



Mr Robert B McNinch

December 31, 1941 - July 17, 2018

Robert McNinch, 76

LENOX – Bob McNinch, co-owner and operator of Eastover Resort from 1983—2000, died early Wednesday morning, July 18, at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, surrounded by his loving family.

He was the husband of Susan (Bisacca) McNinch, a former Lenox selectman, and the father of Paige (McNinch) Waugh of Charlotte N.C., and Rob McNinch of Huntington Beach, Calif., and John McNinch of Lenox.

Born in Atlanta, Ga., on December 31, 1941, Bob was the son of William and Jessie McNinch. He was one of three brothers; William, of Georgetown, Texas, and the late John McNinch, Bob's twin brother.

Never one to draw attention to himself, Bob had an amazing ability to make strangers feel like friends. When you spoke to him, he listened as if you were going to tell the most interesting story or funniest joke he'd heard all day. He was grateful for the life he had, and especially for his family and friends.

In the early 1960s, Bob learned of a resort in Lenox, Mass., that was recruiting Southerners for its summer staff. The owner, George Bisacca, liked the Southerners' manners and drawl, and paid bonuses for dressing up in Confederate uniforms for weekly Civil War skirmishes at Eastover. Because of a prior commitment, Bob wasn't able to start work on the required date, so he sent his twin brother in his place. A week later, the two of them walked into George's office and confessed their deception. Amused, George immediately

offered John a job, too, and the two used their likeness to play tricks on guests.

George was not so amused, however, when Bob eloped with his 19-year-old daughter, Susan. It took two years, and the sight of a granddaughter, before George was willing to welcome them back to Eastover.

During the 1970s, Eastover was a major participant in Berkshire County parades. George Bisacca came up with the ideas, but it was Bob who made them happen. He oversaw the construction of the floats, including a Union Pacific train, and organized every detail of getting the equipment to and from the parade routes. He also organized the firing of Eastover's cannons during the 1812 Overture at Tanglewood Music Festival.

In 1999, Bob got in a "wrestling match" with a pet Jersey Steer, landing him in Massachusetts General for 72 days with several broken ribs and a collapsed lung. He fought hard and made a full recovery, proving once again, it's tough to keep a good man down.

In addition to his role at Eastover, Bob also served as a director of the former Lenox National Bank in Lenox, a member of the Lenox Zoning Board (22 years), president and board member of Porchlight Visiting Nurse Association, a proud member of UNICO, and active member of the Church on the Hill, not to mention an avid member of the "Health Club." During his retirement years, he kept the books for his son John's restaurant, The Heritage Tavern in Lenox.

Bob also answered to Pop Pop, Bobby Boy, Uncle Bob, and "Jesus, Bob." Besides his wife and children, Bob is survived by his brother Bill; his sister-in-law Ticki Winsor of Lenox; nine grandchildren: Emma, Alec, Sam and Parker Waugh; Rory, Trey and Kate McNinch; Tucker and Connor McNinch; a daughter-in-law, Jackie McNinch; his special great-niece and housemate Lindsey Kelly; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements are by Roche Funeral Home. Services for Bob will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 21, at The Church on the Hill in Lenox. In

lieu of flowers, please make donations to Porchlight VNA in Lee and or The Church on the Hill in Lenox, via Roche Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Service

JUL 21. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM (ET)

Church on the Hill
Main Street
Lenox, MA 01240

Tribute Wall

DH

“ My memory of Bobby was when we attended AG Junior High School in Charlotte NC. He had decided to run for president of the 7th grade class. He asked me to be his campaign manager. I gave my campaign speech from the stage of the auditorium in front of the entire 7th grade class. It was a humorous speech about a golfer getting “ on the ball”. He won the election and he thanked me. Both Bobby and John were the most popular boys in the class since they were good looking twins. I remembered Bobby and Peggy Baker were “ THE” couple in our class. Sad to learn of his passing. Also of John years earlier. Sincerely,
Richard Harkey
Lake Mary, Florida

