



## Joseph C. Botkin

May 4, 1939 - July 26, 2014

Joseph C. Botkin, 75, died peacefully July 26, 2014, at his Oxford, MD, home from renal cell carcinoma.

Joe was born in Alexandria, VA, on May 4, 1939, to the late Clarence J. Botkin, and Susan E. (Baldwin) Botkin. The family resided in Falls Church and Oakton, VA.

Joe graduated from Fairfax High School (1957) and was part of the infamous engineering team that put a full horse coach on top of the high school. The perpetrators kept their secret until the class' 50th reunion in 2007. After this engineering feat, he went on to Virginia Tech, graduating with a B.S. in mechanical engineering in 1962. He received his PE (Professional Engineer) designation in 1974. During college, he interned at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, DC, going to full-time status after graduation. After 32 years, he retired as the Head of Architects and Engineers for NRL, noting that once computers hit the workplace, he had to stay one step ahead of the young engineers to maintain his position. He continued that interest in computers the rest of his life in his work with AARP tax program, in assisting small businesses, as well as in the duplicate bridge world, and for family and friends.

In 1991, after retirement from NRL, Joe married Susan (Suz) E. Delean in

Accokeek, MD, near Washington, DC. They maintained homes in Bethany Beach, DE, and Accokeek, MD, until 1997, when they moved to Oxford, MD, to be closer to their boat Nepenthe. Joe was an avid and excellent yachtsman. He was rarely happier than at the tiller. He was a member of the Southern Maryland Sailing Association, the Eastern Shore Sailing Association, Cambridge Yacht Club and CBYRA. His life was full of pewter and crystal trophies. Cruising was what was done between home port and the start of a race.

During the non-racing months, Joe was active with the AARP tax program from 1992 until April 15, 2014. His sites in Denton and Oxford were a source of great pride for him. He delighted in helping others to get all the tax breaks he could find in Pub 17. He taught computer use, networking, and public service with professional grace and kindness to everyone he encountered. He received numerous awards and recognition for his volunteer tax service.

Joe started the Tred Avon Duplicate Bridge Club in Easton in 2002, which coupled with the Choptank Duplicate Bridge Club promotes the play and pleasure of duplicate bridge. With longtime friend and fellow director Ralph White, an exciting duplicate bridge culture was built and is thriving on the Mid-Shore.

Joe is survived by his beloved wife, Susan; sons, John, ( Monique) of Silver Spring, MD and Christopher, Thailand; stepson, Jacob Davison ( Ann) of Fairfax, VA; and six grandchildren, Zachary, Tessa, Abigail, Ryan Botkin, and Holly and Mark Davison; and many nieces and nephews, including two special nieces, Linda Legge Krippner, and Theresa Legge Oates. He is also survived by his sister, Elizabeth Susan Botkin Kagey; brother, Gerald, (Mary Ann); cousins, Dennis ( Rhonda), Cherlee, Michael and Kathleen Botkin, Steve Garber, (Kathy), Janet Garber Loker,(Wayne), Joan Garber Graham,(James), and Leila Chawkat, and Aunt Pat Botkin Chakat; and his friends and bridge

partners; AARP tax preparers and taxpayers; fellow sailors; and Skippy, the dog.

Services for Joe will be held at Holy Trinity Church in Oxford on Wednesday, August 6, 2014, at 11 a.m. A reception for relatives and friends will be held immediately after the service in the parish hall.

In lieu of flowers, it is suggested memorial donations can be made to Holy Trinity Church in Oxford, MD 21654; to Talbot Hospice, 586 Cynwood Dr., Easton, MD 21601; or to the Talbot Humane Society, 7894 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD 21601.

# Cemetery Details

## The Church of the Holy Trinity

502 South Morris Street  
Oxford, MD 21654

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of The Holy Trinity  
Oxford, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph C. Botkin*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Joseph C. Botkin*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Joseph C. Botkin*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Dave and I always held Joe in high regard. He conveyed his mastery of sailing and of life together in a deep and thoughtful way, and he and Sue were an inspiration to us when we had just begun racing.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Judith Stribling and Dave Gooch*

**Judith** - August 06, 2014 at 09:32 AM



“ *Carol & Doug Rousseau lit a candle in memory of Joseph C. Botkin*



**Carol & Doug Rousseau** - August 05, 2014 at 07:28 PM

CA

*So very sorry for your loss. May his light shine in the Chesapeake forever.....*

