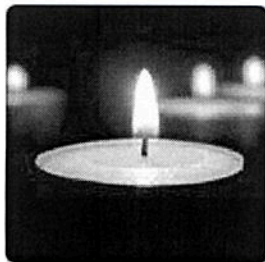


■ JOHN S. CARTER JR. '55

☑ Obituary ➤ Condolences ➤ Flowers



CARTER, JR., JOHN S.

October 24, 2017. Husband of Letitia (Morrison) Carter. Father of Kathy Carter Martinez, John S. Carter III, Pam Carter and Elisabeth Carter. Grandfather of Julia Martinez, Maggie Martinez Foote, John S. Carter IV, and Liam Carter Rowe. Res: Providence and Little Compton. A celebration of John's life will be held at the convenience of the family. Condolences may be left at monahandrabblesherman.com

Published in The Providence Journal on Oct. 26, 2017

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John S. Carter Jr SS #5514322

With wife Letitia, former business leader gave generously to R.I. Foundation, many other causes

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – John S. Carter Jr., who began a multi-million-dollar business with a machine he built in his basement and went on to become one of Rhode Island’s most generous philanthropists, has died.

His passing was revealed in a brief obituary published Thursday in The Providence Journal. He leaves four grandchildren, four children, and a wife, Letitia (Morrison) Carter, his partner in philanthropy, notably with the Rhode Island Foundation.

Carter in the early 1960s created a welding machine that was sold to jewelry and other firms domestically and abroad – and was instrumental in launching Electron Fusion Devices, an East Providence firm that employed nearly 300 people in the United States, Britain and France. Carter started his business with \$1,000 in 1963 and sold it for \$280 million in 2000.

“I am deeply saddened by the death of my friend, John Carter,” said U.S. Rep. David N. Cicilline, D-R.I., in an emailed statement. “John Carter embodies the ideals of service and civic leadership that all of us should aspire to. As an inventor and entrepreneur, he helped create economic opportunity for hundreds of employees both here in Rhode Island and across our country. ... John’s civic virtue was without parallel. Rhode Island will not be the same without him. My thoughts and prayers are with Letitia and the entire Carter family.”

In an interview with The Journal as part of its 2012 Reinvent Rhode Island series, Carter, 78 at the time, spoke of his personal success and his and his wife’s commitment to giving back.

After the 2000 sale of his company, Carter told the paper, nearly \$50 million of the proceeds went to Electron Fusion Devices workers, and he and his wife shared some money with their children. The Carters also donated to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, Brown University, Meeting Street School and other organizations. They developed the Carter Center for Music Education, a division of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra.

“You can’t take it with you,” Carter said.

Eventually, the Carters directed more of their generosity to the Rhode Island Foundation, approaching president and CEO Neil D. Steinberg with an idea.

“We thought we should provide cash for entrepreneurs,” Carter recalled.

Thus was born the foundation’s Innovation Fellowships program, now in its seventh year.

In announcing the latest round of applications for the so-called “genius grants” awards just last week, Carter reaffirmed his support.

“Letitia and I strongly believe in the power of everyday Rhode Islanders to address the issues that affect our state,” Carter said. “We are committed to making this a better place to live and hope the public is inspired to submit proposals with the promise to lead the way.”

In the 2012 Journal story, Carter said: “The next generation of entrepreneurs must think positively. Rhode Island was founded on hope.”