Dick Harkey - June 27, 2020 at 07:38 AM

ME

“ Paige- just read about the passing of your dad. Your parents always made me feel welcome no matter how many rips I had in my jeans. Your Dad was a real gentleman ; kind and happy. Sad for your family. Mo Toohey

mo toohey erickson - January 22, 2019 at 10:13 PM

DC

“ So sad to hear of the loss of a very special man. Bob made a lot of friends very happy that went to Eastover. Susan you and Bob were special to me and many others. You were a great team. Sending Bob and you my love for so many good times. Bob keep the party going and forever be at peace

dan cardinale - September 01, 2018 at 05:43 AM

MC

“ *Thoughts and prayers*

Michael Cosby

Michael Cosby - August 02, 2018 at 01:11 PM

BK

“ *With so much heart felt sympathy to the McNinch family. I remember my dad taking me (I was about 10) to Eastover for the first time and when I met Bob, I thought he was the Marlboro Man. He was so rugged and larger than life, with that smile frozen forever in my head. I was so fortunate to spend a lot of time growing up seeing him and the entire McNinch family along with George, Bob and Ticki. So many great memories, when I worked at Eastover with my dad and then when Bob asked me if I wanted to work with him outside feeding and helping to take care of some of the animals. I remember coming home on leave and being welcomed by Bob and to "come on down to tally-ho and join the party". Rest in peace my friend and thanks for the life long memories.*

Bernie Koscielniak

Bernie Koscielniak - July 22, 2018 at 02:54 PM

RR

“ *To the entire McNinch family and especially Susan, Please accept my sincere condolences for your loss. Like so many people, my life was brightened from having known Bob. Will always remember the "twin tricks" by Bob and John and the fun we had at The Cape. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. God Bless!*
Ron Roper

Ron Roper - July 22, 2018 at 07:16 AM

JM

“ I remember when the McNinch brothers came to Eastover many years ago. They were such a wonderful addition to our staff. Having worked there for several years, George always called me "Jeannie Mac." A couple of years ago, I walked into the Heritage House to have Saturday breakfast with friends and Bob stopped in his tracks and said "Jeannie Mac!!!! How are you and where have you been?" I was stunned and couldn't believe he remembered me from 50 years ago!!! It was wonderful to see him and we had a nice chat.

I will always remember Bob with fond regard and many memories gathered during our Eastover years. I am deeply saddened that a brilliant light has gone out in our town. You'll not be forgotten, Bob McNinch. Rest in Peace.

Jean MacGowan

Jean MacGowan - July 21, 2018 at 02:39 PM

SP

“ Condolences from the entire Bosworth family , and a beautiful memory of Bob Mcninch and his larger than life personality and ability to make everyone smile.



Sue Parsley - July 21, 2018 at 11:32 AM

EJ

“ To the entire McNinch family:
Please accept my sincere condolences in this time of great sadness. Bob will be missed by many and all. May he Rest In Peace.
-Ellen Jacobson

Ellen Jacobson - July 21, 2018 at 09:04 AM

JG

“ Great guy,he and his family made my trips to Eastover a unforgettable time and something I will always cherish.Will always remember the time I won his shooting event and won a case of beer,except I wasn't a guest.(a free loader) Years later I told him when we were friends and he accepted it.May he RIP.

John Gilligan - July 21, 2018 at 06:45 AM

PP

“ A legend..... who made everyone feel welcomed in their Eastover home and made you feel like you made Eastover a better place. It was the other way around...Bob made Eastover a better place! RIP Bob. Love and peace to your family
Patti Perkins
Boston

Patti Perkins - July 20, 2018 at 11:03 PM



“ Dear Susan and Family,

So very sorry to hear of Bob's passing. When someone loses someone so close, who has meant so much for so long, it's hard for others to express sympathy. No words, no matter how heartfelt, can ease your sorrow and pain. But please know how very sorry I was to hear of his passing. I hope in time your special memories will help you cope with your loss. He was a special, good, and kind person, and will never be forgotten. You are a wonderful family and I know he will live in your hearts forever. I hope you find comfort in knowing you brought so much happiness to his life.

