



Stephen Bonsal

August 9, 1935 - July 14, 2022

Stephen Bonsal died peacefully on July 14, 2022, due to complications from Parkinson's disease. The son of Dudley Baldwin Bonsal and Lois Worrall Bonsal, he was born in New York City on August 9, 1935. In addition to the city, other places he lived as he grew up included Bedford, NY and Washington, DC. He went to St. Bernard's School and Deerfield Academy, and he graduated from Yale University in 1956. After serving in the Army, he moved to New York, where he met Elizabeth "Betty" Lord, and married her in 1960. They first lived with their growing family in downtown Manhattan, including Stuyvesant Town, before moving in 1966 to Riverside, CT, where they lived for the next 53 years. He and his family regularly attended the First Congregational Church of Greenwich. He spent his entire career at Chubb and Son Insurance, serving as Vice President of its International Division. Following his retirement, he and Betty remained in Riverside until they moved to Lewes, Delaware in early 2020.

Steve loved mountain climbing. In addition to hiking up Mount Rainier in the summer of 1955, he climbed practically every 4000-footer in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. During the planning of a group hike, he could be relied on to inform everyone else in the group of the best routes to the mountain summit, with encyclopedic knowledge of the shortest trails, the smoothest trails, the trails that required clambering over rocks, the trails with the best views, and so on. He treasured the times he spent with family on Squam Lake, having first spent summers there during World War II, and visiting more regularly from the 1970s onward. Other outdoor pursuits included tennis and his numerous gardening and yard projects at the family's Hendrie Avenue home.

Steve was also a big fan of classical music and reading. He and Betty belonged to an opera club that frequented the Metropolitan Opera and, in the summers, visited Cooperstown, NY to attend performances at the Glimmerglass Festival. In his pursuit of creating his ideal book collection, he made it his mission to build wall-length bookcases in most of the rooms of the house. He had a special love for learning about US and British history, military campaigns, and ruthless political intrigue, as well as reading mystery novels and the books of Anthony Trollope. He and Betty also pursued their love of music,

the arts, and time spent with the friends that shared their loves both in New York at the Century Club and in Greenwich, CT at the Greenwich Symphony and as members of the Turkey-of-the-Month Club, which put on monthly plays staged in living rooms.

Steve was greatly beloved by family and friends. He was predeceased by his son Stephen Bonsal and his sister Lois Osler. In addition to Betty Bonsal, his wife of 61 years, he is survived by his daughter Elizabeth (Liz) Bonsal and her wife Tracy Toscano of Lewes, DE; son Dudley Bonsal of Harrisonburg, VA; daughter Virginia (Jenn) Nickell and her husband Jeffrey Nickell of Fairfield, CT, and their children Ellie and Jack.

Services will be private.

Please sign Steve's virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.

Tribute Wall

RF

“ Betty - Very sorry to hear of Steve's passing. We enjoyed the 20+ years as your neighbors and I personally enjoyed working with Steve on various shared fencing and yard projects. With Love, Rick & Kim Fisher

RT Fisher - August 25 at 04:39 PM

AW

“ Hi Betty:
My condolences to you and your family for the loss of Stephen. The obituary was well written. He was a successful man who was active having a good life. You're smile and fun filled spirit is missed in town.
Andrew Whelan

Andrew Whelan - August 02 at 09:59 PM

EB

“ In the obituary, I never mentioned our many, many wonderful years at Innis Arden Golf and Tennis Club, where we played loads of tennis and swam in the pool. A glorious time!

Elizabeth (Betty) Bonsal - August 01 at 08:39 PM

CF

“ Dear Betty and all the Bonsais,
My thoughts are with all of you on your loss of such a nice, nice man.
I keep the photograph of all the Bonsal, Ryan and Fleischmann cousins together in the 1940's at Squam Lake on my desk.
Love to all,
Cousin Carlie

Carlie Fleischmann - July 31 at 06:14 PM

EB

Thanks so much, Carlie. I have that photo and love it. Ahhhh, the memories.

Elizabeth (Betty) Bonsal - August 01 at 10:20 PM

AR

“ Alma Rutgers and Don Snyder send sincerest sympathy to Betty and the entire Bonsal family at this time of your very great loss. Please know that our thoughts are with you. May Steve's memory be forever a blessing.

Alma Rutgers - July 31 at 05:37 PM

EB

Dear Alma, Many thanks for your kind words and condolences. I was a very lucky women to have had Steve as my husband for 61+ years. He was the dearest person that ever was!!

Elizabeth (Betty) Bonsal - August 01 at 10:27 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dudley Bonsal - July 31 at 03:39 PM

LS

“ *All of us here at Meals on Wheels of Greenwich are so grateful for the many years of service he gave to us...and we send our condolences to the Bonsal family. Lynne Stewart, Director of Operations*

Lynne Stewart - July 29 at 07:32 AM

EB

Dear Ms. Stewart, Thank you for your very kind words about Steve. I was very lucky to have been his wife for over 61 years!

Elizabeth (Betty) Bonsal - August 01 at 10:32 PM

SM

“ *Sue and Stu McCalley send heartfelt sympathy to dear Betty and the family upon news of Steve's death.... What a special person Steve was! We remember fondly the Bonsal T.O.M. productions of plays for our private play-reading group over many years and have good memories of parts Steve played and that we were asked to play in their productions--- will never forget the funny Nichols and May skits! S. and S.*

Susan McCalley - July 28 at 11:56 AM

EB

Dear Stu and Sue, Thanks so much for your very kind words. And extra thanks for reminding me of the Nichols and May skits! Love, B.

Elizabeth (Betty) Bonsal - August 01 at 10:38 PM

JN

“ We’re at your favorite place on Squam Lake Dad.
We see you glistening everywhere.
You’re missed more than you’ll ever know.



Jenn Bonsal Nickell - July 26 at 01:56 PM