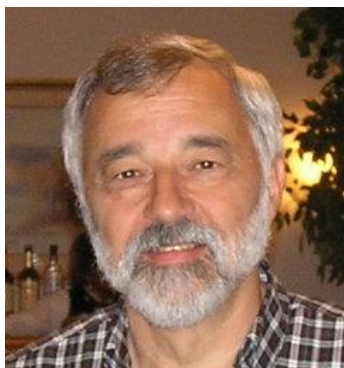


# *Unum Retirees Newsletter*

## *Fall 2020~thirty-fourth edition*



### **Words from the Chair** *by Roger Rioux*



As you know, we had to cancel all our planned lunches for 2020. The Board has been meeting and making plans for next year. We cannot meet in person at the Unum facilities and have met twice outdoors at FT Williams Park. I hope 2021 will be a better year. We are continuing with the newsletters to let you know we are persevering. We now have over 530 members.

We made a change to the By-laws to reflect the changes to the pension plan. We no longer mention eligibility for a pension. The new wording is as follows:

#### **ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in Unum Retirees is offered to anyone who:

- Is no longer a Unum employee
- Worked as a Unum Employee for 5 years or more
- Has retired or is at least 55 years old
- Has replied to the annual membership canvas

If you know of any recent retirees who may not be aware of the organization, let them know about us and how they can join by contacting us through the website: [www.unumretirees.org](http://www.unumretirees.org) or by contacting **Steve Bailey** at 846-6648 or [sebailey@maine.rr.com](mailto:sebailey@maine.rr.com).

Stay safe and healthy.



### ***Unum Retirees - Volunteers*** *by Beverly J. Dahms*

#### ***Unum Retirees Volunteer Report for 2020***

The Unum Retiree membership was asked to provide the Board with an estimate of the number of hours and types of activities they volunteered at during the period of January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020. We are very happy to report that we received responses from 18 of our members and the number of volunteer hours reported was 2,944.

Even though many have had to reduce the amount of time they were able to volunteer due to the current circumstances, Unum Retirees were able to help many non-profits in their local communities. Several members volunteered at Meals on Wheels, hospital, animal shelters and rescues, schools, colleges, churches, libraries, municipalities, museums, senior citizen activities at local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Red Cross agencies, historical societies, local arts and theaters, botanical gardens, children's organizations, Boy Scouts of America, state parks and food pantries. There were also many small non-profits that were supported by our Unum Retirees. The States of Florida, New Hampshire, North Carolina and Maine have all benefited from the membership volunteering.

Prior to the current situation we occasionally received calls for mailings and short term projects from several of the local non-profits. However, we have not received any requests for assistance due to the current restrictions, hopefully things will improve and we will again be able to help out.

As many of you know beginning in 2020, Unum will begin utilizing an external, vendor supported system for active employees direct giving programs. There will no longer be a way to facilitate the Volunteer Service Grant program for retirees, as the current system they use for this was eliminated.

*Thanks again to all of the retirees for taking the time to continue to help all of the non-profits in your local communities and hopefully you will be able to continue provide support. They greatly appreciate your help and support.*

**HAPPY VOLUNTEERING AND PLEASE STAY SAFE**

---

## Members, We need your help!

We try to keep the membership roster as current as possible. Recently, we sent out emails to many of you and mailed paper copies to a few members. As a result of the mailing, we have found that we have a number of incorrect email addresses and a few regular mailing addresses.

When we have missing or incorrect information we are helpless in providing our members with information and our newsletters.

We have two request for you:

- 1) Please review your contact information and be sure it is up to date.
- 2) Please review the two list of members below. If you know any of the members, please contact them and ask if they would provide current information to Steve Bailey. (Contact information below.)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
Don Ballard	<a href="mailto:bluebill@zwi.net">bluebill@zwi.net</a>
Jodeen Coultard Stevens	<a href="mailto:jodeenstevens@roadrunner.com">jodeenstevens@roadrunner.com</a>
John Hewitt	<a href="mailto:jhewitt06@maine.rr.com">jhewitt06@maine.rr.com</a>
Ted Hillman	<a href="mailto:ehillman@maine.rr.com">ehillman@maine.rr.com</a>
Suzanne McDougall	<a href="mailto:smcdougall@maine.rr.com">smcdougall@maine.rr.com</a>

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>
Lois Smith	9 Quail Run Blvd. Apt 6, Englewood FL. 34223
Glenyce Hughes	21 Clay Rd. Gorham Me. 04038
Craig Kellam	99 Preble St. Apt 501, So. Portland Me. 04106

Cheryl Thompson

76 Cottage Rd. Windham Me. 04062

Alfred Blohm

615 Copper Creek Circle, Alpharetta Ga. 30004

Blanche Wilson

29 Maplewood Dr. Gorham Me. 04038

Thank you all so much for your help.

