

Frederic Soper Newman

Obituary

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- "He was a good man and I had the privilege of knowing some..."

- Peter Pooler

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NAPLES, Fla., and BANGOR - Frederic Soper Newman, 96, died peacefully April 2, 2013, in Naples, Fla. He was born Sept. 15, 1916, in Milo, second child of William Proctor Newman and Gertrude (Soper) Newman.

The family moved to Bangor in 1922, and Frederic attended Bangor schools and graduated from Bangor High School. He attended Fryeburg Academy and graduated from Bowdoin College, class of 1938. After college he accepted a position at Manufacturers Trust, New York City. In 1941, he married Althea Gertrude Wildes. In 1943, after the birth of his first son, Frederic Jr., he was drafted into the U.S. [Army](#). He served four years in Europe as an infantry officer. In the final months of [World War II](#) he was assigned to the 5th Army Headquarters in northern Italy. Frederic was then sent to Austria where his first responsibility was to take a squad of soldiers into the mountains around Salzburg, Austria, and secure a Nazi loot train. The 21 car German train had been seized by the allies and was packed solidly with gold, silver, oriental carpets, paintings, diamonds and other precious gems. He supervised the inventory of the contents and found that most had been stolen from victims of the Holocaust. To the end of his life he remained horrified and saddened at the human cost represented by such plunder. Frederic continued his military career in the allied occupation of Austria where he was joined by Althea, Frederic Jr., and his second son, Paul, born in Bangor while Frederic served in Italy. In Vienna, he joined Allied Finance Committee. With the Americans, Russians, French and English, he worked to restore the Austrian monetary system, which had been subsumed by the German monetary system after the Anschluss. His third son, Robert and his fourth son, Thomas were born in Vienna. Upon returning to the U.S. in 1952, he accepted a position with Eastern Trust and Banking Co., Bangor. His fifth son, Richard was born in Bangor. Frederic became president of the bank in 1965 and under his leadership Eastern

Trust and Banking Co. grew into Northeast Bank Shares Association. He served as its chairman from 1976 to 1978. During his business career he was active on several boards including Eastern Maine Medical Center Board, Bangor Mechanics Association, Maine YMCA Board of Trustees and Salvation Army Board. Frederic was a trustee of Hersey Fund, treasurer of Katahdin Area Boy Scout Council and chairman of the 1962-63 Bowdoin College Capital Campaign. He was an active member of All Souls Congregational Church, and served the church as moderator, senior deacon and executive board member. He was a member of Penobscot Valley Country Club and Quail Run Golf Club, Naples, Fla. Frederic was a recipient of several honors including an honorary doctorate from Husson University, Norbert X. Dowd Exemplary Citizen Award, YMCA Hall of Fame Award and Katahdin Area Boy Scout Council Silver Beaver Award. Upon retirement in 1978, he and Althea resided in Naples, Fla.

Frederic was predeceased by his wife of 66 years, Althea (Wildes) Newman; two grandchildren, Scott Newman and Jennifer Newman; brother, William Proctor Newman Jr.; and sister, Louise (Newman) Allen. He is survived by five sons, Frederic Jr. and wife, Hiroko, Paul and wife, Martha, Robert and wife, Patricia, Thomas and wife, Renee, and Richard and wife, Heidi; 11 grandchildren, Karen Sims, Kristine Mackessy, Katherine Newman, Paul Newman, William Newman, Matthew Newman, Elyse Newman, Robert Newman, Holly Goguen, Michelle Gilbert and Kelly Newman; and five great-grandchildren, Alexandria Sims, Liam Mackessy, Kai Mackessy, Stella Newman and Kylie Newman.

A memorial service will be held 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 30, at All Souls Congregational Church, 10 Broadway, Bangor, with the Rev. Dr. James L. Haddix, pastor and teacher, officiating. A reception will be after in the church vestry. Those who wish to remember Frederic in a special way may make gifts in his memory to Bangor High School Frederic S. Newman Family Scholarship Fund, care of Bangor School Dept., 73 Harlow St., Bangor, ME 04401; or Husson University William P. Newman Scholarship Fund, Advancement Office, 1 College Circle, Bangor, ME 04401. A service of Brookings-Smith, Bangor. Condolences to the family

may be expressed at

www.BrookingsSmith.com.

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