



Norman Houghton French

February 24, 1928 - June 13, 2021

Norman Houghton French -- beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, neighbor, and friend -- died at his home in Winter Park, Florida, on June 13, 2021. He was 93.

Norman was born February 24, 1928, the second of four children, to Grace M. (Collins) French and Harold B. French of Boylston, Massachusetts. He attended the Boylston Consolidated Grammar School and graduated from North High School in Worcester, Mass.

Upon graduation from high school, Norman enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served at several air training bases until his honorable discharge in 1947. A World War II veteran, he belonged to the Barton, Brown, Button American Legion Post #398 of Boylston.

After leaving the service, Norman attended Becker Junior College on the GI Bill and earned his Associate's Degree in Business Administration. He worked at Westinghouse Electric Co. as an inside senior customer service representative for more than 20 years until his retirement in 1988.

Norman married his wife of 65 years, Margot (MacLaughlin) French, in 1956. They made their first home at 5 Scar Hill Road in Boylston and raised their two sons, Jeffrey and Scot, there. They later moved to Edgebrook Drive and,

in retirement, joined son Scot and his family in Charlottesville, Va., San Rafael, Ca., and Orlando/Winter Park, Fl.

A native and longtime resident of Boylston, Norman had a deep and abiding passion for town history. He was a founding member of the Boylston Historical Society and Museum, Inc.; a 30-year member of the Boylston Historical Commission (including terms as treasurer and chairperson); and a member of the Boylston Historic District Commission. He held the ceremonial titles of Fence Viewer and Surveyor of Hoops and Staves (“old posts carried forward”) for the Town of Boylston.

During the Bicentennial era, Norman belonged to the Capt. Robert Andrews Company of Minute and Militia, a living history group named for his fourth-great grandfather, a Revolutionary War veteran. Members dressed in period clothing and militia uniforms, marched in parades, fired muskets, and participated in various civic and social functions.

Norman joined the Boylston Masonic Lodge in September 1952 and wore his Masonic ring for nearly 70 years. He also belonged to the Boylston Grange.

He was an 80-year member of the First Congregational Church of Boylston and an 8-year member of the First Congregational Church of Winter Park.

He is survived by his wife, Margot (MacLaughlin) French; two sons, Jeffrey French of Boylston, Mass., and Scot French of Maitland, Fl.; three grandchildren, Jesse French of Boylston, Mass., and Gideon and Levi French of Maitland, Fl.; one great-grandchild, Jaxon French of Omaha, Neb.; two sisters, Virginia Helton of Ipswich, Mass., and Carol Gellert of Laconia, N.H.; and 10 nieces and nephews.

DiGusipe Funeral Home of Maitland is in charge of arrangements. Burial will

be held at a later date at Pine Grove Cemetery in Boylston, Mass.
Memorials may be made to the First Congregational Church, 10 Church St.,
Boylston, MA, 01505, and the Boylston Historical Society, P.O. Box 459,
Boylston, MA, 01505

The family of Norman Houghton French invites you to leave a message of
condolence on the Tribute Wall created in his loving memory.

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *Deepest sympathy..Margaret Kane Shivick
P.O.Box 18
999 Stafford St.
Rochdale, Ma 01542*

I am the daughter of Jane Bergin Kane..lived across the street from you and family all our lives..I'm still here!!!!!!..loved you mother and father..we were all such good neighbors! Always checked any article in paper by the name of French to see if it was about you Margot..we knew after you married you married a Norman French and moved to Boylston.

Still have that large 1880 map from Hardy Knife..Coes pond..Worcester..your father had it in the hall..Martha gave it to me..I Love history.....with condolences ..Margaret. kane Shivick

margaret K. Shivick - June 01, 2022 at 11:07 PM

RJ

“ *From Robert W. Jennison - I just found out about my dear friend Norms passing - despite the years and the distance we remained friends for over 85 years or longer although recently were limited to only talking on the phone. Norm and I were childhood buddies through grammar school and high school and I I have many fond memories of Norm and our youth growing up in Boylston. My condolences to all of his family. He will be missed. Robert W. Jennison*

Robert W. Jennison - December 06, 2021 at 06:19 PM

BL

“ On behalf of the Master, Wardens, and members of Boylston Lodge. Please accept our deepest condolences on the passing of Norman. May the Grand Architect of the Universe accept him as a true and faithful servant of the Craft.

Boylston Lodge - October 31, 2021 at 10:39 PM

PH

“ I just became aware of Norm's passing, and am sending my regrets to Margo and his family. We were neighbors on Edgebrook Dr in Boylston, and enjoyed their company very much. God be with you.

Paula Hepp

Paula Hepp - September 08, 2021 at 12:06 AM

NM

“ Very sorry to hear that Norman passed. I have many cherished memories of my time spent with him and Margot. Much love and sympathy to you all.

Nanci Michaud - August 24, 2021 at 08:42 AM

MH

“ My uncle Norman was one of the most kind people I think that I have ever known. Also one of the most positive. I really believe that his positive attitude, and kindness towards others is why he lived a good long life. He always told the story about the time we went down to Wachusett Reservoir, in Boylston MA, to go fishing. I was visiting from Ohio, one summer. I was a kid then. Well, it was evening as we were walking down to the resi, and, as I remember, he started telling ghost stories. It was a path through the woods on a humid summer night. We got about half way down to the water, and I think he had scared himself with his own stories, because we turned around and went home! I think I got pretty scared as well, so I didn't mind! Every time I saw him after that time, he loved telling that story. It never got boring. Also to this day, when things in my life have gotten tough, and this has been a very tough year for all of us, I also say, "be like Norm!" I will say that for the rest of my life. I have learned so much about Norm, reading what my cousin Scot, his kids, and students created about him online, that I wish I had known before, but I am glad that I know now. He did indeed live a very good life. Peace to you Norman, and peace to Margo, Scott, Gideon, Levi, Rubin, my mom Virginia, and all who knew him. The world needs more Norms!

Mark C. Helton - June 22, 2021 at 09:56 PM

CR

“ I was very sorry to hear of Norman's passing. I met him when I joined the Boylston Historical Society as a volunteer. He was so lively and engaging; he loved to tell and listen to stories and made me feel very welcome. Just a wonderful and delightful man.



Cynthia Rup - June 21, 2021 at 11:27 AM

TK

“ So Sorry to hear about Norman's passing, Margo. I was one of your neighbors who lived in the same building at The Regency, on Elm St., in Worcester, MA. Such a wonderful & kind man. I remember when we were doing our hardwood floors & had to move furniture he came & helped us move things out. As matter of fact, when you were moving, he gave me an art picture which hangs in my brothers living room. May he rest in peace & his memory be eternal.

*With my deepest sympathy to you & your family,
Toula*

Toula Koulisis - June 20, 2021 at 04:02 PM

JH

“ Norman will never be forgotten by me. He is the one responsible for introducing me to the historical society when I was fairly new in town probably 1986 or thereabouts. That introduction and his neighborly friendship allowed me to become a part of the community, and I have Norman to thank for that! He was always around to offer a hand if needed, and he never stopped thinking of Boylston as his home town. He called my house regularly to see how were things going at the historical society, right up to a few weeks ago. He always extended greetings to those we mutually knew, and asked that I passed along his greetings. He will be missed by his immediate and his Boylston family.
Remembering him fondly, Judy Haynes.

Judith A Haynes - June 20, 2021 at 12:43 PM

ES

“ *My deepest condolences to the French family.*

Edwina St.Rose - June 20, 2021 at 07:43 AM

EM

“ *What a great inspiration for all*

Edy Macdonald - June 20, 2021 at 07:35 AM



“ *1 file added to the album French Family Photos*



Scot French - June 19, 2021 at 02:05 PM

JP

“ *Dear Margot, Jeff, Scot and family,*

Paula and I are sorry to learn of Norman's passing. We remember him fondly. When we were first married (1968) we lived in Mrs. Lund's cozy attic apartment at Cottonwood Place. We enjoyed hiking, and occasionally Norman would accompany us as we explored the trails and woodlands at the reservoir. One time we trudged around there in a foot of fresh snow. He enjoyed relating his ancestral heritage to colonial Boylston. We enjoyed learning of it. Fond memories.

Our thoughts are with you all.

*John (Pete) and Paula Peterson
Durham, Maine*

John Peterson - June 18, 2021 at 08:02 PM