**Steve Bailey**  
**Membership Administrator**  
[sebailey@maine.rr.com](mailto:sebailey@maine.rr.com)

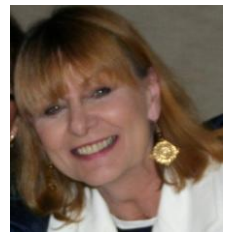
---

## From the Editor

*Thank you all for your input! It is truly appreciated! **This Newsletter is published for YOU!** I would still love to hear from you about what type of "news" you would like to read. Your stories don't need to be long....just a paragraph would do! We would love any pictures that would go along with your story!*

*I'm looking forward to hearing your input AND receiving articles from you!*  
*([rlibby5@maine.rr.com](mailto:rlibby5@maine.rr.com) 17 Larchwood Rd., South Portland 04106)*

*Pam Libby, Editor*



---

## Important Dates for 2020

*Unum Retiree Members are welcome to attend Board Meetings.*

*Just let Roger Rioux know beforehand. (207) 671-7906 [rrioux@maine.rr.com](mailto:rrioux@maine.rr.com)*

### 2021 Board Meetings and luncheon tentative:

- |                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| • February 23  | Board Meeting                |
| • March 23     | Spring Luncheon at Keeley's  |
| • April 6      | Board Meeting                |
| • May 15       | Board Meeting                |
| • June 15      | Picnic at Two Lights         |
| • July 13      | Board Meeting                |
| • August 24    | Board Meeting                |
| • September 14 | Annual Meeting               |
| • October 5    | Board Meeting                |
| • December 14  | Board Christmas get together |

### Unum Blood Drive Schedule for 2020 & 2021:

*To be announced*

**If you are willing to help out with the Unum Blood Drives,  
please contact Kathy Woodbrey at [lifter@fairpoint.net](mailto:lifter@fairpoint.net).**

---

## Some Travel Tips *from Ernie Ryder*

"Thanks for your work on the newsletter.

Would like to pass on some information we find useful in our travels to and from Maine and Florida. We drive to Maine from Florida twice a year once in the summer for 2-3 months and again in December for 3-4 weeks. We spend two motel nights on the road but more if we plan a visit to someplace along the way. We use to stop at rest areas to obtain coupon books which was becoming a pain since the books are now by state. So we now use the APP Travel Coupons on our phone and find it very helpful. The coupons often save you \$30-\$50 over the price you pay at the desk without the coupon from the books or the app on your phone.

We have good luck at Country Inn & Suites, Sleep Inns, Hampton Inns, Holiday Inn Express, and Comfort Inn & Suites but the coupons cover just about all the motels on the highway. It is a bit of a challenge now that we have a miniature Yorkie since some of our regular motels don't take pets.

Until five years ago we use to travel Rt95 through NYC, NJ Pike, DC, and Baltimore but we now by-pass those places of pleasure and travel Rt84 & Rt81 and then take Rt17 down to Fredericksburg, Virginia. It's 100 miles longer but you get to cheat NY, NJ, DE, & MD out of \$30-\$40 in tolls.

Just some of my travel suggestions.

If anyone has questions or other travel tips give me a call (941) 7277064."

*Ernie Ryder*

---

## Our 50th Wedding Anniversary Party not happening!

*by Dick Goulet*

My wife, Glenna, and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary on October 17, 2020. We had some big plans for the day, but the pandemic changed all of that. We had booked the venue at a local hotel, picked out the hors d'oeuvre and meal along with champagne, put together an invitation list of 150, designed a formal invitation, and put together some other surprises for the event. Glenna, who is a baker, had planned to make the cake. The only thing we hadn't done was to book entertainment, which we were in the process of doing.



Of course all of that had to change, and in early June we cancelled the event knowing the trend in the pandemic would not allow us to have it. We are disappointed, but know that a lot of other people have had to sacrifice a lot more than us. We will enjoy a small celebration with our immediate family. To celebrate, we had some custom t-shirts ("The first 49 Years were the Hardest") and a life-size cardboard cut-out made. The cut-out was going to be at the entrance of the hotel to greet our guests, but we had to change our thoughts on that. We don't want the day to pass without some fun so the cut-out will be placed at the end of our driveway on that special day and we will wear the t-shirts at dinner with our family. If things change enough to move forward with the larger celebration, we will do that. It was tentatively on the hotel books for October 10, 2021.

