Arthur Howe, Jr., aged 93, passed away peacefully on December 16, 2014, at his home in Essex, Connecticut, following a brief illness. His devoted wife of 70 years, Margaret (“Peggy”) Burke Howe, was at his bedside, and many other family members provided loving care and attention during the preceding month. He is also survived by his four children, Margie Howe Emmons, of Yarmouth, Maine, Sam Howe, of Andover, Massachusetts, Arthur Howe, III, of Ipswich, Massachusetts, and Tom Howe, of Gilmanton, New Hampshire, by his brother, Richard Howe, of Gardiner, Washington, by ten grandchildren, and by five great-grandchildren. Three of his siblings, Alice Howe Austin, Harold Howe, II, and Sydney Howe, predeceased him, as did his second daughter, Louise Howe, who died in 1954 at the age of two.

Mr. Howe was born on July 19, 1921, in Watertown, Connecticut, one of five children of Margaret Armstrong Howe and Arthur Howe. He devoted his life to his family, serving others, providing educational opportunities, combatting racism, pursuing world peace, and enjoying the outdoors, all in keeping with values held dear by his forebears. He felt privileged for all the people, places, and programs he enjoyed during his full life, and remained especially grateful for all that was made possible by those who preceded him. His was a life of the mind.

Mr. Howe spent some of his childhood in Hampton, Virginia, where his father had become President of what is now called Hampton University. That institution was founded in 1868 by Mr. Howe’s maternal grandfather, Gen. Samuel Chapman Armstrong, who led African American troops during the Civil War, and who then founded the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute to provide vocational and educational opportunities for African and Native Americans. Indicative of this family’s lineage of educators, Mr. Howe’s great-grandfather Richard Armstrong (Samuel’s father) became Hawaii’s first Superintendent of Education in the 1850’s. Mr. Howe’s attendance at a one-room public school in Hampton, grossly inferior to the new school enjoyed by his African American chums, exposed him to the inequities of reverse discrimination. He also felt the injustice of state segregation laws preventing him from sitting with his pals in the local movie theater. These and other experiences would prove formative to his lifelong battle against racism. Of his years in Hampton, Mr. Howe wrote: “I learned at Hampton that those who are happiest are those who do the most for others.”

For secondary school, Mr. Howe attended the Hotchkiss School, graduating in 1938. He then spent a year at The Rugby School, in England, as an exchange student via a program of the English Speaking Union.

Mr. Howe matriculated at Yale University in the fall of 1939, but then interrupted his education there in December 1941 by enlisting with the American Field Service (AFS), a field ambulance corps serving the British Army. The U.S. had not yet entered the war when he committed to AFS. He subsequently graduated Yale with the Class of 1943, and as a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He subsequently went back to Yale in 1946, for a year, and obtained another B.A. degree, this one in Education.
During the war, Mr. Howe first served briefly in Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine, and then spent most of his time in the North African desert with the British Eighth Army, under General Montgomery’s command. A brief stint in Italy completed his service in 1943. Quickly promoted to the rank of Major, at the age of 22, Mr. Howe commanded a company of about 120 ambulances, plus associated support vehicles, services, and about 200 men, some of whom were twice his age. After recovering from a severe case of dysentery, Mr. Howe received an honorable discharge in late 1943 and returned home to the loving arms of Peggy Burke. They married the following June 17th at All Souls Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. Three days before their marriage, Mr. Howe received the Order of the British Empire (OBE) from the Crown for his “unusual skill and devotion to duty.”

Mr. Howe then returned to Hotchkiss to teach. He would later serve as a Trustee of the school, and also earn its “Man of the Year” award, given annually to an alumnus in recognition of service work. Decades earlier, his father had received the same award.

In 1947, Mr. Howe volunteered to become AFS’s Vice-President, under its President, Steve Galatti, a former AFS driver from World War I. It was then, following completion of its war-related function, that the organization recommitted itself to the peace-promoting mission it had first assumed after the end of World War I, and which continues to this day: an international student exchange program providing high school students the opportunity to live abroad.

In 1950, Mr. Howe went to Oxford University’s Lincoln College, in England, where he spent much of his time in a graduate seminar on “social mobility.” During this time he also traveled throughout Europe strengthening ties for AFS’s exchange program.

In 1951, Mr. Howe accepted a job at Yale managing a new admissions and scholarship program supported by the Ford Foundation’s Fund for Advancement of Education. He would later serve on that Fund’s Board of Trustees. Over the next five years, he held a number of positions in admissions and financial aid work, leading to his appointment in 1956 as Yale’s Dean of Admissions and Student Appointments. In this role, he managed the University’s office for educational research, undergraduate admissions and financial aid programs, and the counseling and placement of students for summer and work study jobs. At about this time, he also became a Fellow at Yale’s Davenport College.

One of Mr. Howe’s key accomplishments at Yale included diversification of the student body. He is also remembered for his early, controversial advocacy, starting in 1956, for the admission of undergraduate women, documented in the September 10, 1960 issue of The New Yorker magazine. It took 12 more years to accomplish this goal. Mr. Howe also took pride in his initiation of Yale’s High School Summer Program, an experimental project for educationally deprived high school students with exceptional potential. This program resulted directly from President Kennedy’s request of a handful of university presidents, including Yale’s President, Whitney Griswold, to come up with innovative, model programs addressing race relations. The October 1964 issue of the Yale Alumni Magazine describes the program in more detail. Mr. Howe recalled fondly his special, informal role as a close advisor to President Griswold.
During his years at Yale, Mr. Howe became President of the Board of Trustees of Hampton Institute, and served in that capacity through the racially tumultuous 1960’s. In close partnership with the school’s head, Dr. Jerome Holland, Mr. Howe helped diffuse volatile situations, including a student takeover of the administration building. Mr. Howe raised creative but controversial ideas about the future of this predominantly African American college after the federal government invalidated the concept of “separate but equal” education. In recognition of his service, Hampton awarded Mr. Howe an honorary doctorate degree.

While Mr. Howe’s involvement in Hampton was deepening, Mrs. Howe began volunteering with local AFS chapters in the New Haven area, extending further what had already become a global network of friends and relationships. Her further cultivation and maintenance of a vast number of friendships made her the greatest peacemaker and ambassador Mr. Howe ever knew.

During Mr. Howe’s time at Yale, he served on the Boards of Trustees of several independent schools: the Hotchkiss School, the Pomfret School, and the Foote School. He also sat on the Boards of the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, which accredited many of the more established institutions in the region, and of the College Board, which produced standardized tests for college-bound students. He also began serving on various corporate boards, bringing his wisdom about race relations and education to the table, and in the process also developing a particular interest and expertise in matters of corporate social responsibility. The companies he served were the Riegel Textile Company, Riegel Paper Company, St. Joe Minerals Corporation, and Rexham Corporation. He also became a Trustee of the Kate Macy Ladd Foundation, in Far Hills, NJ, in association with the disposition of the Ladds’ estate partly for the benefit of Hampton.

In all of his involvements, Mr. Howe was well known for asking probing, sometimes difficult questions in his zeal to keep the entity he served vibrant and relevant in the face of a changing world.

In 1964, Mr. Howe left Yale on sabbatical, and spent the next four months at Oxford University studying the impacts of the 1944 Educational Act of Britain, delivering lectures on comparative educational systems, and travelling throughout Western Europe setting up selection committees for AFS. During this time, he accepted his next job as President of AFS, following the death of his predecessor, Steve Galatti.

In January 1965, he and his family moved to New York City, where he retained his AFS Presidency for the next eight years. Mrs. Howe became a regular volunteer at AFS headquarters, and shared in many of Mr. Howe’s successes there. His work for AFS resulted in greater stability and professionalism of its operations, and expansion to some 13,000 student exchanges per year. One of his key accomplishments there was to shift the organization’s governance from just veterans to a more balanced Board of Trustees. He also worked to place women, volunteers, and foreigners into positions of greater programmatic responsibility throughout this structurally complex organization, with nationally managed offices in 60 countries around the globe. He also cited as significant his initiation of multi-national exchanges, between one foreign country and another, prior to that point, all exchanges had involved the U.S. Another of his initiatives was creation of a short-term exchange for secondary school teachers, extending AFS’s outreach to
schools previously unfamiliar with its programs. In all of his work for AFS, Mr. Howe sought a more peaceful world by harnessing the power of one-on-one, close-knit relationships forged in AFS’s programs. The extensive overseas travel, and especially long flights, took their toll on Mr. Howe’s health, and he retired as AFS’s President in 1972.

From his retirement until his death, he remained highly engaged in AFS as a volunteer. He became a Life Trustee, and, as a member of the Veterans Committee, played a key role in gaining U.S. Army veterans’ status for eligible AFS drivers, resulting in medical care and other benefits accruing to needy drivers and their families. Although he never took advantage of any such benefits for himself, he was classified as a U.S. Army veteran only by virtue of a two-day trip he had taken to a location in Italy under the control of the U.S. Fifth Army. He attributed his lifelong dedication to AFS to the discontent he felt over the poor living conditions forced on most of humankind, and over increasingly chaotic relationships among nations. He saw AFS as a vehicle for enabling responsible global citizens to work for peace and understanding in a diverse world. “The genius of AFS Programs,” he said, “rests in the extraordinary learning that emerges from a young student’s placement in a family in a new culture for a protracted period of time, with further enrichment likely through language mastery, school attendance, volunteer service or other involvements.”

In 1972, Mr. Howe and his wife moved to Lyme, Connecticut. Letters to the Editor, letters to the U.S. President, and countless memos flowed relentlessly from their new waterfront home on Hamburg Cove, just off of the Connecticut River. His prolific writings had as a common theme a new world order of peace, justice, and equality. Proposals ranged from an international emergency service corps, to mandatory national service for young adults, to empowering women, to solutions to the latest Middle East crisis. An avid, daily reader of the New York Times, Mr. Howe was armed with a powerful intellect, broad experience, passion for service, and a tireless pen. What mattered deeply to this relentless advocate for change was remaining engaged in the world and promoting solutions to the world’s problems. Despite his notoriety, Mr. Howe was a modest man, as reflected by his comment: “When people speak well of you, remember that a well is a hole in the ground.”

In 1998, Mr. Howe and his wife moved across the Connecticut River to Essex, where they settled into the “Essex Meadows” retirement community. There, he served on various committees, including one that distributed scholarships to the children of staff members. He and others also raised funds in support of one staffer and his recently immigrated family from Ghana, to assist them in obtaining their piece of the American Dream.

During Mr. Howe’s last four decades on the Lower Connecticut River, many of his deepest involvements were close to home. He served in various capacities with the Lyme and then Essex Volunteer Fire Departments, the Lyme Congregational Church, and the First Congregational Church of Ivoryton. He and his wife were renowned for reaching out to newcomers; making people feel welcomed was one of their specialties. Mr. Howe also served on the Lyme Zoning Board of Appeals. As a founding member of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, and then the Chair of its Board of Trustees from 1976 until 1984, he was instrumental in securing important new properties for the community’s enjoyment, enlisting local youngsters to map conserved lands, and coordinating roadside cleanups each spring. At the state
level, he served on **Connecticut’s Board of Commissioners for Higher Education**. Serving New England, he was a founding Board member of **Landmark Volunteers**, a nonprofit group that provided service opportunities for hundreds of teenagers. Extending his charitable work even farther afield, Mr. Howe and his wife drove to the South and Midwest in their camper vehicle to help build low-income housing for **Habitat for Humanity**.

Mr. Howe was a member of the **Century Club**, in New York City, as was his father during the 1940’s. He maintained his membership at the **Yale Club**, also in New York, and enjoyed his participation in **Ariston**, a men’s club in New London, Connecticut.

Love of the outdoors was a lifelong pursuit. He especially loved fishing and canoe trips with his wife, other family members, and friends. Flowing water, whether fresh or salt, was essential to his wellbeing.

Mr. Howe had deep family ties to Squam Lake, in New Hampshire. There, his maternal grandmother, Mary Alice Armstrong, co-founded **Rockywold-Deephaven Camps** in 1897, along with Mabel Bacon, another teacher from Hampton Institute. What began as a rustic summer resort for families, with summer job opportunities for Hampton students, continues to this day. Mr. Howe served on the corporation’s Board of Directors for about three decades, and as its **President** from 1973 to 1990. Major accomplishments in this role were the Camps’ installation of a centralized septic system, enhancing water quality of the lake, and the Camps’ adoption of an exemplary 25hp limitation on boats used by Camp guests. One of his favorite traditions at Squam, over some 60 or so years, was to join the Camps’ maintenance crew each January in harvesting 6,000 cakes of ice from the Lake, and then packing them in ice-houses for later, summertime use in drinks and old-fashioned refrigerators, a practice which continues to this day. On Squam, he also served as **President of the Chocorua Island Chapel Association**, which provides summer services in an outdoor island chapel on the Lake. In this role, he followed in the footsteps of his father-in-law, Dr. John W. Burke, who had served as President decades earlier. Mr. Howe’s daughter, Margie Emmons, now serves as the Association’s President. It was Squam Lake where Mr. Howe first met his beloved wife some 91 years ago; it is also the place that remains their spirits’ home.

In all of his leadership positions, Mr. Howe was a proponent of slow and steady change, believing that results achieved this way would endure longer than those gained by sudden, dramatic upheaval.

Mr. Howe’s sense of humor was subtle but nonetheless real and often self-deprecating. In recounting the events of his life, Mr. Howe was always quick to remind any listener of a favorite saying he first heard from an old fisherman in Georgia, told in a long Southern drawl: “Mistah, everything I’m tellin’ you is true—or could be!”

There will be **two memorial services**. The first will be at 2pm, Saturday, January 10th, at the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, Connecticut, with reception to follow. The second will be at the Chocorua Island Chapel, on Squam Lake, in Holderness, New Hampshire, in early August; a private internment ceremony at the Trinity Church, in nearby Plymouth, will follow.
Mr. Howe’s family invites anyone wishing to share a testimonial to provide the same to Mr. Howe’s granddaughter Beth Lowenstein, at: 56 Fawn Run, Yarmouth, ME, 04096; bethlowenstein@gmail.com. **All submissions must be in writing, digital or hardcopy, no more than 150 words, and received no later than December 31st.**

In lieu of flowers, please give to the charity of your choice in memory of Arthur Howe, Jr.