

## Pete Haviland - Obituary



Peter Robbins Haviland, 83, died peacefully Friday night, Nov. 15, at his home in Rockland. His loving wife Deborah was at his side, comforted by immediate family.

Pete was born to Frances and Harris Haviland Sept. 6, 1930, in Pittsburgh, Pa. He attended Friends Select School in Philadelphia and went on to receive a bachelor's degree in English from Haverford College in 1952. Peter married Deborah Wisner Phillips in 1954, settling in Summit, N.J., to raise four children before relocating to Maine in 1987.

Pete earned a master's degree in Hospital Administration in 1957, following alternative service in a hospital as a Conscientious Objector during the Korean War. He worked for many years at United Hospitals in Newark, N.J., eventually overseeing operations as executive director. In 1977, Pete changed careers and became co-owner of a carpentry and home repair business. Pete enjoyed working with his hands and using his uniquely creative talents as a craftsman, engineer, and builder – first to earn a living, then to renovate an old farmhouse on the coast in Cushing, where he and Deb enjoyed their retirement.

The Religious Society of Friends was a cornerstone in Pete's life. A pacifist and humanitarian whose Quaker roots guided his approach to life, he was involved with his local Meeting in both New Jersey and Maine, serving as clerk and treasurer, chairing committees and providing counsel as a respected elder. At the community level, Pete served 10 years on the local school board and was a selectman in the town of Cushing. Throughout his life he made his voice heard about social and political issues that concerned him, participating in peaceful demonstrations for anti-war and human rights causes.

Pete appreciated the natural world and loved to spend time on the water. He was a skilled outdoorsman and sailor, and enjoyed outings on his 22-foot yawl, Curlew – preferably with friends and family, and often with his son-in-law Nathan. In earlier years, Pete and Deb enjoyed taking the family on vacations to hike, canoe, and ski, always sharing his passion for the beauty he found in nature.

Pete's love of words and language was a trademark. He delighted in discussing a favorite writer or book – often reading passages aloud – eliciting input on a Sunday Times puzzle, or delivering a play on words with a twinkle in his eye. He was a keen observer of human nature, and exerted a quiet influence on those who knew him.

Pete is survived by his sister Lydia Winkler of Golden, Colo.; his beloved wife Deborah; his four children and their spouses, Rebecca and Nathan Dinces of Cushing, Sarah Haviland and Jonathan Blunk of Crompond, N.Y., Andrew and Holly Haviland of White Mountain, Alaska, and Matt and Lynn Haviland of Nyack, N.Y.; and his seven grandchildren: Anna, Jacob, Denise, Rebecca, Kayla, Graham and Emma.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations may be made to Kno-Wal-Lin Home Care & Hospice of Rockland, ME (170 Pleasant St., Rockland, ME 04841 ) or the American Friends Service Committee (1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102). The family would like to thank all of the caregivers and personnel at Kno-Wal-Lin for the many months of loving care that they provided to Pete and Deb.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will take place at the Friends Meeting House at 77 Belvedere Road, Damariscotta, Saturday, Nov. 23, at 1 p.m.