## Obituaries

**Marion Sanborn Ashey**, 90, passed away July 27, 2020, at the Southern Maine Medical Center in Biddeford. She was born August 14, 1929, a daughter of Roland and Myrtle (Irish) Sanborn.

Marion was a graduate of Gorham High School in the class of 1947. She was married to Robert Ashey until his passing in 1999.

Marion enjoyed doing embroidery, crossword puzzles, listening to country music, reading, and most of all, spending time with her family and grandchildren. Cooking holiday dinners for her family brought much joy to Marion's life.

She was a member of the Citizens Band Radio, where she was known as "Fender Bender". In 1984, she retired from Unum.

She is survived by her children, Stephan Fillmore (Peggy), Wendy Thibeau and Kimberly Barnett; a sister, Jane Dantrowaski; nine grandchildren and many great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert Ashey; children, Dennis Thibeau, Michael Fillmore, and Louise Keithley; and siblings, Daniel Sanborn, Gloria Spidel, Everett Benson, and Barbara Brown.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 11 a.m., at the Gorham Chapel of Dolby Blais and Segee, 76 State St., Gorham, Maine, 04038. Burial followed at the North Street Cemetery in Gorham.

To express condolences or participate in Marion's online tribute, please visit <http://www.DolbyBlaisSegee.com>. In lieu of flowers, memorial contribution's in Marion's name may be made to Maine Cancer Foundation 170 US Rte , Suite 250, Falmouth, ME 04105



**Judith Marie Bernard**, 78, died Friday October 2, 2020.

She was born August 9, 1942, in Biddeford the only child of James and Lula (Smith) Cullen. Judith grew up in Portland and was a graduate of the Cathedral High School. She enjoyed a career as an Insurance executive and was a dedicated employee of UNUM for 30 years and went on to retire from JHA insurance company.

Judith and her husband Paul loved boating and trips to Disney. In her later years she enjoyed cruising with her adult children. Her greatest love was her family and her time spent with them. In addition to her parents Judith was predeceased by her husband, Paul, in 2008. She is survived by her children, Lori Ingles and her husband Michael of Harrison, James Bernard and his wife Mary of Harrison, and Dianne Blanchett and her husband Pierre of Harrison; nine grandchildren, and 18

great grandchildren.

Visiting hours were held from 10-11:30 a.m., Thursday October 8, at the Windham Chapel of Dolby, Blais & Segee 434 River Road, Windham. Following visitation, a funeral service was held at 11:30 a.m. To express condolences or to participate in Judith's online tribute please visit <http://www.DolbyBlaisSegee.com>



**Karin Amann Bouvier**, 78, passed away peacefully on March 10, 2020 at Mercy Hospital after a brief illness.

She was born in Munich, Germany, to parents Franz Xaver and Emilie Zisler Amann, on March 27, 1941, with her twin sister Christa, who died shortly after birth. Her father, also, did not survive World War II, so Karin, elder sister Hannelore "Honey", and mother Emilie immigrated to the



United States, landing in New York City on Dec. 22, 1949. They lived in Portland with family until they moved to Falmouth, where Karin graduated from Falmouth High School as valedictorian in 1959. Through her entire life, she remained grateful to the many Mainers who helped her through those early years. Karin became a naturalized American citizen and attended the University of Maine at Orono, from which she graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics with high distinction in 1963.

At Orono, she met Vincent Guy Bouvier, whom she married on Nov. 22, 1963, and who remained her loving husband for 51 years, until his death in 2014.

Karin worked at Union Mutual Insurance until 1971, and then returned to Union Mutual (now UNUM) in 1981 after additional training in computer programming. She worked at UNUM, seeing the company through the Y2K crisis, until her retirement. She continued to work in the business and finance office at the chancery of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, up until her death.

