

**MAXINE EDITH CARLETON TOURTILLOTTE TRIBUTE:**  
**RECIPIENT OF THE 2016 LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD**  
**PRESENTED BY THE BOOTHBAY HARBOR ROTARY CLUB**

*Delivered by Bruce Tindal*

*April 21, 2016*

**Background**

Our very first Lifetime Service Award recipient, over 54 years ago, in 1960, was Judge John W. Brackett. In 1960, Maxine was 37 years old, and in her second decade working at Samples Shipyard.

We have generally presented this award every year around Patriot's Day so we can honor our own community patriot. Patriot's Day harks back to the April 19, 1775 battles of Lexington and Concord, the first battles that launched the American Revolution 241 years ago.

Boothbay's very first settled minister, John Murray, delivered a discourse in Newburyport, just after the close of the American Revolutionary War, on December 11, 1783. Murray envisioned a thanksgiving for peace for future Patriot's Day celebrations:

"That it would be no small encouragement to mental improvement, if a noble emulation should arise among the several states, in promoting societies for the arts – for science – for agriculture, and manufactures and especially if some public institution were set on foot by the authority in each state for annual exhibitions at some public place – on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, or some other time, -- when Candidates might display their abilities in their

several studies, and some honorary premiums be awarded by the Judges to such as excel.”

Perhaps our Boothbay Harbor Rotary Lifetime Service Award somehow comes close to the mark of what Boothbay’s Reverend John Murray preached and prophesied almost 250 years ago. Today, on Patriot’s Day, instead of an academic completion, we celebrate an athletic Boston Marathon, and only Maine and Massachusetts celebrate Patriot’s Day. Here in Boothbay, Rotarians and our community celebrate and honor a local patriot who excels in his or her contributions to our community.

Today, we are celebrating and honoring some of Maxine Edith Carleton Tourtillotte’s remarkable accomplishments from 1923 to the present. Her son, Jack Tourtillotte, recently described the meaning of this award for Maxine, her family, and to all who know her: “I know Mom will be thrilled to receive the award, and it will be a cap to the amazing life she has lived. She is truly part of the ‘Greatest Generation’ and lives her life to the fullest, always giving to others without thinking of herself first. I know that is said about many, but in her case it is the way she has lived her 93 years.” We also realize we cannot adequately describe her life, since that would take another 93 years. As one of Maxine’s friends moaned, “If only Sonny Hodgdon, Eliot Winslow, and Mace Carter were here to speak [as] only they could tell in their appropriate language and wit.”

## **Wiscasset Beginnings**

Maxine Edith Carleton was born on March 4, 1923 in Boothbay Harbor to her parents, Earle M. Carleton and Myra E. Hodgdon. Maxine was their only child then and forever. At two, Maxine hosted her own birthday party with several family and friends celebrating, and the occasion written up in the local paper. Until Maxine turned seven in 1930, she and her parents lived on Federal Street in Wiscasset. Maxine did stay overnight quite often with her grandfather at Mill Cove in West Boothbay Harbor, and Maxine loved her grandfather’s place, nearly a stone’s throw from where she would eventually live and work. Maxine often reminisced how dearly

she loved Boothbay Harbor as a young, precocious girl, preferring to stay in Boothbay Harbor. When asked by a *Boothbay Register* reporter when young Maxine wanted to go home to Wiscasset, Maxine quipped, “Not for 60 Sundays!”

## **Boothbay Youth**

Around 1930, Maxine’s parents, Earle and Myra Carleton, moved with young Maxine to their new house in West Boothbay Harbor between St. Andrews Hospital and what was then Stoddard’s Pool, now Douglas and Becky Carter’s home. This Carleton home where Maxine grew up is the Home Health building today. They were just a few yards away from Maxine’s mother’s three old maid sisters, Dody, Edith and Hildred, known to the family and friends as “The Girls,” who like Maxine were full of spirit and danced up a storm. These three aunts were very supportive of Maxine and John, especially Maxine.

Maxine enrolled in the Boothbay Harbor High School commercial class roll, one of 12 in her class of 42 students. She served on the board of editors for her class log staff, responsible for publishing the report of the high school class of 1940, and Maxine’s log staff published one of the finest logs ever produced in Boothbay, according to the *Boothbay Register* that year. Maxine was the number one student in her class at typing, a skill she honed and expanded upon very quickly to help her community and nation in a time of war.

