

Al Ward



WARD, Alfred Giffin Age 78, died in his Framingham home, Monday, October 17, 2016. He was born in Cambridge on September 11, 1938, son of the late Alfred F. and Blanche (Giffin) Ward of Framingham. Al grew up in Watertown and graduated in 1958 from Watertown High School, where he shone on the football and track and field teams and discovered a lifelong passion for chess.

He spent the years after graduation learning everything he could about anything that interested him. He became a pilot and parachuted for sport, built his own car from the frame up, became a skilled machinist at the Watertown Arsenal, bought and read the entire Great Books collection, and played chess at tournaments near and far.

Ten years out of high school, he decided to go to college and enrolled at Tufts University, class of 1972. After Tufts and for the rest of his life, he worked at any job that would sustain a frugal lifestyle and leave him free to pursue his interests, including the care and sheltering of any animal in need, especially the many homeless cats who came to his door, until his health began to fail two years ago.

Al is survived by his sisters, Sheila Ward Chayes and Kathryn Bjork, and brother-in-law Paul Bjork. He is also survived by niece Karin (Bjork) Manchaca and companion Keith McMahan, and by nephew Stephen Bjork and his wife Georgett. Al is also survived by his grandnieces and grandnephews, Hannah and Emma, daughters of Benjamin and Suzanne Chayes; Jesse Manchaca, son of Karin; Michael Johnson, and Cheyenne, Carrie, Blake, Isaiah Bjork, children of Stephen and Georgett. Al is also survived by dear, lifelong friends Arthur and Karen Corazzini and their children, many other friends, and by his kind and caring neighbors of many years, Joseph and Nina Guelli. Al was the uncle to the late Benjamin Ward Chayes who died in 2015. Burial will be private. For online guestbook and directions please log onto www.nortonfuneralhome.com Norton Funeral Home, Inc. Framingham. MA

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<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bostonglobe/obituary.aspx?pid=182568649#sthash.iXh8BmUn.dpuf>