She had recently moved to the Piper Shores retirement community with her cat, Jake. Karin is survived by her loving family, including daughter, Nicole Bouvier of New York City; son, Jeffrey, daughter-in-law, Karin Behrens Bouvier and their children, Alexander and Andrew, of Exeter, N.H.; two brothers-in-law, husband Vince's brother, Roger Bouvier of Auburn; and sister Honey's husband, Wayne Hale of Portland and Honey and Wayne's children, Heidi, Michael, and Peter. Her extended family includes Vince's large family; her coworkers at the Chancery; her neighbors at Piper Shores; and the many friends that she made over her 78 years.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, March, 18, 2020 at 11 a.m at Sacred Heart Church, Main Street, Yarmouth with The Most Reverend Bishop Robert P. Deeley, J.C.D. officiating. Burial was private. For the safety of all of Karin's loved ones, the family requests that you do not attend her funeral Mass if you have symptoms, including fever, cough, or muscle aches; you can convey your condolences via the Conroy Tully Walker website [www.ConroyTullyWalker.com](http://www.ConroyTullyWalker.com) We will be implementing social distancing during the Mass and reception to protect all attendees. Karin's life experiences, including her difficult childhood in post-war Germany and then as an immigrant to the United States, and all the people that helped her along the way, left her with a strong sense of obligation to "pay it forward."

In lieu of flowers, Karin would appreciate giving a helping hand to others less fortunate than us, through donations to organizations such as the Preble Street Resource [preblestreet.org](http://preblestreet.org) or 38 Preble Street Portland, ME 04101



**Joyce Ann (Scott) DeSimon**, 76, died Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020 after a long illness.

A loving daughter, mother, grandmother, aunt, cousin, and friend, Joyce was born in Portland on June 17, 1944, the only child of Frank Scott and Catherine (Joyce) Scott, and grew up in the city primarily on Sewall Street, while spending lots of time at her beloved maternal grandmother's home on Munjoy Hill.

She attended St. Joseph's grammar school, where a classmate recalled: "The nuns made her sit in the second chair; they thought she was the second-smartest kid in the class, out of 46. Julie Derry was No. 1." After freshman year at Cathedral High School, she transferred to Deering High School.

Joyce left Maine during her junior year, reluctantly moving to Stamford, Conn. for her father's work, where she graduated from Stamford High School in 1962.

She immediately returned to Maine, much to the chagrin of her parents, living for a while in the YWCA in Portland and landing a job at Travelers, the first of her many roles in the insurance business.

In 1966, she married (and later divorced) Antonio DeSimon, settling in Cumberland Center and working up until the birth of her first child, Elizabeth, who died in 1967 at six weeks old.

After the birth of a son (Scott) and second daughter (Julie), Joyce returned to work, starting part-time at the service counter at Shaw's, and working as a teacher's aide for SAD 51.

In 1980 she was hired as an executive assistant at Union Mutual Insurance. It was here that Joyce, like her father Frank, found meaning both in her work and in the sense of camaraderie she felt with her co-workers. She was fortunate to have generous mentors in Steve Center and Elaine Rosen, who, despite Joyce's lack of a college degree, recognized and rewarded her talent and hard work with multiple promotions. She retired, for the first time, in 1999, as a team manager.

She spent her newly free days traveling the U.S. and abroad, volunteering with the Center for Grieving Children, taking care of her first grandchild, as well as gardening and entertaining at the home she was so proud of on Mackworth Street.

In 2004, she returned to work at Disability RMS. A loyal co-worker, mentor, and more-than-occasional happy hour attendee, Joyce continued to work part-time up until her second and "for real" retirement in 2014. She also continued to entertain (and be entertained), cherishing her time talking and laughing with family and old friends as much as possible.

She is predeceased by her daughter, Elizabeth. She is survived by her children, Scott DeSimon of Brooklyn and Julie Rosenthal of Cumberland, daughter-in-law, Christine Egan, son-in-law, Daniel Rosenthal; four beloved grandchildren, Benjamin, Anna, Agostino, and Lou; her most cherished cousin, Ann Marie Albert of Scarborough; and several lifelong friends.

Due to current circumstances, all services will be private. Arrangements are under the direction of the Conroy-Tully Walker Funeral Home of Portland. To express condolences and participate in Joyce's online tribute, please visit: <http://www.ConroyTullyWalker.com>.



**Jeanne Therese (Gosselin) Thompson Litwinowich**, was suddenly called home to God on June 17, 2020.

Born 1930, in Biddeford, she spent the majority of her life working and raising kids in the twin cities of Biddeford and Saco. With a ninth grade education, at 17, she managed a soda fountain at Liggett's Drug store in Biddeford. Later, she discovered the monotony of factory work during her brief stint as an expeditor at the local textile mill.

At the age of 21 she and her husband began raising a family of what would eventually become seven noisy and beautiful children.