Maxine participated in her class chorus all four years of high school. She was part of the senior play cast, “Peter Beware,” at the Opera House, in 1939, and commercial club her junior and senior years. A couplet was added after Maxine’s yearbook photo, clearly referring to her beau, John Tourtillotte: “Maxine’s golden hair and pretty smile/Makes a certain boy come many a mile.” John was named in Maxine’s yearbook, because Maxine was one of 15 classmates who had become victims of Cupid’s fatal blow, according to the 1940 yearbook.

On September 28 of her senior year, Maxine was one of 43 seniors and seven teachers to attend the annual senior class picnic at Popham

Beach, they explored the ruins of the old fort, they and their teachers danced to a portable radio a classmate had brought along, and “everyone had a grand time.”

Her yearbook queried, “If you were driving along the roads of the Boothbay Region, what high school seniors would you expect to meet?” Maxine was one of seven named.

Maxine and almost her whole senior class, roughly 39 of 51 seniors, along with 12 parents and advisors, traveled near the end of April of 1940 to our nation’s capital, during cherry blossom season. This was captured by Maxine’s framed photo of all 51 people in front of the U.S. Capitol Building. How many knew that Newbert W. A. “Brud” Pierce, a classmate of Maxine’s class of 1940, would someday be voted at Boothbay Harbor’s town meeting as the King of Boothbay Harbor!

Back in the Harbor, Maxine along with Miles Nickerson, presented the class gifts to her graduating classmates. She attended the Alumni Banquet, held at the Hotel Fullerton, where the Boothbay Harbor Post Office is today. Maxine graduated from Boothbay Harbor High School at the Strand Theatre, now the location of the Opera House parking lot, on June 7, 1940.

Maxine was the number one commercial student in her class. The Boothbay Commercial Club held, in March of 1940, a party in the gymnasium with music furnished by a nickelodeon, a term coined in 1888. The first nickelodeon, or nickel jukebox, was invented in 1938, only two years before Maxine’s nickelodeon party. Maxine attended the Maine School of Commerce, an excellent, one-year, secretarial school in Portland, where she graduated in 1941. This education was a great grinding and grounding for Maxine’s future work career.

Maxine later developed a taste for scotch, often Johnny Walker Black Label, though brother in law, Paul, knows Maxine is fine with drinking Red Label as well. But have no doubt that Maxine loved her scotch, and all too many of her so-called friends and family tell about how she kept a bottle of scotch in the trunk of her car at all times, so she would never be caught high and dry! Apparently, this embarrassed a certain principal of our high

school, who worried about Maxine getting caught by local police, although this same tale came from many other nameless informants. Countless family and friends kept good to their obligation to buy and store ample scotch in their homes to properly host Maxine whenever she might drop by and visit.

## **Marriage and War Bride**

John Hugh Tourtillotte, a 1936 Morse High graduate, had already worked at the Hyde Windlass Company in Bath, Maine and was serving in the U.S. Army, stationed at Providence, Rhode Island. John swept Maxine, four years younger, off her feet, and they married three days after Pearl Harbor Day, on December 10, 1941 at the Methodist Church of Boothbay Harbor. Their scheduled wedding in late December was expedited exactly three weeks due to Pearl Harbor, three days earlier, as evidenced by their typed wedding announcement changed in handwriting from December 31 to December 10. At that time, Maxine was only 18, had completed both her high school education and secretarial training, and she had already worked one year at Samples. Their marriage was solemnized in the Boothbay Harbor Methodist Church by Forrest Littlefield, the father of Arlene Pizzi, who taught many of us years later. Maxine's lifelong best friend and cousin, Elizabeth McDougall, already wife of Elliott McDougall, was matron of honor. Groom, John, was already a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. This was the beginning of a wonderful marriage spanning over 45 years.

