

# OBITUARIES



Arthur F. Mayo III of Bath died Tuesday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## ‘Is there anything I can do?’

### Ex-Bath lawmaker Arthur Mayo III dies

BY CHRISTOPHER COUSINS  
BDN STAFF

BATH — Arthur Mayo III, who died Tuesday after a fierce but rapid battle with cancer, epitomized the notion that if a man lives his life the right way, his greatest accomplishments are those that happen within the home, regardless of his good deeds in the community.

On the homefront, Mayo had the odds stacked against him on the day he married Martha Farrington Huotari Mayo in February 1984. Her first husband had died just a couple of years earlier, and for her and her two daughters, the void was still dark and painful. Not everything went smoothly at first.

“It must have been hard to come into a home with two pre-teen girls,” said Mari Martha Eosco, Arthur Mayo’s stepdaughter. “We adapted, but it took a while. I remember just being happy that my mom had a companion to share her adult life with.”

By the time he met his wife, Mayo was the last known branch on his own family tree.

“He really loved our family,” Martha Farrington Huotari Mayo said Friday, brushing aside a tear in the family parlor where she and her husband enjoyed innumerable hours together. “He was the last one in his family. They’re all gone. He loved being part of our family. He was a part of our family.”

Arthur Mayo, the director of his family’s funeral home, was always heavily involved in the Bath-area community. His thirst to help was something he instilled in his new family throughout their years together.

Today, Martha Farrington Huotari Mayo is deeply involved in community organizations. Eosco is chairwoman of the Bath City Council, and Mayo’s other daughter, Kirsti Huotari Ryder, is the founding director of the Children’s

Schoolhouse, a prominent Bath preschool for which Arthur Mayo was a long-time board member.

“He inspired me to be more involved with the community,” said Mayo’s wife. “He was very proud of the Children’s Schoolhouse. That was Kirsti’s dream, and he helped her fulfill that ambition.”

Eosco agreed about Mayo’s impact on her life.

“If not for him, I’m not sure I would have any interest in public service,” she said.

Mayo was born to Louise and Arthur F. Mayo Jr. in 1936 in Bath. After earning degrees from the University of Maine and Cincinnati Mortuary Science College and a master’s in education from the University of Southern Maine, he joined the family funeral homes in Bath and Wiscasset, which he ran for 23 years.

His community service resume is lengthy. He was heavily involved in Grace Episcopal Church; a member of the Rotary, Lions and Elks clubs; a board member for the United Way of Mid Coast Maine and the Bath Area Family YMCA; chairman of the Center for Higher Education and a trustee for Bath Savings Institution.

After retiring from the funeral business, Arthur Mayo won election to the Maine House of Representatives in 1994. He served there and in the Senate until 2006.

He sponsored legislation that created the Mid-Coast Center for Higher Education, a community college in Bath, but it was his party affiliation for which some remember him best. After winning re-election to the Senate in 2004, he switched his party registration from Republican to Democrat.

He endured some criticism for that change, including a proliferation of “Hold the Mayo” bumper stickers in the Bath area, and he lost his Senate re-election bid in 2006.

“The Republicans pushed him out because he was so willing to work across the aisle,” said Martha Farrington Huotari Mayo. “He [switched parties] because he wanted to get things done, and it really didn’t matter to him which party he was in.”

After his legislative service, Arthur Mayo joined the Brunswick Local Redevelopment Authority and later chaired the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority. In those roles, he is credited with being an early leader of the civilian redevelopment of Brunswick Naval Air Station after it closed, an effort which has gained national prominence for its efficiency.

But mostly, his passion lay in spending time hunting and boating with his friends and taking trips to the family cottage on Squirrel Island in Boothbay Harbor. His son-in-law, Daniel Eosco, said he was always ready to lend a hand to anyone.

“One of the things Art always said, all the time, was, ‘Is there anything I can do?’” said Eosco. “The thing is, he was always sincere when he said it.”

Mayo’s gifts to his family continued into his final days.

“One of the biggest gifts Art gave to us at the end was saying, ‘I had a great life, and I’m ready to go,’” Martha Farrington Huotari Mayo said. “That has been so comforting.”

For Arthur Mayo’s obituary, visit [daiglefuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/2280658/Mayo-Arthur/obituary.php](http://daiglefuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/2280658/Mayo-Arthur/obituary.php). Visiting hours will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, at Daigle Funeral Home at 819 High Street in Bath. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at Grace Episcopal Church at 1100 Washington Street in Bath.