At 40 she received a high school equivalency diploma and satisfactorily completed a business and clerical course a year later. She loved her first job at Union Mutual (aka UNUM) as a mailroom clerk, but quickly advanced into administration. In 1980 she was an administrative clerk at York County Counseling.

Most of us remember her many years pressing clam cakes, frying seafood, filling lunch boxes and serving the public at the Main Castle. Jeanne had a green thumb and a keen eye for detail. She had a talent for painting and

gifting ceramic pottery, slate, driftwood and bird houses. She had a passion for fine dining, the arts, old movies and books.

For years she was a member of the YMCA in Biddeford. In 2015 she moved with her youngest daughter to Tennessee and joined the YMCA in Clarksville.

Her beautiful spirit and sheer joie de vivre will be missed by all.

Jeanne was predeceased by her loving husband of 32 years, Joseph Litwinowich. She was also predeceased by her beloved sons, Thomas and Scott Thompson; her former spouse, Elmer Thompson; her sisters, Lorraine Laflamme, Claire Brady and Lucille Delorge; and her beloved parents, Robert and Therese (Dion) Gosselin. Jeanne is survived by her children, Sandra (Don) Haviland, Perry (Sue) Thompson, Pamela (Pete) Kallas, Cody (Candy) Thompson and Jeffrey (Carol McCracken) Thompson. She is also survived by 15 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Due to the pandemic, a celebration of her life and final interment will take place in Maine and another notice will be placed in the paper when details are determined. In lieu of flowers a donation in her memory can be made to the local Salvation Army or YMCA.



**Pamela Rodgers** of Rangeley, passed on from this life following a lengthy illness on Sunday, July 26, 2020.

Her departure followed a life well lived, and we are sure she was enthusiastically welcomed by Mom and Dad, grandparents, and dear friend, Diane.

Pam was born in Sanford on Nov. 16, 1958 to William and Rita (Frotton) Rodgers. It was soon clear that she had a “flair for the dramatic”, and a life-long passion for theatre developed. Throughout high school she was very active in the Westbrook High School drama club, lending her talents in many productions, including several competitions. She continued to participate in numerous local theatres, either onstage or behind the scenes, as much as she could throughout her adult life.

Pam worked for the Portland Press Herald from 1986 to 1989, first in classified advertising, then as an executive secretary. It was there that she met her future husband John. In subsequent employment, Pam discovered a talent for technology. She then cultivated a highly successful career in programming, project management and systems development at L.L. Bean, UNUM, and finally TD Bank. She truly enjoyed her work.

Pam and her husband of 27 years, John Patriquin, enjoyed a wonderful life together, going on many adventures while traveling, skiing, snowmobiling, and boating. They had a beautiful wedding on St. John Island, and spent their final years together in a lovely home in Rangeley.

Pam was predeceased by her beloved dog, Pal, and is survived by Murphy. She dearly loved her extended Patriquin family, including five grandchildren, Noah, Riley, Sarah, Jayden, and Tyler. Pam was also a doting Auntie to Emily and Katherine Zelda Bassford. She was generous and loving to all of the children, and enjoyed spending time with them. There may have been occasional teasing in both directions. Pam is also survived by stepsons, John Patriquin and wife Erica, and Joseph Patriquin and wife Tiffany. She will be greatly missed by her sister, Jean Rodgers Bassford and her husband Andrew. Additionally, Pam leaves behind many good friends. We will all miss her gorgeous smile, big infectious laugh, and fun ways. She will be remembered as a consummate caregiver to friends and family.



Pam would encourage you all to cherish your loved ones and your time on this earth, be generous, and have fun.

Visiting hours were Friday, August 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Dolby Blais and Segee, 35 Church St., Westbrook ME 04092. There will be a private graveside service at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in West Newfield. To express condolences or to participate in Pam's online tribute, please visit <http://www.DolbyBlaisSegee.com>.



**Howard Eugene (Gene) Skillings**, of Portland, died peacefully on Friday, July 10, 2020, at the age of 85 at Maine Medical Center after suffering a stroke.

He was born in Portland in 1934, spending his early childhood in Pine Point in Scarborough. He later lived in Portland where he attended Lincoln Junior High School and graduated from Deering High School. In 1953 Howard joined the Marine Corps for three years, serving part of that time in Korea immediately following the Korean War. After his discharge from the Marines, he attended Portland Junior College before transferring to the University of New Hampshire, from which he graduated in 1960 with a degree in accounting.