John, in January of 1941, had enlisted well before Pearl Harbor and soon went overseas as an infantryman. John fought in the heat of battle, survived the misery of foxholes, and savored the intoxication of foreign lands. John marched in North Africa for several months before encountering the enemy again in Italy. Suddenly, while in Italy, the U.S. government officially declared John missing in action on December 15, 1942, one of four Maine MIA men and one of 431 U.S. MIAs at that time. Maxine, upon and after receiving the telegram that John was missing in action, never wavered in believing and declaring John had the tenacity and ability to get out of any situation and would return to her alive. Maxine lived her high school class motto, "Fides Omnia Vincit," "Faith Conquers

Everything.” Although John did not talk about his activity after the War, at John’s memorial service, his fellow MIA, Dick Morris, chronicled their close calls. After their capture in Italy, John and Dick had been placed with many other MIAs in an Italian war train going through Italy. At a curve in the tracks, while the train slowed down a bit, only John Tourtillotte and Dick Morris leaped off the train. Hours later, Allied air bombs blew up that train, and most of the MIAs were killed by friendly fire. Meanwhile, John and Dick managed to find shelter with a friendly Italian family, who hid them in their basement, as they lived behind enemy lines in Italy. After a lengthy stay under the shelter of this Italian family, John was trying to convince Dick that they should hijack a plane (he was an infantryman and had not yet learned to fly planes) and escape. Soon, however, the Allied troops finally made it into their area in Italy and rescued them, when the peace treaty was finally signed. A quarter century later, in the late 1960s, Maxine and John returned to Italy and found and thanked this Italian family who had housed and saved John Tourtillotte and Dick Morris.

John Tourtillotte not only had joined the army before World War II was declared, he returned to fight after World War II, in the hellish Korean Conflict. Maxine soldiered on at Sample’s Shipyard, and continued to help in the war effort through her office management, vitally needed to launch many more ships.

Maxine, during these war years, while husband, John, was away, would often drive weekends to Bath and share time with her husband’s sisters, Mary and Margret, often enjoying Sam’s for lobster rolls and Hallett’s Drug Store for sundaes. John’s younger brother, Paul, recalls Maxine as one of the most devoted daughters in law he ever knew. Maxine inspired and excited his parents during these trying war years. Maxine taught young Paul how to play Pinochle on the living room floor in Bath.

While World War II continued, probably around 1944, John did make it back long enough for Maxine soon to be pregnant with what would become young Jack, now old Jack, here in this place. While very pregnant, Maxine drove up to Bath, where her husband’s kid brother, then 18 or 19, suggested going to a movie playing in Brunswick. Maxine was delighted go

with Paul Tourtillotte, now 90 and then and now three years younger than Maxine, on a bus from Bath to Brunswick. Paul and a very expansive Maxine made quite the couple at the movies that night, leaving some confused movie-goers unsure if young Paul was the proud father-to-be!

Soon, young Jack was born. Virginia McDougall, Becky Roberts' mother, a 35-year veteran of the St. Andrews Hospital operating room with Drs. Gregory, Andrews, and Griffin, never let Jack, Maxine's and John's first newborn, forget the fact that Virginia helped Dr. Gregory deliver Jack, and thereby Virginia saw Jack before Maxine did!

### **Sample's Shipyard and Railway Career**

Hired by Frank Sample, at 18, Maxine entered the office of Sample's Shipyard the day Sample's first opened, in late 1940 or early 1941, prior to the U.S. declaring war, the start of an incredible forty-five year career at Samples. Her aunts, Dody, Edith, and Hildred Hodgdon, all unmarried their entire lives, refused to let Maxine start work at Samples until all three teamed up and thoroughly cleaned her shipyard office. These three aunts made their living cleaning homes and cottages in the Boothbay Region and frequently took Maxine to Squirrel Island with them on the Nellie G.

Maxine ran the office during the height of Boothbay's shipbuilding. Sample's was the first area shipyard to hire women. By the time of her wedding in late 1941, Maxine was already, at 18, head bookkeeper at Sample's Shipyard. She actually ran two Sample's offices, one at the Shipyard (where the Signal Point Condominiums are today) and the other office at Sample's Railway (where Boothbay Harbor Shipyard is today), two separate businesses due to federal grant requirements.

Miss Maxine Carleton, on April 19, 1941, had been swiftly honored and recognized for her accomplishments as a successful working woman of just a month over 18 and a valued member of Sample's Shipyard's office staff. She served as sponsor and christened by smashing the traditional bottle of champagne over the bow of the naval motor minesweeper YMS-106 as it went overboard, under the sharp eyes of Commander Joseph M. Kiernan, supervisor of naval construction for all of Maine and his assistant,

Commander Lewis Corman. Despite the rain, a large crowd had gathered inside the building and greater numbers outside the shipyard, including many in cars along the Southport Road and others lining the shore and the hillside, to witness the launching and view the slide of the minesweeper into the harbor. Exemplifying the war rush, as the minesweeper was being towed back beside two of her sister ships to be fitted out, a tractor was pushing the stern of another keel into position on the ways the YMS-106 had just vacated. Within 24 hours of launching, another keel had been stretched.

Although Maxine garnered other awards from Sample's during those war years, Sample's bestowed awards to Maxine only during her lunch hour, as there was no time to waste in this huge war effort at Sample's Shipyard. Brigadier General Thomas E. Troland bestowed on Maxine Carleton a lapel pin and ordered her to wear her pin proudly with credit to herself because this was our war, not the Army's war and not the Navy's war. Historian and Maxine's superintendent of schools, Harold Clifford, noted the importance of not only Sample's Shipyard but its office staff: "Secretarial work and record keeping became a major element in the running of the yards," particularly due not only to wartime emergencies but also to new Workmen's Compensation, Social Security, payroll income tax deductions, unemployment insurance, federal government contracts requiring time-and-a-half pay for over 40 hours per week, and financing of Navy contracts containing ten percent of contract prices being withheld until six months after delivery. Loans became critical for shipyards, and Maxine was renowned for working out deals with banks.

Goudy and Stevens teamed with Hodgdon Brothers and together with Sample's Shipyard won contracts to build wooden-hulled minesweepers. Shipbuilding boomed and in-migrant labor flowed into the harbor. Weather-beaten old hotels like Boothbay House accommodated some of the new individual workers as did some of the town's large, older homes that were subdivided into apartments. Community church suppers were popular amidst the 1943 Minesweeper Trials at Sample's Shipyard. Sample's Shipyard during World War II employed over 700 workers, more than twice



that of Hodgdon and Goudy and Stevens combined. However, by the late 1940s, the Sample's Shipyard force dwindled to about 30 men.

Called a "police action," for most Americans it was war, and in Boothbay Harbor the shipyards during those Korean "War" years hummed. Orders for military vessels created another boom for Sample's, Goudy & Stevens and the Hodgdon yards. In 1950 Washington awarded Sample's a contract for three 145-foot minesweepers, and then in 1951 it gave the team of Hodgdon Brothers and Goudy & Stevens a contract for 8 more. For the new work Sample's boosted its workforce to 300; Hodgdon and Goudy & Stevens employed 250. A year later, while finishing its work on minesweepers, Sample's won a million dollar government contract for 12, sixty-three foot Navy crash boats. In 1954, Sample's and Goudy & Stevens won a nine million dollar contract to build four 171-foot minesweepers. However, in January of 1954 a costly fire temporarily shut down shipbuilding at Hodgdon Brothers.

At Sample's, labor issues, formerly unknown in Boothbay Harbor, flared in 1956. Workers at Sample's walked out on strike. After the strike was settled the Navy temporarily suspended funding for Sample's two unfinished minesweepers, idling 250 workers. When funding resumed and the firm launched the last two of the four-ship order, Sample's ended its naval business. By 1958 Sample's had turned to building tugboats.

Del and Connie Ham's children recall that their father was the office manager at Sample's but that Maxine actually ran the Sample's office. Maxine's sons remember how close their parents were to Del and Connie Ham, with whom Maxine had grown up.

One day, Maxine mistakenly brought into the office the wrong plastic bag and instructed Sue Shields in her office to cut up all its contents. So Sue cut up all these T-shirts. The next morning, Maxine's husband, John stormed into her office at Sample's, mad as a hornet, looking for all his T-shirts.

Richard McDougall, married to Virginia McDougall, was the father of Becky Roberts and uncle of Sandy Page, Becky and Sandy being here

tonight. Richard McDougall was superintendent at Sample's Railway, including what was called the Mold Loft at Sample's Shipyard for many years. Richard learned many of his skills from Benny Rand, worked closely with the office and particularly Maxine, office manager, since the Mold Loft housed the architectural and design work for these ships. Richard often spoke about how instrumental Maxine was in securing loans so that the men would receive their paychecks and how Maxine genuinely cared for the welfare of the workers. Becky Roberts recalls that because Maxine and her Dad worked together for years preparing payrolls and customer bills, Becky's mother, Virginia, used to jokingly call Maxine "Richard's second wife"! Richard characteristically would shake his head and say, "Oh, Virginia," as only Dick could do. In reality, Maxine and Johnny, Richard and Virginia, and Elizabeth and Elliott were all very good friends and were always together at family (Hodgdon-Carleton-McDougall) gatherings.