BARBARA SHIRLENE COOMBS

HAMPDEN AND BANGOR - Barbara Shirlene Coombs, 89, passed away peacefully in her sleep on November 5, 2015. She was born September 8, 1926, in Lincolnville the daughter of Donald I. and Alice (Miller) Patten.

Shirlene graduated from Crosby High School in Belfast. She married Frank H. Coombs Jr. on April 14, 1950. She and Frank owned and operated the U-Ota-Bowl Bowling Lanes in Belfast from 1956 to 1986. This is where she cared for many children when their parents were bowling, she called these her “bowling brats.” Shirlene’s love for bowling led her to a Maine State Candlepin-Bowling Champion. She also worked for a number of years as a switchboard operator for the telephone company. Shirlene was also known as a cashier at many of the local super markets in the Belfast area. There are many great memories of times at camp in Northport at Birch Crest. She was a life member of the Frank D. Hazeltine American Legion Post No. 43 Auxiliary of Belfast as well as the American Legion Auxiliary. She truly enjoyed being a part of a large family of 16 brothers and sisters living on a farm. The past 4 years Shirlene resided at the Phillips-Strickland house in Bangor surrounded by many great friends.

She is survived by a son, Frank H. Coombs III and wife Bobbi of Hampden; grandchildren, Joshua Coombs and wife Genevieve, of Waterboro, and Erin Coombs of Hampden; two sisters, Mona and Sandra; three brothers Keith, John and Dwight; and numerous other nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Frank H. Coombs on Nov. 13, 2012; and by 10 brothers and sisters.

Friends may call from 1-2 PM, Tuesday, Nov. 10, at the Hampden-Gilpatrick Chapel of Brookings-Smith, 45 Western Avenue, Hampden, where a celebration of life memorial service will be held at 2 PM, with Chaplain Joseph Dunton, presiding. Private interment will be at Lakeview Cemetery, Hampden, following the service. Gifts in Shirlene’s memory may be made to Bangor Humane Society, 693 Mt. Hope Avenue, Bangor, ME 04401. Condolences to the family may be expressed at [www.BrookingsSmith.com](http://www.BrookingsSmith.com).



LYNN MARIE MCCROSSIN

RIMROCK, ARIZONA - Lynn Marie McCrossin, born June 15, 1959 to parents George and Ethel Sullivan, passed away peacefully in her home in Rimrock, Arizona on June 17, 2015. She was surrounded by her two children, Lyndsay and Nicholas McCrossin and loyal family friends who became family during her courageous battle with cancer.

Lynn was a dedicated mother, kind friend, accomplished competitive body builder and personal trainer, a mentor and an inspiration.

Lynn is survived by two children, named above; mother, Ethel Sullivan, sister, Brenda Willis, three cats, and countless friends, fans and extended family. She was preceded in death by her father, George Sullivan and faithful companion, “Tigger”.

A celebration of Lynn’s Life will be held at her estate residence on November 14, 2015 at 1:00pm. All contributions in Lynn’s name can be made to the American Cancer Society.



KENNETH R. HOWARD

CASTINE - Kenneth R. Howard, 100, of Castine and Blue Hill, passed away peacefully in Deer Isle on November 4, 2015.

Ken was born in Castine on November 2, 1915, the son of Edward Ray and Ethel (Haskell) Howard. He graduated from Castine High School and went yachting on the southern coast, in his younger years. Ken worked as a welder in New York and Bath Iron Works before returning to Castine as a caretaker and using his many carpentry skills. Ken was a loving and caring person, he especially loved his family. Ken liked nature, the ocean, and working with wood. He built model ships, completely from scratch, all the way up to the construction of houses.

Ken is survived by his son, Richard Howard, and his wife, Sharon, of Blue Hill; daughter, Janet Sundman, and her husband, Robert, of Stonnington, Connecticut; five grandchildren, David Howard, and his wife, Caryn, of Bucksport, Alexandra Sundman-Lee, and her husband, Tim, of Arlington, Virginia, Karena Hammarlund, and her husband, Eric, of Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts, Susanne Gallagher, and her husband,



Mike, of Billerica, Massachusetts, Robert Sundman, and his wife, Meredith, of Pawcatuck, Connecticut; as well as 14 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife, Grethe (Bray) Howard, of 68 years; his parents; three brothers, Sanger, Edward, and Morris Howard; and one sister, Dorothy Hurley.