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**Carol** - August 05, 2014 at 07:29 PM

PA

“ 1 file added to the album *Sailing*



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**Paul** - August 05, 2014 at 01:08 PM

GE

“ *Years ago I crewed for Joe for one racing season in Cambridge. He was a very friendly and very interesting fellow and a great sailor. He was fun to be around. He named his boat Nepenthe, which to me is an all-time favorite boat name. The last time I saw him he was very happy and was having a great time setting up and managing bridge games. I will always remember him that way. Fair winds, Joe.*

*Gene Williams  
2009 ESSA Commodore*

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**Gene** - August 05, 2014 at 08:49 AM

CB

“ As a father, he taught me many things about life as a boy growing up. He always told me "life is hard and you have to be tough". Now as an adult, I understand why he told me such things; to prepare me for the life ahead. I am sure he knew that I wasn't going to take the easy path in life. I find myself echoing his teachings today as I teach 3rd graders and now I understand why he taught those lessons in this way. He taught me not to be afraid and to think for myself. Without his teachings my life would be very different. He passed on to me the love for the water and nature in itself. I feel fortunate to have been able to enjoy the beauty and peace of the mountains, beach, and water as a child and he was the reason why those experiences occurred. Shortly before he passed, we had a lengthy conversation on the telephone and I believe his soul passed on peacefully. His mind seemed quite clear and his thoughts lucid. Unfortunately, his body failed him. As my life continues, so does his in a way as he is my father. His suffering is over now.  
Chris Botkin

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**Chris Botkin** - August 04, 2014 at 11:47 PM

 Dave  
Young

“ 1 file added to the album *High School Chums*



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**Dave Young** - August 04, 2014 at 04:47 PM

 Dave  
Young

*It was the hottest day in August 1997 at a recreation area near Leesburg, VA, for our Fairfax High School Class of 1957 40th Reunion. Some traveled from as far away as Hong Kong, Victoria Island, UK, and as close as Great Falls, VA.*

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**Dave Young** - August 04, 2014 at 04:53 PM



Dave  
Young

“ It has been 57 years since Joe and I graduated Fairfax High School along with just a few more than 100 16 to 19 year old eager teenagers. Our paths crossed only infrequently after that June afternoon at one or two FHS Class of 1957 reunions. The picture I posted was taken at our 40th Reunion on a very hot day in August at a recreation area near Leesburg, VA. The obit posted on this web site used the term "infamous engineering team" which is a much better description of the prank executed by nine of us just before Memorial Day 1957. The principal, Sam Coffey, was quoted in the newspaper as saying, "He disapproved of the incident. However, he did admire the engineering." All nine of us went on to live productive and honourable lives in our chosen professions, which were heavily slanted toward an engineering field of endeavor. That is except for the two who did not - a lawyer and the other one is an archeologist or anthropologist. Our lives were enriched by knowing Joe and for that we are very thankful. RIP brother.

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**Dave Young** - August 02, 2014 at 12:51 AM



MM

“ A good neighbor, a great sailor, a tough skipper, an avid bridge player, a tax preparer and a good friend. You will be missed. R.I.P.

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**Mel & Marlies** - August 01, 2014 at 08:13 AM

KP

“ I will miss you, Joe...but not as a bridge player but as a mentor and friend. Mentor because you taught me so much as the Site Coordinator at the Denton Library when it came time to prepare taxes for the various folks that came to us. I learned a lot from you and will miss your advice and help. But, even more so, I will miss you as a friend for I knew that when I would visit you at your home in Oxford, your door was always open and you were a most gracious host. My condolences to Susan and to the rest of the family.

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**Kenneth Pryor** - July 31, 2014 at 08:47 AM

BM

“ I will miss you Joe, both as a bridge partner and a friend. You did so much for the duplicate bridge players of the Easton Shore and will be remembered fondly by all of us. As Dawn said, your Weds. Duplicate game at the Easton senior center that you worked so hard to build up will continue as your legacy. My condolences to Susan and the rest of your family.

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**Barbara Moran** - July 28, 2014 at 07:41 PM

DT

“ A man whose bridge game brought so much joy to so many people. A great legacy.

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**Dawn Travis** - July 28, 2014 at 03:58 PM