We know Maxine must detest the expression, "close enough for government work!" She demanded perfection of herself and others.

Maxine was not yet ready to leave Sample's when Frank L. "Sonny" Sample Jr. presented Maxine with her silver plate engraved, "For the many years of devoted service and friendship. Thank you." Sonny presented this to Maxine on December 30, 1977, not long before he passed away.

Maxine was proud that a professional shipyard like Sample's never used or insisted upon a written contract when building boats or repairing boats for local fishermen and other locals. Just shaking hands was always good enough. And if someone couldn't pay the full amount, Maxine always worked out a resolution informally with locals, frequently writing off some of their billing, especially when times were tough. Maxine often successfully negotiated with the banks to restructure loans and keep Sample's financially afloat as well.

## **Family Focus**

Maxine's husband, John, loved to fix most anything. He worked many years at J.E. Hodgkins Company, in Randolph, making rough and finished marine and industrial castings, decorative castings and plaques, and parts

for airplanes. John molded the Fishermen's Memorial around 1980, still a remarkable Boothbay landmark gracing the East Side of Boothbay Harbor and one of the most appreciated and photographed icons on this peninsula. He worked on guns, using a cold bluing method, a lost art today. John devoted over 32 years of voluntary service to the Boothbay Harbor Fire Department after his war service and up to his passing.

The young couple had two sons, Jack and Earl, born in 1947 and 1949 respectively. Her sons fondly remember their mother and father putting on clambakes at the YMCA's Back Narrows property, now owned by Patty Seybold, for anyone who wanted to come. Often, many families from all over the region would attend and enjoy food, friends, and surroundings.

John loved to play golf (such as with Grace Calhoun's brother, Erwin Dodge), and Maxine occasionally played golf. John loved to fly to camp, while Maxine drove to camp. John was an avid fly fisherman. Maxine and John had a wonderful time for a week at Orvis Fly Fishing Camp, and they returned with some pretty expensive fly fishing rods!

Maxine and John Tourtillotte did many things together when not working. They rambled in the 1950s all over the Rangeley area, staying at Badger's Camps on Dodge Pond until they bought an old camp at Rangeley, in 1960. Maxine and John would go back and forth many times between Boothbay Harbor and Rangeley. Maxine would frequently take her girlfriends, including Virginia Brewer, Barbara Leonard and Virginia Roberts, to camp for mini-vacations. This old camp is now gone but the place is now the home of son Jack and his wife, Susan.

Maxine treasures her sons and families, including all four grandchildren. Jack and Susan have two daughters, Carolyn Pottle and her husband, Steven Pottle, of Texas, and Katie Joca and her husband, Andy Joca, of Alaska. Earl and Maggie have two daughters, Meredith Plummer and her husband, Quinton Plummer, of Wiscasset, and Magen Chryplewicz and her husband, Tom Chryplewicz, of Boothbay. Maxine also prizes her

seven great-grandchildren: Ella, John, Molly, Amelia, Dylan, Austin and Logan.

Maxine would often take her granddaughters to Rangeley, where she taught them to skip rocks while sitting on a log by the lake. They collectively made enough batches of stone soup to feed the entire U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. Maxine never tired of skipping stones. Gram also surprised them at Rangeley, when, in her 70s, she went tubing with the rest of the grandkids and loved it.

Maxine and John took Jack's older daughter, Carolyn, then in third grade, cross country and all the way to Alaska in their camper for three months. Carolyn reminisces frequently about catching the biggest halibut, even though Carolyn and Maxine were tossing lunch over the side of the boat, while Grampa John kept fishing. Gram Maxine surprised Carolyn one night at their campsite with a horse, who took Carolyn for a ride under the moon. Carolyn walked under Niagara Falls, boated through Glacier Bay, and viewed Mt. McKinley, now Denali. Richard McDougall was so pleased that both Maxine and Johnny had given up smoking cigarettes, which also resulted in their saving extra money from quitting smoking to pay for their Alaska trip.