There are many memories I recall from Eastover involving Bob's antics. Who rides a horse into a guest's room? Who sings Elvira with such enthusiasm? Who solves so many problems that those crazy guests created? He gave me my first tennis lesson in 1967. His smiling face made us all feel very welcome as did you all - just like we were family. Never passing me without giving a great big hello. Your hospitality was outstanding. Thanks to Eastover I made many wonderful friends and in 1994 met my husband there. And the last night was the greatest but saddest. It made us appreciate this wonderful place Bob and the rest of your family created where we had enjoyed so many good times. Bob will be missed by so many people.

So what do you think? Is Bob up there trying to convince George that they can organize an Eastover WAY North? Bob, thanks for the memories.

*Sincerely,
Sheila Ehlers Hunter*

Sheila Hunter - July 20, 2018 at 09:51 PM

JN

“ *Dear Susan & all of the McNinch Family,
We are heartbroken over Bob's passing. Words can't express how beautiful, intelligent, fun, funny and serious a friend he was. Just thinking of him and time spent with him warms our hearts and makes us smile & cry.
He will be toasted by us often, and missed immeasurably.
Our deepest condolences, love & prayers to all of your family.*

Jim & Heidi Nejaime - July 20, 2018 at 08:08 PM

JT

“ My husband started going to Eastover to a ‘singles’ weekend with his friends before we got married 57 years ago & would always rave about how great it was & how nice George & family were to him & his friends. We all got married & after a few years the whole bunch of us started going to ‘couples weekend’ in January every year for about 15 years! What a ball we had being able to laugh, dance, ski, toboggan, swim with just our friends & no children for 3 days! We, as a couple went back by ourselves for our wedding anniversaries for a number of years also! My husband & I decided we wanted to share this wonderful place with our 4 kids so in the winter of ?1980 we took them to family weekend & there they learned to ski & LOVED it so the following year we went back for a summer weekend & they absolutely fell in love with everything Eastover! So eventually our grandkids came along (all 9 of them) & when my husband turned 70 I treated all 19 of us to a summer weekend to celebrate his birthday. We all wore shirts saying ‘we are celebrating Bampa’s birthday & he wore a shirt that said ‘I’m Bampa!’ The cousins were ages 3-11 years old & had never been with their cousins longer than 1-2 days each year & now they were all together & what a great time they had! They were crying when we had to leave on Sunday! All of us enjoyed the weekend so much we came back every year right up to the year Eastover closed & now those grandkids are ages 17-26 & still talk of their amazing summers at Eastover! We are so sorry to find out about Bob’s passing & wanted to reiterate our combined ‘thankyous’ for such a great family & of course our sadness for Bob’s family losing such a wonderful man.
Sincerely Arthur & Jeanne thomas

jeanne thomas - July 20, 2018 at 06:36 PM

TM

“ *Dear Sue and family,*

So very sorry to hear of Bob's passing. Will always remember his smiling face and his genuine friendliness to all that visited Eastover. He will be missed.

Keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers in helping you through this difficult time.

Terry & Pete Mare

Terry & Pete Mare - July 20, 2018 at 09:55 AM

RD

“ We are so deeply saddened by the loss of Bob. We were lucky enough to be a part of the Eastover/Mcninch family for over 30 years and to be able to call Bob a friend has always been an honor. Driving through the gates of Eastover was like coming home every summer. We would always be greeted by the Mcninch & Winsor families.... our extended family.

I will always remember how Bob's face would light up as he talked about his kids and grandkids, filling us in on whatever was going on in their lives. As many people have said, he really took the time to talk to you and was genuinely interested in what you had to say and you don't find too many people like that anymore.

