
GERALD C. MILOT



GERALD C. MILOT BURLINGTON/DELRAY BEACH, Fla. - Gerald C. Milot, 64, of Burlington and Delray Beach, Fla., died on Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2009, in Fletcher Allen Health Care. He was born in Pittsfield, Mass. on May 13, 1945 to Georges and Arleen Milot. Gerry's family moved to Burlington in 1957 where he attended Edmunds School. In 1963, he graduated from Rice High School, where he developed friendships that lasted a lifetime. While attending Rice High School, Gerry developed his love of sports. He attended the University of Vermont, where he studied business before beginning work at IBM. He left IBM to pursue his accounting career for two real estate firms and then began working for Janes and Jacob Realty, handling commercial real estate. He slowly got into land development, working on commission, and eventually asked to be in on deals as a partner; his real estate career flourished from there. Gerry was at the forefront of real state development in Chittenden County. The mark he left on his community is widespread. His first development was a condominium project in Essex Junction named Sherwood Square. In 1981, he tried an idea new to the area by converting apartments in the LedgeWood Complex into 134 condominiums. That was just the beginning. Projects that followed include Westbrook on Kellogg Road in Colchester. In South Burlington, developments include Cardinal Woods, Twin Oaks, Sugartree, Overlook, The Village at Dorset Park, Dorset Farms, Pinnacle at Spear, Summit at Spear, Old Orchard Park, The Landings and The Cider Mill. In Essex, he developed the Brickyard complex, Countryside and the Kiln. At age 38, Gerry was featured in the Burlington Free Press as one of Vermont's "10 Best and Brightest" business people under 40. Many of these projects were developed with his business partners, John Larkin and Alan Bartlett, who were not only his partners, but also close friends. In Burlington, his residential developments include Harbor Watch; but as you walk around the city he loved, you quickly see that his mark can be felt among the commercial properties that make up the town he called home. These include Corporate Plaza, Financial Plaza, Corporate Plaza Parking Garage and the art deco Chittenden building he recently renovated and restored. As you enter Burlington from Lake Champlain, you will see one of his favorite developments, the Residence at College and Battery, which has been his summer home for the past 12 years. In 1998, the College and Battery project received the Downtown Burlington Business Association's Hertz N. Pasackow Award, "For significant contributions to the physical or architectural quality of downtown Burlington." Many a night was spent in his top floor penthouse enjoying the panoramic views of Lake Champlain that he so loved. One of his favorite things to do was relax on the balcony with good friends and a great bottle of Chardonnay. Gerry and Marsha were strong supporters of both their Vermont and Florida communities. He served as a commissioner and mayor in the town of Hillsboro Beach, Fla. and became a hugely successful auctioneer for the Women's League of Hillsboro Beach's annual black tie event, helping to raise significant funds for a wide variety of south Florida non-profits. Gerry loved sports, beginning with his Rice High School football days to his many pickup basketball games at his home, or his place on the company softball team. He was a fierce competitor in racquetball, tennis and golf. He also loved the game of cribbage and many memories are left with his friends of good conversation and high competition over the cribbage board. In Sept. 2002, he hit a hole-in-one at the Vermont Country Club and enjoyed all the bragging rights that came with it. His golf foursome won the 2007 Ambassador Cup in Puerto Rico, a national tournament, representing the Royal Palm Yacht and Golf Club. Gerry was a skilled club tennis player and enjoyed playing in competitive matches. Over the years, he reached the finals in men's doubles and mixed doubles several times in the Boca Raton City Tournaments and the Swim and Racquet Club Tournaments. Wherever Gerry was, he lived his life to the fullest. Anyone fortunate enough to count him as their friend was entertained at his and Marsha's oceanfront home on the Hillsboro Mile, commonly known as "Club Milot". As large as he lived his life, he relished the simpler things as well, like a sunny day spent with the top down in his convertible driving up the coast of A1A in Florida; a morning sunrise spent out on the dunes of his oceanfront home; sunsets over Lake Champlain and fishing, whether it be for sport with his many friends, or simply for pleasure with his grandchildren. One of the things missed most by his family and friends will be great conversation and good wine on a beautiful night spent by the water. Their July 4th fireworks celebrations in Burlington were always held at their College and Battery home. He loved the view from their deck and considered it "the best seat in town". To his daughters, he was light when there was darkness, he was laughter when there was sadness, he was lenient when it didn't matter, and he was strict when it was called for. He was encouragement in the face of adversity, and he was supportive in the face of defeat. He taught us all how to be a friend, not by telling us, but by showing us. He taught us all how to laugh, not just at

the little things, but at ourselves. As a grandfather, he was a living example of everything you aspire your children to be, and at the end of the day, he was by far the funniest person any of us have ever met. The greatest gift he gave as a father was that he did not tell us how to live, instead he showed us how to live, not an ordinary life, but blessed us with an example of how to live an extraordinary life. Gerry is survived by his wife of 33 years, business partner and best friend, Marsha Milot; his daughters, Holly McKnight and husband Bobby, Allyson Downing and husband Fletcher, Jennifer Milot and husband Brett Grabowski, Valerie Wiederhorn and husband Andrew; sisters, Michelle Drake and husband Dr. Guildford Drake, Sheara Billado and husband F. William; sister-in-law Cheryl McCully and husband John; and brother in-law Lee W. Moffitt and partner William Desautels; his grandchildren, Olivia and Caroline Downing, Madison, Jake and Kailey Grabowski, Ainsley Wiederhorn, Rheanna and Matthew McKnight, and Riley and Ryan Canty, as well as several nieces and nephews and countless friends. He was predeceased by his father Georges Milot; mother Arleen Ladzinski; stepfather John Ladzinski; and sister-in-law Nancy Foster. The family would like to thank the staff of the Intensive Care Unit at Fletcher Allen Health Care for the wonderful care provided to Gerry. Thank you, also, Dr. Barbara Grant, for being such a source of medical knowledge, care and guidance through Gerry's courageous battle with lymphoma. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Stern Center for Language and Learning, 135 Allen Brook Lane, Williston, VT 05495 or Vermont Respite House, c/o The Visiting Nurse Association, 1110 Prim Road, Colchester, VT 05446. A service of remembrance will be held on Monday, Aug. 17, 2009, at 6 p.m. at the Chapel of St. Michael's College in Colchester. Ready Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.readyfuneral.com.

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