Later, Maxine transported Jack's younger daughter, Katie, then in the fourth grade, to China, and that wasn't China, Maine! It was, however, a slow boat to China. Katie was the only child on the cruise ship, and Katie enjoyed this adventure, especially walking the Great Wall of China together with Gram. Katie recalls how much Gram supported her and Carolyn in their team sports. While a senior batting at home plate for her softball team, Katie hit a foul fly that hit Maxine on her collar bone and gave her a terrible bruise. Although Katie slammed a home run in the very next pitch, Gram only remembers her granddaughter hitting her with a foul ball! Katie, while attending Goucher College in Baltimore, was wowed by both Gram Maxine, at 76, and her buddy Ginny Roberts arrive after their road trip of nine hours, when they took Katie and her roommate out to dinner. Katie observed, "I can honestly say I don't remember any other grandmothers taking a road trip to Goucher."

Her grandchildren know how Maxine could throw a party, such as Christmas Eve at her home, which was an open house for family and friends. She made toast points, cooked in her living room with lobster newburg that Grampa John warmed on the stove for kids and family from everywhere. Maxine's favorite gum is Trident Mint, she has a sweet tooth, and she is a fantastic cook, often bearing gifts of chocolate fudge and peanut pies, which she often creates with her relatives. Nobody went hungry, with leftover boxes sent home with those who would spend the next day alone. The family would venture out every Christmas Eve to the Christmas Eve service at the Boothbay Harbor Methodist Church. Granddaughter Katie loved sliding down Gram's banister Christmas mornings particularly. She recalled Gram, as always, being the best dressed and polished, and Katie loved to play dress up and twirl around in Maxine's skirts and try out all her high heels. Gram never had her ears pierced so her clip-on earrings never got old.

Gram Maxine's house was always full of good edibles, such as Little Debbie sandwiches, Klondike bars, peanut butter pies and Moxie. Her door was always open, never locked, and anyone could and often did stop by any day of the week, just to say hi.

Maxine would ensure that her granddaughters learned to swim at our Boothbay Region YMCA pool. She would also walk with them downtown to Rexall's Drugstore, where they would savor root beer floats. Grampa John would wake up his granddaughters and treat them at Everybody's, run by the Marston family where Hannaford's is, and also at the Small Mall, where they would savor frosted flakes and white toast.

Granddaughters, Carolyn and Katie, in 1988, excitedly sailed in a windjammer during Windjammer Days. When the festival organizers asked Gram Maxine to welcome NBC weatherman Willard Scott, Katie recalls Maxine quipping, "Why in the world would anyone want to meet Willard Scott?"

When Gram Maxine bought Katie her first car, a red Pontiac Sunbird with a two-door stick shift for her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, Katie had never driven a

stick shift. Maxine claimed, “I didn’t know that.” Katie believes Gram was challenging her to the fullest, and if Katie wanted to keep the car, she had to learn to drive it.

At Katie’s wedding, on April 22, 2005, Gram at 83 danced the night away, dancing with every eligible gentleman at the reception. Katie still hears from friends “I remember your grandmother dancing at the wedding.” Maxine genuinely enjoyed this party, one of her favorite parties.

Eleven years ago, proud great-grandparents Maxine Tourtillotte and Pat Parmenter, flew to Pennsylvania, where Carolyn and Steve Pottle were then living. Maxine was delighted, at 82, to see her great-granddaughter, Ella Pottle.

Granddaughter Carolyn is aware that Gram is proud of all her granddaughters and great-grandchildren. Carolyn adds, “It is very humbling to look back on all the stories and lives she has touched. She has always tried to do right by others and the community she has spent close to a century in. I am very proud of her. Thank you to the Rotary Club for honoring her.” Katie echoed these sentiments: “Thank you for honoring her. I love her dearly, and she makes me smile on most occasions.”

Listen to these wonderful recollections in the exact words of granddaughter Magen: “I have so many great memories of my Gram. When I was young, we would travel to Boothbay in the summer to visit. I remember she would turn on the radio in the kitchen, and we would dance. She would let us play dress up in her skirts, and we would twirl around and around listening to music. Gram always had an endless supply of gum. She would keep mint and bubble flavored gum in the bottom drawer in the kitchen. The best part was opening the drawer because the smell of all the different flavors mixed together would come out and get us excited for what was inside. We also traveled to camp in Rangeley every summer. I have some of the best memories from camp with my Gram. We would pick raspberries on the camp driveway with her and then help her make a raspberry pie. She would take us to the spring with old milk jugs to fill with water. I will never forget how cold that water was. My Grandfather had

hung a swing he made for his grandkids in the rafters of the shed and Gram would come out and watch us swing and of course she always watched us swim in the lake.