I will always have fond memories of the days, when Bob, John and Rob would play softball against us, help us win the obstacle course or get a newcomer to join in the sailboat race. Those memories are priceless!

I will remember Bob judging the kids limbo contest ,handing out buffalo chips or acting in the staff play (gee Bob I want to go back where the roses grow..gee Bob I want to go home!)

Bob was a good sport when it came to our many years of antics at Eastover he would either participate in the pranks or turn a blind eye and pretend he didn't know what was going on (when you now he really did). It was all just clean fun with good people and we are so blessed to have all of those memories to hold dear in our heart.

I hope that Bob is at happy hour at the Eastover in the sky with a scotch in one and the microphone in the other singing God Bless America.

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Robin Delbene (and the Ct crew family)*

Robin Delbene - July 20, 2018 at 08:59 AM



“ *Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of Mr Robert B McNinch.*



July 20, 2018 at 08:40 AM



“ *As a Lenox native and daughter of Bob and Susan's friends I remember the many parades that I participated in with the McNinch family. I have many fond memories of Eastover, Bob and Susan and the all of the McNinch's. There are so many wonderful things that can be said of Bob and he will be missed by many.*
Carol

Carol Deets - July 20, 2018 at 08:08 AM



“ *A true gentleman , great friend and a demanding captain of our team in the Lenox Police and Fire Golf Gala. He is missed already. An honor to have known Bob for many years. Keep counting those quarters.*

Dick Syriac

Dick Syriac - July 20, 2018 at 07:41 AM

LR

“ I’ll never forget my first time meeting Bob at the Heritage. Upon hearing he was John’s dad, I called him, “Mr. McNinch”. He roared with laughter and said, “Mr. McNinch was my father. I’m just Bob”. He was a wonderful man - the patriarch of a great family.

Sadly I won’t be able to pay my respects, as I’m in the hospital. Please accept my condolences.

Lyn “from the Cornell Inn” Reilly - July 20, 2018 at 04:27 AM

HC

“ To Susan, John, Jackie, Kate, Connor, Lindsey and All,
There are no words to express the sadness felt with Bob's loss. He was an amazing , kind and,gentle soul. He was a true mentor to me and the best advocate for Porchlight VNA/Home Care that anyone could ever ask for. Bob was a true believer in the Porchlight mission. He donated thousands of hours volunteering his services as an active Board Member and Chair for so many years. He was a true leader. His was able to influence peoples decision making with his knowledge of business and common sense combined. Bob had passion for his work as a volunteer. He loved his family and always told us stories about Connors sporting events. He was a loving husband and a very proud father and grandfather. Bob was a family man and he extended his family to include Porchlight. I will think of Bob often when I fill the candy dish on my desk. He loved his candy. I will miss Bob but I will always carry a part of him with me as he had a profound effect on my career as a nurse administrator. Treasure always his smile and, kind words. With much love and appreciation for all Bob has done.
Gratefully in Deepest sympathy,
Holly Chaffee , President and CEO of VNA Care and Porchlight
VNA /Home Care

Holly Chaffee - July 19, 2018 at 09:18 PM

LN

“ Dear Susan and family, please accept our heartfelt condolences. we were so sad to hear of Bob's sudden passing. He was a true gentleman and our family loved him dearly. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. So many happy memories over the years, we will miss him. Sincerely, Lynda and George Nemeth

lynda and george nemeth - July 19, 2018 at 08:06 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr Robert B McNinch.



July 19, 2018 at 05:54 PM

SL

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Bob was great guy ! It was a pleasure to work with Bob for 28 years at Eastover. The crowd loved it when he would come out to the stalls and do the low part of Elvira or sing 16 Tons. I will miss him. So sorry.

