



Mr. John Mitchell Anthony, Sr.

May 4, 1924 - August 17, 2020

John Mitchell Anthony, Sr. passed away peacefully at Kimball Farms Nursing Center on August 17, 2020, after a long illness, at the age of 96 years.

John's life began in Hamilton, Bermuda on May 4, 1924. The son of Herbert and Marguerite Anthony, he lived his formative years in 8 different states and 13 towns and cities in the United States.

After settling in the Boston, MA area, he was employed by the Ford Motor Company Assembly Plant in Somerville, MA in the 1940's as Engineer Manager. Also, in the Boston area he met his future wife, Priscilla Anne Huse of Lowell, MA, and they were married on June 23, 1951. They subsequently moved to the Berkshires with their two-year-old son John Mitchell (Mitch). A second son, Dale, completed the family in 1957.

In 1958 he began his career with the Specialty Paper Division of the Mead Corporation, in South Lee, MA. He held the position of Human Resources Director for 10 years and Marketing and Sales Manager for 20 years. After his retirement he was one of six industry members elected to the International TAPPI Decorative and Industrial Laminates Hall of Fame "for outstanding and sustained contributions to the paper and laminate industry."

John was always interested in service activities, especially those that helped make the world a better place. He was a member and president of the Lee Rotary Club and the Boy Scouts of America as president of the BSA Council. He was honored by the BSA in 1968 when awarded the Silver Beaver, a coveted recognition of significant contribution to the area Boy Scouts program.

As an active participant in the South Congregational Church in Pittsfield, he held many and varied positions for close to 60 years: Church Moderator, member of the Board of Trustees, Deacons, Missions, as well as Church Clerk for 20 years. He taught the church High School Class for 10 years, some of whom remain in contact to the present day. In 1987 both he and Priscilla were named Honorary Deacons for life.

During the celebration of South Church's 150th anniversary, he authored the book entitled South Church at 150 – In Our Own Words which covers the history of the church from 1950 to 2000. In 1988 John founded and moderated what is known as "The Men's Forum," a group of retired men at South Church, plus interested men from the Berkshire area, who meet weekly for a bag lunch, to discuss and ponder subjects of interest. Today the group still meets weekly.

John enjoyed reading, art, music, both classical and jazz, writing, wood working, sailing and photography, but most of all –he sought and welcomed challenges.

Survivors are his wife of 69 years, Priscilla, two sons, John Mitchell Anthony, Jr., (wife Deborah) of Greenfield, MA., and Dale C. Anthony (wife, Elizabeth) of Southampton, MA.; two grandsons, Devan Anthony of Portland OR; and Sayre Anthony of Turner Falls, MA.; one granddaughter, Mia Anthony of Rochester, NY; and a cousin Susan Blau of Keene, NH.

Funeral Notice:

A Memorial Service will be held at a future date to honor John's memorable life. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the South Congregational Church of Pittsfield in care of the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home, 220 East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201, in his memory. Donations CANNOT be made online, but may be made through the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

RS

“Carla and I were both very sorry to learn about John's death. Reading about his life in the obituary helped us to appreciate even more what he meant to his friends and to the people at South Congregational Church. When I retired as the Associate Pastor at First Methodist Church, I was told that it would be better if I did not continue at that church as I might seem to be competitive with the newly appointed pastors. My wife and I went church shopping and visited South Church on the Sunday following 9/11 and were warmly greeted by many in that church as well as John and Priscilla. We began to attend that church and several years later Clark Honig invited me to come to the Men's Forum that had been originated by John and Jim Kresge in 1992 and I was asked to introduce the men retirees in that group to the work of John Shelby Spong. From that time onward I became a member of that group and John often sought me out for other ideas we might explore with the group. John was a good friend. As his age began taking its toll on him John eased away from the group. I inherited the task of trying to keep it going. I often thought that John and Jim had the right idea to form that group originally since many of the activities in churches involved women's groups. Even if men's groups were formed they often floundered trying to think about what sort of programs to bring forward. As retired Men in the membership of South Church began shrink in numbers I tried to expand membership to members outside the church membership. At our last meeting in early March of 2020 14 people were present. The new members represented a variety of backgrounds and religious experiences. I like to think that John would have been very pleased with the continuation of that group for a number of years beyond his presence in it. I will always be grateful to John for having the imagination and determination to make that group come into being and be as successful as it was. Thank you John, for being who you were and for adding one more accomplishment to your life's record. John certainly lived a life well lived.

Sincerely,
Bob and Carla Skidmore

Robert Skidmore - September 01, 2020 at 05:40 PM

GB

“ *John has been a good friend for many years. Nancy & I want to reach out to Priscilla and family to express our condolences and thank you for sharing this wonderful man with us. It was always beneficial to talk with John and share his ideas and interests. Love & peace to you & yours.*
George & Nancy Bissell

George Bissell - August 30, 2020 at 12:42 PM