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Phone: (207) 729-3311 Fax: (207) 725-9619

## John Elden Sawhill Jr.

BATH — John E. Sawhill Jr. passed away peacefully at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014. He was at home with his wife of 72 years, Tina (Bettina Townsend Sawhill). John was 92 years old.

“Buzz” or “Elden” was predeceased by his brother Mac (Malcolm C. Sawhill). He is survived by his wife Tina and his brother Bob (Robert A. Sawhill), four children — John E. Sawhill III of Rome, Ga.; James A. Sawhill of Kirby, Vt.; Bettina Sawhill Espe of Al-Kharj, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Barbara Sawhill of Oberlin, Ohio. He also leaves behind seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, with two more on the way.

John graduated St. Bernard’s School in New York City ’35, Phillips Exeter Academy ’39, Harvard College ’43, and Harvard Business School ’45. He served with the 42nd Infantry Rainbow Division in France, Germany, and Austria during World War II and was decorated and honorably discharged at the rank of Major. His unit was responsible for liberating the prisoners of the Dachau concentration camp.

Following the war, John and Tina settled in Wellesley, MA to start their family and to begin his professional career in marketing. He worked for Carter’s Inc., and later R.H. Stearns before accepting a position as Marketing Services Manager with Springs Mills Inc. in New York City. They relocated to New Canaan, CT. John also worked for Dan River Inc.

Buzz and Tina later

retired to Days Ferry, ME where they enjoyed over 20 years living alongside the Kennebec River and commuting, often by boat, to volunteer as docents at the



Maine Maritime Museum. Buzz also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Bath Water District.

Buzz enjoyed stamp and coin collecting and was an avid beekeeper. An “early adopter” of personal computers,

he enjoyed using technology to research stamps, investigate genealogical connections, and maintain connections with friends and family. He also loved to putter in his wood shop.

Buzz and Tina and their children traveled frequently to their camp on Little Sebago Lake in Gray, Maine, to build cabins, putty windows, haul brush, dig wells, move outhouses, boat, fish, skinny dip, repair docks and listen to the loons.

A gregarious and affable person, Buzz was known affectionately as the unofficial harbor master of Days Ferry. He prided himself on keeping a watchful eye over the community’s boats in the summer from his deck. He would often salute boaters with the help of a small cannon blast at 5 p.m. in order to welcome them home and formally announce the commencement of “cocktail time.”

Per his wishes, there will be no formal memorial service. Instead, family and friends will gather to launch Buzz’ ashes with a small cannon, in the summer and at the beginning of cocktail time, near the family camp on Little Sebago.