Stan Little - July 19, 2018 at 03:57 PM

AC

“ Alex and I are so sorry to hear the news about Bob's death. Our hearts feel the loss but we have so many happy memories. Know that Susan and the McNinch clan are in our thoughts and prayers. Our deepest sympathy, Alex and Marge Carter

Alex & Marge Carter - July 19, 2018 at 03:43 PM

MA

“ So sorry to hear about Bobs passing. I got to know Bob from our sailing trips with his brother John and our Atlanta friends. These two brothers were special guys and very hard to tell apart. All my best to the family . Marvin Anthony

Marvin Anthony - July 19, 2018 at 03:33 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mr Robert B McNinch.



July 19, 2018 at 12:30 PM

TH

“ Dear Susan and Your Family, What Wonderful Memories many of US share with You. Bob's as handsome as ever in this photo, and who wouldn't be with His Life, with - You Susan, Ticki and Bob, and of course, Mom and Dad. And then there was "EASTOVER" - WOW!

Wishing You, Bob, Peace and comfort. Tom Haddad

Tom Haddad - July 19, 2018 at 12:24 PM

BK

“ Becky Knox lit a candle in memory of Mr Robert B McNinch



Becky Knox - July 19, 2018 at 11:21 AM

BK

*Dear John, Jackie, Kate, Connor, Lindsey and all,
I am so very sorry to learn of your loss. May beautiful memories sustain you in the coming days. I am sure you have many. Sending prayers for peace and comfort.*

*Sincerely,
Becky Knox
(grade 3 teacher)*

Becky Knox - July 19, 2018 at 11:25 AM

MH

“ *So sad to read this morning. Our thoughts are with Sue and the family.*

Dave and Marianne Hall

mhall - July 19, 2018 at 10:38 AM

DC

“ *Not too many people pass through this life that are always upbeat, but Bob was one of those rare people with the ability to make those around him feel good about them selves so that when ever you bumped into him you always left in a better mood. He was gracious, with a warm smile and a hearty laugh. We will miss his friendship.*

Dick & Liz Celli

Dick & Liz Celli - July 19, 2018 at 10:36 AM

MA

“ Dearest Sue, Paige, Robbie, John and the entire McNinch family,

We are so deeply sorrowful for your loss of such a great man, husband, father, brother, friend and so much more. The whole McNinch family holds such a special place in my heart. We hold you all so tenderly in our prayers. May the promise of God's eternal love bring you all peace during this time of great sadness.

I want to thank you Bobbo for always greeting us with such kindness and always with a happy to see you smile on your face. You are a special friend. We will cherish our friendship with you always!! You will be greatly missed but never forgotten. We love you.

Our love and prayers to all of you.

*With deepest sympathy,
Magi Merritt Cantrell and Kevin Cantrell*

MandK - July 19, 2018 at 10:25 AM

GI

“ Visits to Lenox will never be the same, I will look for his truck outside of the Heritage in the morning, remembering many mornings I would run in for a quick visit. Bob was always happy to see you, no matter where or when, he made you feel as though he'd been waiting to see you. Always a friend, a true friend like no other. I will miss you Bob, in Lenox, in your yard (trying to show you how to fix chicken on grill, lol), on the golf courses in the Berkshires and in Florida.

Susan, Paige, John and Rob, and all of your grandchildren, many that I watched grow up at Eastover, your life will always be special because of Bob, I know my life is! Miss you "Sweet Checks"

Ginger - July 19, 2018 at 10:20 AM

JM

“ I hadn't seen Bob for about ten plus years when I walked into the Heritage House and Bob, without hesitation said "hi Jeanne, good to see you"! This is the man I will always remember with affection.
Jeanne Contenta Mosebach, Lancaster, PA.

