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Robert Whitney Jr. '44 ' 44**Obituary / Death Notice**  
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<b>Name</b>	<b>Residence</b>	
Robert Whitney	Franconia, NH	
<b>Age</b>	<b>Approx. Date of Birth</b>	<b>Approx. Date of Death:</b>
96< /td>	11/10/1920	5/5/2017

**Notice**

Robert Whitney Jr. of Franconia, N.H. passed away at the age of 96 in Englewood, Fla. on May 5th after a long, happy and productive life. Born to Ramona and Robert Whitney in Lexington, Mass. on Nov. 10, 1920, he graduated from Middlesex School in Concord, Mass. and attended Williams College in Williamstown, Mass. until his education was interrupted by World War II. Enlisting in the U.S. Marines in 1942, Whitney advanced to drill instructor at Paris Island where he helped prepare new recruits before pursuing his desire to be a pilot. After simulator training and flight instruction, he practiced landing on aircraft carriers with his Vought F4U Corsair fighter plane and was ready for deployment when the war came to an end. During his on-ground training, he met his wife and the mother of his children, Mary Evelyn Roach, who through the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service) was the operator of a Link Trainer cockpit and flight controls simulator. They were married and began a family in 1945 with the birth of their eldest child Pam. During high school and college, he had often ventured to northern New Hampshire to hike in the White Mountains and to ski during the infancy of the sport. His love for the White Mountains region endured and after the war they moved to Franconia where he went to work at the Ski Hearth Farm of Sel Hannah, a legendary figure in the development of New Hampshire skiing. As the family grew with the birth of son Bob, he bought and operated the Indian Brook Ski Lodge next to Hannah's farm. He also began developing his salesmanship skills at Arrowsmith Insulation in Franconia and purchased the company when the owner decided to sell. The ski lodge business was soon discontinued. Gradually adding roofing, siding and remodeling to his services, he renamed the firm Whitney Weatherproofing Company (later shortened to Whitney's Inc.). Operating the company from their Streeter Pond Road house for several years, his family expanded with the births of Patty, Peter and Tim and he moved the offices to space next to the Franconia Hardware now occupied by the Franconia Sport Shop. Acquiring the Greenridge Cabins property on Main Street in Franconia, he built the shop and offices that would be home to Whitney's Inc. for the duration of his ownership. Thanks to a loyal customer base and skilled crew, Whitney's became a prominent name in North Country home improvement. His business interests expanded in the late 50s in partnership with long-time friend and neighbor Charles Weston. Whitney-Weston Corporation provided affordable new home ownership to many area families as a franchise of National Homes and also installed swimming pools. With spare acreage in the rear of his Franconia property, Whitney researched critical care nursing homes and built the Willows Convalescent Center which remains an important part of the Franconia community under different ownership and a different name. The Whitney family expanded one last time with the birth of Jim. Throughout his life, he remained extensively involved in community affairs and causes. When a substantial sum of money was left to the town of Franconia for the specific purpose of higher education, the idea of Franconia College was born and Whitney planned out a six-month absence from his businesses to spearhead fundraising efforts for the newly conceived institution. A long-time member of the Littleton Rotary Club, he was especially involved with the club's "Dollars for Scholars" and "Rotary Santa" programs. He participated in many area business and community organizations and served on the boards of directors of Indian Head Bank North and Littleton Regional Hospital. He was blessed to spend the last 20 years of his life with his beloved second wife Star. He is survived by his wife and her daughter, six children, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. A service in his memory will be held at the Sugar Hill Meeting House at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 29. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Copper Cannon Camp, P.O. Box 124, Franconia, NH 03580.