“ My boys are also very lucky to live so close to their Great Gram, and they love to go over and see her. She always makes sure her candy bowl is full and that she is stocked up on ice cream cups or sandwiches for them to enjoy when they go to see her. They LOVE it! They also loved seeing her at the Y every morning. They would see her and run up and give her a big hug. I was always worried they would knock her over. We have really enjoyed living in Boothbay and being so close to Gram. I am glad my three boys have had such a great opportunity to get to know their Great Grandmother.”

Granddaughter Meredith, like Maxine’s three other granddaughters, glowed about Maxine: “Gram was always trying to take my sister and me on special outings. One that I remember well is when she took Magen and me out for Chinese food. Chinese was our favorite treat when we were young, Gram knew that, so when we went to visit her she surprised us and took us to dinner. Our favorite thing to order was the pu pu platter with the cup in the middle that the waitress lights on fire. Well, Gram must have really wanted something on the other side of the platter and reached over the flame and with a poof the flame flared up on Gram’s sweater sleeve! It only lasted a second, and she didn't get hurt, but the combination of our shock and that poof of fire was hilarious, and we are still laughing about our Chinese food experience to this day! We are grateful for Gram’s generosity. When we were in about the fourth and fifth grades we went to her house for Christmas. I remember opening up our gifts and everything was themed Mickey Mouse, Magen received Minnie Mouse toys, and I got Mickey. The last gift we opened was plane tickets, and Gram was sending our family to Disney! My sister and I were so excited! I still remember that Christmas and that trip. I saved my money and bought the largest Mickey Mouse stuffed animal Disney sold, and I still have it today. My nephews love playing with it.

Maxine continues to stay in touch with her husband's brother, Paul Tourtillotte, at 90, who lives in Connecticut. Paul, still a Mainer, reciprocates with delight, venturing here to Boothbay Harbor every summer to renew acquaintances and savor his time with Maxine, who inspires so many.

### **Frolicking with Friends**

Husband, John, though he had some health issues, died quite suddenly, on January 17, 1987, leaving Maxine bereft but not adrift, after 40 years of marriage. This launched Maxine, a widow in her early 60s, even more into her life of community commitment, digging her roots ever deeper. And her traveled routes became ever wider. Maxine had spunk and traveled to elder hostels and stopped at Las Vegas on one of these trips. Though her sons never knew what she really did, they chuckled when Maxine showed them a card she received on her seventieth birthday: "What we did in Vegas stays in Vegas." Maxine took many courses through elder hostel at various places with particularly Grace Pitcher.

Maxine had many adventures with more than her share of close friends. After a week in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Maxine was driving Ginnie Brewer's car, flanked by Barb in the front passenger seat and Ginnie Brewer knitting beside Ginny Roberts in the back seat. Now, the truth is that Maxine has never paid much attention to speed signs and, as usual, was speeding, a fact evidenced by flashing blue lights behind her. Maxine pulled the car over, rolled her window down, and greeted the officer like a long, lost friend. When the officer tried to say something, Maxine kept on talking until the officer finally gave up and waved her on. Only Maxine could get away with that!

Maxine, along with pals, Ginny Roberts and Kathleen Donnelly, explored Edinburgh and London, on their way to the wedding of Russ and Becky Traquair, the daughter of Gin Roberts. Imagine Maxine's trio, the first night in the hotel, in their nightclothes, dashing out of their room and outside while the fire alarm was blasting. Kathleen, who is visiting Germany right now, said they were quite the sight for sore eyes in a foreign



country. Kathleen declared, “I am very blessed to have her loving friendship through the years.”

Laura Honey recalls many heated discussions among Maxine and her friends. When Maxine was typically expressing her opinion with great enthusiasm, during a brief lull, Laura quipped, “To know Maxine is to love her,” a frequent refrain thereafter. Maxine is very positive, knows her mind, and is through all life’s ups and downs positive and true to herself. Laura now puts it this way, “Congratulations, Maxine. Truly to know you IS to love you.”

Another close friend, Nancy Case recalls with amusement the first time she had Maxine and her girlfriends over for dinner. Most in attendance were dog lovers; Maxine not so much. Nancy’s dog, Max, a Bernese Mountain Dog, loved everyone, especially Maxine. While Maxine and the others were sitting in the living room having a cocktail or two, Max sat at Maxine’s feet with his large head in her lap. Max sure had good taste in picking out a special friend.

