cheerleader and supporter, and my confidante... all rolled into one brilliant, generous, wise and loving man. One might believe i idolized him... :)

Bonnie Young - March 28, 2013 at 06:45 PM



“ Sending our deepest condolences at this sad time. Rollie and our technicians always enjoyed his personality when we serviced his heating needs. We considered him more than just our customer. Our thoughts are with the family.
With heartfelt sympathy,
Rollie and the Crew
Senior's Heating & Cooling

Rollie Ewart - March 25, 2013 at 02:22 PM