

OBITUARIES

G. Robert Mason

WORTHINGTON – G. Robert Mason passed on to our Heavenly Father on Aug. 16, 2023. Bob was a man imbued with transcendent knowledge, strength and an abiding faith in the eternal spirit. He will be deeply missed.

Bob was born in 1948 in Blandford. In an unfinished part-memoir, mostly instructional book to help a younger generation, he recounts an idyllic childhood on a dairy farm; his grandparents next door, letters to Santa, 1950's TV, his younger brother Jeff tripping and breaking a season's worth of maple syrup, delivering papers, a cross-country trip in a 1956 Chevy station wagon and playing on the machinery while they were building the Massachusetts Turnpike.

In 1955 his family moved to Worthington and at the early age of 10 "the party was over – there was real work to do." This became the driving force for the rest of his life.

Bob worked for Hillside Electronics in Worthington and Becton Dickinson in North Canaan, Connecticut, where he was proud of the enduring products that he helped engineer. He was a skilled carpenter and had an innate gift for making even the most overwhelming jobs, like raising a house, simple. He was always there when needed and his sage advice and rational competence eased the strain for countless friends throughout

the years.

Bob loved old records, westerns and instructional books on gardening, nutrition, finance, energy, conservation, the environment and spirituality. His true passion for over 60 years was gardening and he widely read, experimented with and applied ideas and principles that were successful in efficiently producing healthy foods.

He was a creative landscaper adept at fostering beautiful flower gardens. He once wrote "plants want to grow – help them." He was a dedicated, caring friend and his core nature was to help and enrich the lives of his loved ones through recommending the right minerals and vitamins for healing and wellness. He looked at both sides of an issue, enjoyed sharing his thoughts and had a great sense of humor.

Bob was predeceased by his father Robert E. Mason, his mother Esther (Bates) Mason and his brother Jeffrey L. Mason. He leaves his sister Linda Mason, his sister-in-law LeAnn Mason, his nieces Doreen Mollison, Stacy Litke and Melissa Mason and their families, including his great nieces and nephews and his great-great nephews, as well as many close friends.

In memory and to honor Bob's extensive legacy, donations may be made to The First Congregational Church of Worthington, 159 Huntington Road, Worthington, MA 01098.

DEATH NOTICES

MASON, G. ROBERT

Died Aug. 16, 2023

MERRITT, FLOYD S.

Died Aug. 2, 2023
Memorial service Sept. 15, 2023

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Floyd S. Merritt, 94

Floyd S. Merritt of South Windsor, Connecticut and Goshen, age 94, passed away on Aug. 2, 2023. He was predeceased by his parents, Mabelle Howes Merritt and Samuel Merritt and his sister, Ruth Merritt Damon. He leaves his brother, Edward Merritt, his brother-in-law Roland Damon and eight nieces and nephews: Timothy Damon, Hope Damon and husband George Chait, Karin Damon and spouse Diane Pona, Kevin Damon and wife Kathy, Keith Merritt and wife Sherry Coelho, William Merritt and wife Tammy, Debra Merritt Ello and husband Greg and Anne Merritt.



Born in 1928, Floyd grew up on a 200-acre family farm in Goshen where he first learned about gardening, which influenced his interest in many kinds of horticulture. His first eight years of education were in the two room Goshen Center School followed by four years at Williamsburg High School, graduating as valedictorian.

He often credited the principal of the high school who taught him Latin as it was immediately useful in horticulture work where he worked every summer in a nursery specializing in plants using their Latin botanical names. He graduated from Amherst College in 1951

receiving a BA degree Magna Cum Laude in English literature. He was a member of Theta Xi, the Glee Club and the Philosophy Club and worked in the Amherst College Library.

After Amherst College he spent two years at Pembroke College of Cambridge, England on a Fulbright scholarship, receiving a second Bachelor of Arts and enjoyed some opportunities traveling to many European countries. Upon returning to the

U.S., he studied at Harvard as a graduate student, receiving a master's degree, and worked as a teaching assistant. He then began a career at Amherst College as an apprentice reference librarian and spent his summers attending Simmons College where he received a Master of Library Science (MLS). He played a major role in the planning for the new Robert Frost Library at Amherst and remained there as Head of the Reference Department for over 25 years.

In retirement, Floyd volunteered at the Robert Frost Library and at the Goshen Library. He was passionate about bringing together students, faculty and books. He loved to read, garden and do local history research.

He returned to live at the family farm while providing loving care for his aging mother, who lived to be 105 years old. He served actively in town affairs, including the Appeals Board, the Goshen Historical Society and the Goshen Historical Museum. As he liked to say "Life is Good!"

As his declining health required, he sold the farm and moved to South Windsor, Connecticut in 2018, living at The Village at Buckland Court, an assisted living facility near his brother and several of his nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the Goshen Congregational Church, 45 Main St. Goshen on Friday, Sept. 15 at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Floyd Samuel Merritt Endowment Fund c/o The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, 333 Bridge St., Springfield, MA 01103 or using the "donate now" button on their website www.communityfoundation.org. Checks may be made payable to the Foundation with note that it is for the Floyd Samuel Merritt Endowment Fund. Floyd established and funded this Fund several years ago to support historic projects in Goshen.

For online condolences please visit www.carmon-funeralhome.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF BLANDFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE DEER HUNTING PERMITS

The Blandford Conservation Commission will be available on **September 25, 2023 between 6:00 and 7:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall to receive deer hunting Permit Applications for Town-owned Conservation properties. The Conservation properties include the Knittel Conservation Area on Herrick Road, Shepard Farm Conservation Area on Route 23 and the Long Pond Conservation Area on North Blandford Road. If more applications are received than the allot-

ted number of permits for each area, the permits will be selected on a random basis. If additional permits are available after September 26, they will be issued on first come-first serve basis by contacting the Conservation Commission. Applications will only be accepted from those that present a valid Massachusetts hunting or sporting license at the time of application. Each applicant must personally submit his or her own Application. Successful Applicants will be issued a permit to hunt in only one of the above Conservation properties. Permits issued will only be valid for the 2023 deer hunting seasons. Permit Applications will be available at the Town Hall on September 25,

2023. For further information or questions, please contact the Conservation Commission at (413) 848-4279 x 202. 09/14/2023

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Town of Blandford Treasurer-Collector and Treasurer's Clerk Services

The Town of Blandford ("Town" hereafter) is seeking a consultant who is experienced, competent, and learned in public sector financial matters, and well qualified to advise and assist the Town in discharging Treasurer, Collector and Treasurer's Clerk services. A more detailed RFP is available at the Town Offices, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA

01008. Electronic or hard copies may be requested by emailing administrator@townofblandford.com or call 413-848-4279 x502. The RFP will be available from the time of this notice until the due date specified below. The Select Board will be the awarding and contracting authority and reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if it is deemed in the best interests of the Town to do so.

Completed proposals are to be submitted electronically to administrator@townofblandford.com or via mail to the Town Office, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 no later than 12:00 PM, Monday, October 2, 2023. 09/14/2023



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



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- Help Wanted: Part Time & Full Time Career Opportunities

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