When Ken was able to share his thoughts, he said when his journey was complete that he didn’t want a boat load of million dollar words. Just say, “So long, Pa.” His journey of life on earth is now complete; he lives on in our hearts and memories. So, as he told us, we will just simply say, “So long, Pa.” At Ken’s request there will be no service.

As a family we greatly appreciate the loving care given to Ken, these past five years, at the Island Nursing Home in Deer Isle. Also, thank you to the Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County. In Ken’s memory, any donations could be made to Island Nursing Home, 587 North Deer Isle Road, Deer Isle, Maine 04627. Arrangements by Bragdon-Kelley Funeral Homes, Ellsworth. Please leave online condolences at [bragdonkelley.com](http://bragdonkelley.com).



SHEILA GAIL (LAMBERT) MERRILL

HERMON - Sheila Gail (Lambert) Merrill of Hermon, passed away on November 2, 2015, after a brief but desperate battle with cancer.

She is survived by two children, four grandchildren, a great-granddaughter and two sisters.

Born in Calais, Sheila lived her entire life in the state of Maine, and she enjoyed a very successful career as an office manager. A nature lover, world traveler and a strong supporter of numerous and varied volunteer efforts, Sheila spent her last days in peace, surrounded by her loving family and many friends.

A celebration of Sheila’s life will be held in the spring, when the trees bud and the flowers bloom. The family requests that those who wish to remember Sheila in a special way may make gifts in her memory to House in the Woods, a military and family retreat, 217 Skunk Hill Road, Lee, ME 04455. A service of Brookings-Smith, Bangor.



DANIEL AHERN

MILLINOCKET - Daniel Ahern, 98, passed away Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at a Millinocket hospital. He was born July 1, 1917 in Cork, Ireland, the son of Daniel and Hannah Ahern.

He is survived by a sister in law, Elaine of Canada, and brothers in law Dan Daley of Millinocket and Jim Daley of New York, and several nieces and nephews in Ireland and Scotland. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife, Teresa (Daley) Ahern, a sister, Maureen Fielding, brothers Dennis, Father Patrick, and John.

Danny will be missed by his caregivers, Gerry and Sheila Baker, Nancy Theriault, and Donna Graham, all of Millinocket, as well as special friends Deacon Dan and Father Bruce.

Friends are invited to visit with the family 10 - 11:45 A.M. Monday, November 9 at Christ the Divine Mercy Parish, St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, 19 Colby St., Millinocket, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 12 noon with the Rev. Bruce Siket, pastor, presider and Deacon Danny Watson, homilist. Interment will be at the Millinocket Cemetery. Gifts in memory of Danny may be sent to the Katahdin Area Support Group, P.O. Box 374, Millinocket, ME 04462. Arrangements are by Lamson Funeral Home. Messages of condolence may be expressed at [www.lamsonfh.com](http://www.lamsonfh.com).

## Poland’s communist-era interior minister dies at 90

REUTERS

WARSAW — Czeslaw Kiszczak, who as interior minister in communist Poland in the 1980s helped oversee the imposition of martial law and the crackdown on the pro-democracy Solidarity trade union, died on Thursday at the age of 90.

Earlier this year a Polish court handed Kiszczak a suspended two-year jail sentence for his involvement in introducing martial law, during which dozens were killed and hundreds jailed.

The court rejected his argument that martial law had helped avert a Soviet invasion of Poland that would have caused much greater bloodshed.

In the post-communist period, Kiszczak also faced charges of causing the deaths of nine miners in a 1981 strike that was suppressed by troops and police, but he was later acquitted.

“This is a man who destroyed my youth and that of others,” said Witold Waszykowski, a candidate to become Poland’s next foreign minister following the victory of the fiercely anti-communist Law and Justice party in last month’s parliamentary election.

“These are people who pushed Poland backwards by many decades,” Waszykowski told TVN24 channel on Thursday, referring to the country’s former communist rulers.

But some Poles say Kiszczak and his boss, Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, deserve credit for eventually opening a dialog with Solidarity and its leader Lech Walesa in a process known as the Round Table talks that led to partially free elections in 1989 and the end of communism. “One may say that Kiszczak’s merit is that when he lost this game of chess, he did not intervene with force, did not try to put the opposition into jail,” historian Piotr Oseka told state news agency PAP.

Kiszczak also served briefly as Poland’s prime minister in 1989. His close associate Jaruzelski, Poland’s military ruler in the 1980s and last communist head of state, died last year, also at 90.

View Personal  
Messages  
From Family  
& Friends

with our  
online guest book  
[obituaries.bangordailynews.com](http://obituaries.bangordailynews.com)

BDN  
MAINE