Jeanne Mosebach - July 19, 2018 at 09:42 AM

GL

“ Dear Susan and family, so very sorry for your loss. Bob was and always will be a huge part of Lenox. He was just a great down to earth guy with a tremendous personality. He would always stop and say hello to you on the street and always ask about your family. He was a great boss at Eastover and was such a huge part of the Resort. He will be always remembered for making our fourth of July's very memorable and really fun. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Gary Lagarce - July 19, 2018 at 08:38 AM

KR

“ So many memories . . . Bob (and the entire McNinch family) have been part of my life since I was very young. Susan, Paige, Rob, John and the rest of Bob's extended family, I am so sorry for your loss. The times spent with Bob and his family had a very large impact on my life and the person I have become. I remember arriving at the barn one afternoon to find Bob, suit coat and tie, hung up on the bridle rack, dress shirt sleeves rolled up with electric clippers in his hand. He had arrived home from a business meeting to find Susan giving Blarney a full body clip. Like always, Bob jumped in, rolled up his sleeves and went to work, helping to get the job done. I will miss that warm, welcoming smile and the humor he shared with many.

Karen Ross

Karen M. Ross - July 19, 2018 at 07:35 AM

TC

“When I plug my ears, you plug yours”. Always looking out for others with genuine kindness and concern. There is a hole in our Town that will be impossible to fill. Tally Ho! Bob. Thoughts and prayers for the entire family. Tom, Kristin, Emily, and Erin Czelusniak

Tom Czelusniak - July 19, 2018 at 07:25 AM

MA

“Bob we will always remember you for your availability and for letting us know a little about the American spirit. We'll dedicate a song to you like we always do when a friend leaves us. Your friends at the Concordia choir (Italy)

Max Amort - July 19, 2018 at 01:48 AM

MA

“I met Bob in 1992 in Eastover on the occasion of the musical transfer of the Concordia Choir of Merano and from that moment we stayed in touch. He was a proud man of his family, very helpful and generous. We will always remember you with much love and thank you for giving us your friendship.
Max - Gaby - Giada - Daniel

Max Amort - July 19, 2018 at 01:41 AM

RG

“ I’m quite certain that there is no way I can briefly summarize the depth and breadth of my memories of Bob McNinch. His presence is inextricably intertwined with all of the other memories that go back to my earliest childhood. The meaning of that presence cannot be overstated. Much of what I am, I believe, was built with Bob’s fingerprints left behind as evidence. He would deny that, or tell me I was full of it, but it is true. Susan, Paige, Rob, John and everyone in Bob’s family orbit, which are far too many to list, you have my deepest sympathy. I hope you know that his enduring memory is preserved in me. He was a great man.

Ron Greenfield - July 19, 2018 at 12:30 AM

BW

“ To the McNinch family, relatives and extended friends, I wish you comfort in remembering Bob, and strength in this sad time. My childhood sense of community was fostered by his efforts and example...what joy he (and the Bisaccas) brought to our hometown with those colorful parades, church picnics and fiery cannon. He was generous, affable, and kind. Bob was a light who made our town brighter and I am eternally grateful. ~ Beatrice Martin Wood

Beatrice Wood - July 18, 2018 at 04:43 PM

MW

Of course we all loved Bob and all of our Eastover family. I think our kids said it best tonight when they reflected on ‘what a great happy hour heaven is having tonight’. You and your family will forever be a part of our most precious memories. Such a beautiful legacy 💕

Miss Jeanne / Cape Cod Wreck - July 18, 2018 at 09:24 PM

MW

That was Miss J / Cape Cod Wreck. But you knew 💕

Miss Jeanne / Cape Cod Wreck - July 18, 2018 at 09:27 PM

PF

“ *A most remarkable man of steely character, charm, humor and indomitable strength. How lucky we are to have known Bob; we're not likely see another one of his genuine warmth and enduring kindness again. My heartfelt condolences to Susan, his kids, his grandchildren and all of his family and friends who loved him so.*

*With much love and many prayers,
Tom and P.J. Dunn Fitzgerald*

P.J. Dunn Fitzgerald - July 18, 2018 at 03:56 PM