



## Frederick L. Mitchell

August 5, 2013

Frederick Lee Mitchell, a resident of West Hartford for 44 years, passed away with grace and dignity on Monday, August 5, 2013, at Arden Courts of Farmington after an extended struggle with Alzheimer's. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Evelyn, and his parents, Earl and Constance Grosstuck Mitchell of Kittery Point, Maine.

Fred was born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on September 8, 1919 and raised in the Portland, Maine area where he developed a love for the sea. He became fascinated by pipe organs after attending an organ concert in the auditorium of Portland City Hall (Austin Organ Company Opus Hall) and began his study of organs at Portland State College. After graduation, Fred went on to study organ playing, building and design at Westminster Choir College, working his way through college by playing a Hammond Organ with a group in various clubs and restaurants.

Fred joined Austin Organs in 1941. He left there just before the start of World War II, worked with his father and traveled in Europe after the war to gain experience playing the organ in various cathedrals. Fred returned to Austin Organs in early 1951 as a Vice President, heading up the organ design department; many of his designs and drawings are still in regular use by the firm. He was promoted to Senior Vice President in 1965 and worked until his retirement in 2000 when he was honored for 49 years of service. He was a very loyal, dedicated and meticulous worker was well known in organ circles, having designed some of the firm's most important church organs the firm built including St. John's Episcopal Church, Horace Bushnell Memorial Hall, and Trinity College in Connecticut. Fred also built a 1200 pipe organ in his home.

Fred's other passions included sailing, world travel, photography, carpentry, hiking, reading, and attending live music events. Fred will be greatly missed by his co-workers, cousins, friends, and relatives (many of whom reside in England and Ireland), as well as his caretakers, both at home and at Arden Courts. He is survived locally by his cousin, Cindy Cornell of Westport, CT, and by his sister-in-law, Margaret Smyth of Pinole, CA, both of whom coordinated his care following Evelyn's death.

A memorial Service for Fred will be celebrated on Friday, August 23 at Taylor & Modeen, 136 S. Main Street, West Hartford, CT commencing at 10:00 a.m. with a coffee reception immediately following at Angelo's On Main at Rockledge. Fred is to be buried in Ireland alongside Evelyn where a service will be held later in August. For directions and online condolences, please visit [www.taylorandmodeen.com](http://www.taylorandmodeen.com).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Fred's memory to the Alzheimer's Association of Connecticut or to your local chapter.

"If music be the food of love, play on."

# Comments

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“ Fred's smile and generous spirit will shine on. Great love and thoughts to you, now and always. Forever in our hearts

**April Tomassone - Arden Courts** - August 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Fred:I feel fortunate to have known you and Evelyn.I visited your home few years ago and was delighted when you Fred offered to play the organ at your home as a welcoming gesture for my sister Juanita Giles and I.Evelyn said that you had not played for a long time but our visit prompted you to do it. What a wonderful experience it was to hear you play that enormous creation in the basement of your home. The sound and melody was amazing when you played Bach just for us. Thank you Fred and may you delight in heaven all the angels waiting for you there. I know you are happy to be with Evelyn again. God Bless you until we see each other again.I will miss you!!!Ana

**Ana Zimmank - Moraga, CA - Friend of Evelyn and Fred** - August 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ My dear friend you will be missed.Nejra from Arden Court of Farmington!

**Nejra Lasic - New Britain, CT** - August 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ What an inspiration Fred has been to all of our family in the 46 years we have known him, married to our beloved sister who passed away in 2011. Fred will be with his wife once more this month, at a graveside service in Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland (known as the Land of Saints and Scholars), surrounded by loved ones and laid to rest in the family plot. Gone but not forgotten! Margaret and Jimmy

**Margaret Smyth - Pinole, CA - sister-in-law/brother-in-law** - August 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ We have wonderful memories of Fred who was a true New England gentleman. He had a great, dry, impish sense of humour and a wonderful smile. He was a loving husband to my sister Evelyn and was always a much loved member of our family. He had a long and creative life and is living behind a great legacy in terms of all the pipe organs he designed and built. We are so pleased he is coming back to Ireland to rest alongside Evelyn and Evelyn's parents in Tralee.

**David Giles - London, England - Brother in law** - August 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Our heartfelt sympathies in this, your time of grief.

**Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home - West Hartford, CT** - August 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM