

Gregory 'Greg' Crozier Gates

1926 - 2020

Gregory "Greg" Crozier Gates died in January 2020 at the age of 93 in Fredericksburg. Born in Montclair, New Jersey in 1926, he spent his summers growing up at the family home on the Island of Vinalhaven in Maine. These summers on the island instilled in him a gentleman's sense of personal responsibility, while also cultivating a sophisticated skill of competition.



Greg joined the World War II draft in July 1944. After two years in the Mediterranean Theatre in Italy, he was honorably discharged in July 1946. He attended Yale University in September 1946, majoring in Industrial Administration, graduating in 1950. During Greg's freshman year at Yale due to his fierce competitive spirit and his highly tuned endurance skills, he earned a seat in the Yale Varsity Crew.

At the 1948 Summer Olympic Games in London, Greg was one of the crew who represented the United States, rowing in the "Four oars without cox" event. The Yale crew won the bronze medal at that Henley Olympic event.

The Yale Varsity Crew, of which he was a part, went on to defeat Harvard in June of 1949 at the famous Yale/Harvard Rowing Regatta on the Thames River in New London, Connecticut.

After Yale in the fall of 1950, Greg worked for his father at Drycor Felt Company, a small specialty textile mill in Stafford, Connecticut. In 1952, he attended Harvard Business School, graduating in 1954 with an advance degree in Business Administration. He returned to his father's business for two years before he found his niche and worked with great success in industry procurement.

At United Aircraft (now United Technologies), Greg worked in their Purchasing office. Then at Pratt and Whitney Machine Tool, a Division of Colt Industries, in West Hartford, Connecticut, he was the Department Head of Purchasing.

During this time, his family expanded, adding three wonderful daughters.

In 1976 at age 50, he retired from the industrial business life to his Christmas Tree Farm in Maine. There he could devote half his year to the business of raising and marketing Christmas trees and half his year to sailing aboard his 50-foot ketch.

In 1988, Greg sold the farm in Maine and moved to the warmer climate of Florida. In 1990, Greg and his wife devoted the next several years sailing throughout the Eastern seaboard, out to Bermuda, and down through the Caribbean to Trinidad and Venezuela. They "swallowed the anchor" (retired from the sea) in 1997.

In 2002, they purchased property outside Fredericksburg in the Hill Country of Texas. Building a beautiful home and barn, they settled into the Texas way of life, enjoying a gentleman's ranch.

Throughout his life, Greg maintained his passion for rowing and the competitive mind-set it instilled in him. He set up a daily workout routine on his stationary rowing erg and stationary bicycle, which continued into his late 80's. His mind was always stimulated by new adventures. Greg will always be remembered for his championship efforts to achieve his goals.

His parents, a brother and his oldest daughter preceded Greg in death. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and by six wonderful grandchildren, and two beautiful great-granddaughters. Also surviving him, his younger brother and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.