



Alfred W. Eipper

November 16, 1919 - April 17, 2017

Easthampton, MA - Alfred Eipper died peacefully at his home in the Lathrop Community, Easthampton, Massachusetts on April 17, 2017.

Al was born on November 16, 1919 in Montague, Massachusetts. In 1929 the family moved to Dalhousie, New Brunswick, where Al's father Donald was offered a position with the International Paper Company. Because educational opportunities were slim in northern New Brunswick, Alfred and his mother Margaret stayed in Deerfield during the school year. Al was a student at the recently founded Bement School and Margaret was hired as one of the school's first teachers. They lived in Dalhousie during the summers, often visited by the Keith family from Deerfield. During this period Al's affection for Molly Keith, which began in elementary school, continued to grow.

After attending Deerfield Academy and the Putney School, Al studied at Harvard University from 1938 to 1939. He then transferred to Reed College where he received a BA in psychology in 1941.

During WWII Al served as a Lieutenant in the Coast Guard. From 1941 to 1945 he was stationed in Astoria, Oregon, Ketchikan, Alaska and finally in Staten Island, New York. In 1945 he was ordered to leave the Brooklyn Navy Yard on a destroyer escort, assigned to go to Pearl Harbor. In the Pacific, they learned that they were to be the "antennae" of a naval invasion of Japan, radioing back information to the fleet until they were sunk. This plan was aborted because of Japan's surrender following Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Molly Keith and Al were married on Sept 27, 1942 in Oregon.

Their first child, Margo, was born in 1945, followed by Steve in 1947 and Eric in 1958.

Al attended the University of Maine in Orono from 1946 to 1948, receiving a M.S. in Wildlife Conservation in 1948. The family then moved to Ithaca, N.Y. where Al was a graduate student in Fishery Biology at Cornell University and was awarded a Ph.D. in 1953.

From 1952 to 1975, Al was first an Assistant Professor and then an Associate Professor of Fishery Biology at Cornell, where he taught graduate students and conducted research on trout pond and warm water fisheries management. He was the author of 25 technical papers and a contributing author of four books on fisheries, environmental problems, and natural resources policy.

In the mid 1960's a nuclear power plant was proposed on Cayuga Lake near Ithaca. The plant was to use cold lake water for cooling its reactors. Al was a leader in assessing and educating the public about the potential harmful effects on the lake of this planned warm water discharge. Due in large part to his work, the plant's operating license was ultimately denied.

In 1975 the family moved to Harvard, MA. From 1975 to 1980 Al was the Power Plant Activities Leader of the Northeast Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He coordinated Fish and Wildlife Service environmental impact assessments and recommendations for power plant operations in the mid-Atlantic and northeast region.

After his retirement in 1980, Al and Molly built a home on the Damariscotta River in Mid-coast Maine. They led an idyllic life there for 22 years. Al was a masterful flower gardener and continued this passion in Maine. Molly continued her life-long career as an artist, and both shared their love of the outdoors, camping and cross-country skiing. Both Molly and Al were active in the Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Al lectured extensively on the dangers of unchecked population growth, resource depletion and environmental degradation. During their years in Maine, Molly and Al were active in founding CONA (Citizens Opposed to Nuclear Arms).

In 2000 Molly and Al moved to Western Massachusetts, joining the Easthampton Lathrop Community in 2001. At Lathrop Al was very involved in the interrelated problems of population growth and climate change. He was active in forming the Green Committee to educate Lathrop residents about climate change and facilitate their adoption of energy conservation measures.

In 2006 Molly died following a long illness. Al had loved Molly since their Bement School days. They both described their marriage as blissful; their love grew constantly throughout 63 years together.

During his last 10 years, Al developed progressive orthopedic problems causing decreased mobility. He was remarkable in his grace, equanimity and consistently positive outlook as he adapted resourcefully to increasing physical limitations.

Al was exceptionally caring and loving toward family and friends. During the last 2 years of his life he interacted with many caregivers. All were moved by his consistent good nature, his resilience and determination, and his genuine concern for and interest in their lives.

Al's children want to thank the Lathrop Community for the remarkable support and loving care that they provided to both Molly and Al. They also want to

express their deep gratitude to Anna Mae (Maze) Perry-Cooney; Maze was a private caregiver for Molly toward the end of her life and continued to support Al for the next 11 years. Her remarkable care, dedication and love were tremendously important to Al and his family, and significantly improved the quality of his life.

Al is survived by his daughter Margo Guertin of Lexington MA, his son Steve Eipper of Deerfield MA, his son Eric Eipper of Seaford, DE, and by 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a date to be determined. Al asked that memorial contributions be made to the National Resources Defense Council. Arrangements have been entrusted to New England Funeral & Cremation Center, LLC, 25 Mill Street, Springfield, MA. Visit www.nefcc.net

Tribute Wall

JC

“ As a teenager I spent many days with Eric and his family here in Ithaca. I have nothing but fond memories of my time with them. Time past and Eric and I lost track of each other until recently. I have always considered him and his family to be some of the most kind people I ever knew. My heart goes out to the family. Today my mother turned 89. We are all blessed with the love of our families. I would like to personally thank Eric, his mom and dad for the love they gave me as a young man. Peace and Love. I never forgot you.

Joad Coleman - February 14, 2023 at 10:16 AM

JE

“ We remember Molly and Al very well from the UU Fellowship and our neighborhood. They were faithful attendees with Molly bringing in beautiful vases of Al's lovely flowers on Sunday mornings..
One Sunday we all brought in pictures of our younger days and Molly and Al brought along their wedding photo. It was beautiful and they were so in love. Molly's paintings were lovely and I wish I had one as a remembrance of their time in this wonderful area.
We have missed them at Fellowship and out and about our town.

Janet and Bud Elwin - February 14, 2023 at 10:16 AM