



Mr. Wesley Ernest Olds

January 25, 1942 - July 26, 2024

Wesley Ernest Olds, 82, died peacefully at Craneville Place in Dalton on July 26.

Born on 25 January 1942, he was the son of the late Howard E. and Doris E. (Barr) Olds. Wes graduated from Pittsfield High School and the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass. He later earned an Associates in Fire Science from Berkshire Community College. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves as a medic before working as a chemist for General Electric in Pittsfield, then pursued a career with the Pittsfield Fire Department, retiring as a lieutenant. Anyone who knew him will know that his true passion was farming. At his own small farm in Hinsdale for many years, he was happiest when milking the cows, feeding the hens, or picking sweetcorn. In addition to his work as a professional fire fighter, Wes started volunteering with the Hinsdale Volunteer Fire Department in 1961 as a junior firefighter and continued past his retirement, earning a gold badge in 2012 for 50 years of service. He wrote a history of the department and served as its safety officer.

He enjoyed exhibiting and volunteering at country fairs, especially Middlefield Fair, where he spent countless hours at work bees, served as Superintendent of Cattle, and won many blue ribbons. He read countless books, particularly those of Yorkshire veterinarian James Herriot, which he quoted at every opportunity. He also loved to dance and spent many Saturday nights square dancing with the Pittsfield Squares square dancing club.

He is survived by his devoted sister Ginny (Paul) Durwin of Pittsfield and his

three daughters – Jean (Brian) Cann of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, Julie Slater of Durham, England, and Jo (Tom) Carrick of Leeds, England. He is also survived by seven grandchildren – Ellen Slater, Ian Cann, Charlotte Cann, Benjamin Slater, Noah Cann, Iris Carrick, and Arlo Carrick. He is also survived by seven nephews—Michael, Brian, Joe and Nick Durwin, and David, Jr, Dan, and Doug Olds and their families, as well as his aunt and uncle Grace and Neil Wheeler and many cousins.

He was predeceased by his younger brother David in 2012.

His family would like to thank the staff at Craneville Place and Sugar Hill, his previous residence, as well as HospiceCare in the Berkshires who took wonderful care of him.

Funeral services will be held at First Congregational Church of Hinsdale, Massachusetts at 10a.m. on Saturday, August 10th. Burial will follow in Maple Street Cemetery. There will be no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hinsdale Volunteer Fire Department or to Hospice Care in the Berkshires, both in care of Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240.

Cemetery Details

Maple Street Cemetery

Maple Street
Hinsdale, MA 01226

Previous Events

Service

AUG 10. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

First Congregational Church
129 Maple Street
Hinsdale, MA 01226

Burial

AUG 10. 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM (ET)

Maple Street Cemetery
Maple Street
Hinsdale, MA 01226

Tribute Wall



“ I'm so sorry to hear about Wes. He was always a character! I remember meeting him back when Jean and I were college roommates. He and my dad (also from the Berkshires) always had a lot to say to each other. Please accept my condolences.

Kirsten Kelly-Pricher - August 09, 2024 at 12:11 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. Wesley Ernest Olds.



August 09, 2024 at 12:06 PM



“ I met Wes while I worked behind the counter at Agway. He was a favorite customer of mine. He was courteous and ever so friendly. He would take the stairs two at a time and had a giant smile.

Meg Farley - August 05, 2024 at 08:41 PM



“ I had the honor of working with Wes late in his life. I always enjoyed his company and his stories about being a fire fighter and a farmer. We talked often about gardening. He couldn't wait for spring to get some seeds in the ground. Wes was a good man. I am glad to have known him. I wish his family well. -Sarah Williams (Sheffield)

Sarah Wms - August 04, 2024 at 06:35 PM

RJ

“ I worked with Wes for MANY years in the PFD and shared his love of farming even though I was a “City Boy”! He was a great guy and I enjoyed learning about the history of the Ilds family who originated in Middlefield! He was a wealth of knowledge and I enjoyed when he trusted me to take care of his animals when he went ion weekend Square and Line dancing out of town! I watched his daughters grow up and enjoyed his love of his family! RIP My friend and Brother Firefighter! ❤️🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Ron Mazzeo Jr - August 01, 2024 at 08:53 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Wesley Ernest Olds.



August 01, 2024 at 12:04 PM