

Good morning! I'm George's third child - Chris, or as Mom would say..."Christine"

Most people would agree that George Kilbride lead a charmed and blessed life. A perfect gentleman with lots of friends, zero enemies, and no regrets.

One of his blessings, was that he still had a sharp mind, being proud of the fact that he could call 70 people by name where he lived at Oakmonte Village. Doing online investing, emails, and designing birthday cards on his Macintosh computer, kept him involved in both the social fabric of life - and the stock market!

Many people felt blessed to call him their friend. For his 95th birthday, invitations went out to 165 people that were close to him, and 120 were able to make the party!

Having grown up on Lake Lorraine in Indian Orchard, Massachusetts - water sports were always in season. Whether swimming or ice-skating, there was always a chance to stay fit.

One day he tested the ice, which was 6 inches thick. My brother Tom was able to drive our Volkswagen onto the ice, while my sister Kathy, Dad and I were tethered on rope toes, skiing behind the car. The newspaper reporter was alerted, took a photo, and wrote an article entitled "Skiing on the Rocks"!

Dad didn't realize in the fifth grade, that he had just met the love of his life - as he was the class President, and Grace was the class Secretary. After high school, they dated and got married - with George going into the service, as Pearl Harbor sparked his patriotic duty.

On the day he was enlisting, he told the sergeant that he was an avid snow skier. So they assigned him to paratrooper duty - to be shipped out soon to Italy. That day the angels intervened, as his cousin Phil Kilbride met him by chance, in the hallway.

Phil was the cook for the Commander, and he asked the Commander to please get his cousin George out of the paratroopers, since they were shooting them out of the sky before they even landed. The Commander agreed, and George was sent to electronics school - which ended up being

his three years of military service. He got to work on the top-secret radar, guiding planes safely to earth.

After the service, he was able to use his electronics training, making it into a 35-year career in the telephone company. He was a troubleshooting expert, having a knack to find where the source of a telephone connection problem would arise. He segued that philosophy into his personal life - by giving back, and helping others figure out the source of their own problem that was troubling them, while gently talking them through, to a viable solution. Many people found him easy to talk to, and opened their hearts to him.

In the 1960s, Grace and George vacationed in the British Virgin Islands, and upon returning home, he didn't feel well. The doctor found his liver had grown to five times its normal size. The Doctor chastised George - "Stop drinking or it will kill you!" - "But I'm a social drinker!", George said.

Come to find out, the medical cause was Hepatitis. The solution - was to cut out the cream in his coffee, fat on the chicken and beef, and just basically eat a healthy diet. In his later years, he often said that having stuck to that healthy lifestyle throughout the years - had saved his life, with proof of a life well lived.

We were all betting that George would be the one to make 100 years, but that was not meant to be. However both he, and every single person that surrounded him, felt blessed that he made 99!

God bless you Dad!

~ Chris Kilbride