

**JOHN BARTLETT WILLEY(1922 - 2015)**

WILLEY, JOHN BARTLETT John Bartlett Willey passed away peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, March 29, 2015. He was 93 years old and had been living in the Harbor at River Ridge Senior Living in Avon since 2011. John was born in Boston on January 13, 1922, the only child of Dr. Leon Bartlett Willey and Matilda Louise Willey. He was raised in Middletown, CT, where his father was a dentist.

John loved his parents dearly and was very close to them until they died in the early 1970s. For most of his adult life, he was a philatelist, a hobby he had shared with his father since he made his first stamp album as a child. He also loved the outdoors, especially the Maine woods and coast. John attended Williams College in the early 1940s, where he played football, majored in history and won the history prize as a senior. Going the accelerated route, he graduated early in order to attend officer training for the U.S. Navy. He served on a destroyer escort as Second Lieutenant in the South Pacific from 1942 to 1944, and after the war he took a job at Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, where he worked for 30 years. In 1947, John married Dorothy Lemon of Indiana, and they raised their four children in Bloomfield and Simsbury. For many years, they were active members of the First Baptist Church of West Hartford and later attended the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Simsbury. They retired to Martinsville, Maine, then moved back to live in Barkhamsted in the 1990s. After Dorothy died in 1998, he remarried a family friend, Mary Jane Smith of Glastonbury, with whom he shared four happy years. At River Ridge, John was the constant companion of Darlene Jusilla, who passed away this past September. He was loved and well cared for by the River Ridge staff in his final years. To the end of his life, John's friends and family appreciated his wonderful sense of humor and optimistic outlook on life. He leaves his three daughters, Susan Clearwater of Nashville, IN, Lynne Zelasko of Cuenca, Ecuador, and Mimi Madden of New Hartford. His son, John Bartlett Willey, Jr., lives in Conway, NH. He also leaves 10 grandchildren and 1 great grandson. Friends may call at The Ahern Funeral Home, 111 Main St., Rt. 4, Unionville on Thursday (Apr. 2) from 12:00-1:00pm followed by Funeral Services in the funeral home at 1:00pm with Rev. Daniel W. Hille officiating. Burial is scheduled for the spring in Indian Hill Cemetery, Middletown. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Smile Train ([www.smiletrain.org](http://www.smiletrain.org)) . To send online condolences to the family, please visit [www.ahernfuneralhome.com](http://www.ahernfuneralhome.com).

**Funeral Home****Ahern Funeral Home**

111 Main St., Rt. 4 Unionville, CT 06085

(860) 673-2601

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