Some so-called friends recall Maxine soaring with others in a hot air balloon. They say Maxine is still full of hot air!

Maxine’s husband John would often have breakfast with Del Ham, enjoying breakfast and very strong coffee, sharing stories. Sometimes, when Maxine was on a tear, John would say she needed Uncle Dudley’s White Root – referencing an old comic strip character and root beer. After John died, Del and Connie would take Maxine on trips as far away as California and as close as the Rangeley camp, with the driving interrupted by roadside stops with their portable bar.

### **Community Commitment**

Maxine Tourtillotte excelled particularly in her community commitments the old fashioned way, behind the scenes and without fanfare. She had always delivered meals, given money, and provided transportation to people in need, when she could and on her own time.

Now, in her retirement and after John had passed, Maxine was able to give of herself even more.

She often served meals throughout the years to her shut-in friends throughout this region.

She worked at the front desk of Fisherman's Wharf after retiring from Sample's Shipyard. Maxine and three other widows were hired at the same time in the 1980s, much to the consternation of manager, Jack Gibbons. Many nights around 10 or so, as Jack Gibbons would leave the bar and pass the front desk just before going home for the evening. He would furtively sneak a tall glass of scotch for Maxine to savor during her late night behind the front desk at Fisherman's Wharf. Maxine was treasured everywhere she worked and played.

Maxine soon got involved in many other nonprofits and for-profit work. She received, on October 18, 1985, a volunteer certificate of appreciation for her 574 hours devoted to the St. Andrews Hospital Auxiliary. The certificate was signed by then Governor Angus King.

She volunteered at the front desk at St. Andrews Village, answering the phone and talking with people. She also volunteered at the Thrift Shop for many years.

Maxine was involved in the Boothbay Region YMCA from its inception, in the late 1950s, when she and John would organize clambakes for the whole region at Back Narrows. Maxine is the oldest living continuous member of the Y, never letting her membership lapse over a 60 year period. She also chaired the Y's fundraising drive two years ago, and at the time her leadership resulted in more money raised than ever before.

One of Maxine's friends, Bob Mitchell, like so many others, met Maxine later in life when she was fundraising for our YMCA and St. Andrews Hospital and Village. Mitch reminisced how he took special note of her last name, since a Tourtillotte family resided in the Pennsylvania town where Bob Mitchell's family also lived. Bob quickly dismissed this as a mere coincidence until he visited more with Maxine and learned it was the

same family. Turns out that Maxine's son Jack went to college in nearby West Virginia and holidays when he could not trek back to Maine Jack visited the "Pennsylvania Turtles," in Clearwater, Pennsylvania, a fairly rural town located on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in the center of Pennsylvania. Mitch exclaimed, "What a coincidence! We hit off pretty good, Maxine and I, from that time on. Except for the one time she gave me a good ass chewing about taking too long with a photo she was in for St. Andrews Village. And I've been in live with her ever since!"

Last and certainly not least, Maxine has invested many years and hours of devotion to her beloved United Methodist Church of Boothbay Harbor. She served her church in an administrative capacity, helping organize luncheons, dinners, and funeral receptions. During summers, Maxine often helped with services at Rangeley's log church and often hosted coffee hours at her camp on the lake. Maxine has also frequently attended in recent years Al Roberts' Fellowship at the American Legion. Al often quips that he absolutely loves Maxine, because Maxine is one of the very few people who love Al's preaching!

Maxine has just last month turned 93, on March 4, 2016. She continues to focus on family and commit to community every day and day by day. And Maxine has something to prove: her grandfather, Fred A. Carleton, also of Boothbay Harbor, held the Boston Post Cane signifying he was the oldest person in Boothbay Harbor. Maxine's Grandfather Carleton celebrated with Maxine and family his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in the 1960s. He died at 102, very healthy until the end, after being hospitalized at St. Andrews Hospital for only just over two months due to a broken hip.

As many family and friends have described Maxine, she is a truly unique person who has lived her life without regard for herself but for others. She has thrived through helping others through her work, family, friendships, and community organizations and has accomplished so much good throughout our community. Maxine is not above having a scotch or two and has enjoyed her friends and their relationships over the years. Often with strong opinions, she tells it like it is, is honest and to the point. Maxine's character transcends her age, her times, and her personality.

Many have said they cannot think of a better or more deserving recipient for this award. Maxine, you have accomplished so much, for so many, and for so long, all behind the scenes and without fanfare.

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