Howard married Denise Devine Chaplin in 1957, after meeting her on a blind date while in college. He and Denise raised three children, residing for a few years in Brunswick but primarily in Portland.

He spent his entire career in finance, at Bowdoin College, UNUM, and Maine Savings Bank. While at Maine Savings, he earned the designation of certified bank auditor from Brown University and became vice president of audit.

In retirement, Howard spent almost two decades volunteering in multiple capacities at Brighton and Maine Medical Centers. Howard was a community-oriented person who volunteered in numerous capacities throughout his life. He was a servant at heart, volunteering in leadership roles for organizations including the Woodfords School, Deering High School Band treasurer, Woodfords Church, and the Woodfords Club. His hobbies included tennis and squash, and he was an avid card player, with cribbage being his favorite game.

Howard had a mischievous and playful spirit with family and close friends, including wrestling with his sons. In alignment with his servant heart, he and his wife opened their hearts and home to others, particularly friends of his children. He enjoyed traveling to visit family and friends with Denise in retirement. He is survived by his sister Kathelene Raynes of Pittsfield; his three children, Jonathan Skillings (Roberta) and grandsons Matthew and Anthony, of Marlborough, Mass.; Linda Ohl (Michael) and granddaughters Gabriela and Jallyssa, of Worcester, Mass.; and Mark Skillings (Rebecca) and granddaughter, Katherine, of Avon Lake, Ohio; and his companion, Kitty Thomas, with whom he lived. He was predeceased by his wife, Denise Skillings, in 2016.

A private ceremony will be held at Brooklawn Cemetery. There will be a celebration of Howard's life at a future date to be determined. To view Howard's guestbook or to leave the family an online condolence please visit, <http://www.athutchins.com> Donations in Howard's memory can be made to: Maine Medical Center Philanthropy Dept 22 Bramhall St. Portland, ME 04103 (207) 662-2669 or at <http://www.mmc.org/donate>

*Received the following obituary for John Jenkins from Roger Bouvier (a retired UNUM employee)*

"As you can see he was some interesting guy to say the least. Most employees probably never knew him but the "motivational speaker" was used when he worked for UNUM for a couple years to spread the good word about the company to brokers in the southern part of the country. My wife got to know him well when she was the Financial Aid Director at Bates college and she would sometimes tell me when this poor kid from New Jersey would come to her office and ask if there was any more financial aid aroun. He was one guy we could say "he lived the good life".

***Roger L. Bouvier***



**John T. Jenkins**, 68, of Auburn, died at Maine Medical Center in Portland on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020, after a brief but valiant battle with cancer. Born in Newark, N.J., on May 29, 1952, he was the son of John and Jane Ingram Jenkins. Educated in Newark schools, he was a graduate of Malcolm X Shabazz High School, class of '70. As student body president he met Martin Luther King, just a week before Dr. King's assassination. John fell in love with Maine while earning a B.A. in Psychology at Bates College, graduating in 1974, and made Lewiston his home.

A gifted student athlete, John's martial arts skills took him all over the world, including touring Japan while competing in the Karate World Championship. He won the championship in 1977, and went on to win numerous world championships in a variety of martial arts disciplines. Among his many accolades, John was a member of the Maine State Sports Hall of Fame, World Martial Arts Hall of Fame, and USA International Black Belt Hall of Fame.

In 1980, he became Director of Housing at Bates College, and in 1993 started his political career with a successful run for Mayor of Lewiston. After serving as State Senator for Maine's 21st District he left politics for a while and worked as a business consultant and motivational speaker. He moved to Auburn, and in 2007 became mayor, running as a write-in candidate. In a lifetime of firsts, he was the first African American ever to be elected to the Maine State Senate, and when he became Mayor of Auburn he was the first person in the history of Maine to win any office as a write-in candidate.

John is survived by his long-time closest friend and caregiver, his "Person," Ann Parker of Auburn; a sister, Mujiba Wadud and her husband Aleem Razzaqq of Newark, N.J., a brother, Walter Jenkins of New Jersey; an aunt, Beaurina Mobley; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relations, and many, many close friends. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by two uncles, Jacob Simmons and Jake Ingram; a niece, Khabira Lateef; and a cousin, Eddie Jackson.

John's remarkable life will be celebrated next summer, time and place to be announced. Private memorial services were held at the Albert and Burpee Funeral Home. Donations, condolences, and a video tribute may be found at <http://www.albert-burpee.com>.