



## Preston Dean Liebig

December 18, 2014

Preston Dean Liebig, “The Captain,” died on Thursday, December 18, 2014, at the age of 94 after a brief illness. He was born on November 13, 1920 to Clifford Merle and Ethel (Dickens) Liebig in Washington, Michigan and spent his early years in Lake Orion, Michigan. He married Christine Mau in 1946 and lived for many years in Verona, New Jersey, before moving to West Hartford in 1959. Preston lived in West Hartford for almost 50 years before moving to Hartford in 2008. He earned degrees in mechanical engineering from Michigan State University and the Stevens Institute of Technology. He enjoyed positions at several area companies, retiring from Combustion Engineering in 1985. Preston loved all things nautical. He built two boats, a rowboat and a Blue Jay sailboat, in the basement of his West Hartford home. He financed the purchase of his beloved O’Day 22 sailboat through the startup and management of his own patent drawing company, LUNALUX (a reference to the moonlighting jobs he took for its purchase and upkeep.) He was LUNALUX’s CEO, “chief cook and bottlewasher”, and sole employee. He spent summers in his own heaven sailing Long Island Sound, and winters in his basement workshop planning and building endless renovations and improvements to the boat. Preston was interested in and knowledgeable about almost everything. He had a huge collection of nonfiction books whose topics ranged from the history of the toothpick to the history of the known world. Preston loved singing, and saw any and all family gatherings as an opportunity to launch into song, with “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” and

“The Old Rugged Cross” the staples of his repertoire. In later years, he derived great pleasure from being among his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren at family gatherings, whether on the sands of Hawk’s Nest Beach in Old Lyme, CT, at corn roasts and pancake breakfasts, or at family holiday celebrations. The Captain will be dearly missed by his sons and daughters: Paul Liebig of Manchester; Ann Fahey and husband Gil of Manchester; Steven Liebig and wife Denise of Cromwell; Jane Carroll and husband Ted of Hartford; Mary Liebig and husband Jack Hilditch of Manchester; Christopher Liebig and wife Carolyn Turvey of Iowa City, IA. He leaves eight grandchildren: Kati Hills, Jennifer Liebig, Benjamin Liebig, Meaghan Carroll, Emily Carroll, Mary Liebig, Sonja Liebig and Erin Liebig, and two great-grandchildren: Madelyn and Victoria Hills. He also leaves a dear friend, Ruth Wing, of California. He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Christine (Mau) Liebig, and an infant daughter, Patricia. The family is deeply grateful to Isaac Cooper, Preston’s diligent and kind live-in caregiver, to Saint Francis Hospital Floors 8-7 and 8-1, and to Masonicare Hospice. A service to celebrate Preston’s life will be held at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, on Tuesday, December 30, at 11:00 a.m. Preceding the service will be a calling hour from 10-11 a.m. Burial at Fairview Cemetery in West Hartford will follow the service. In honor of Preston’s love of singing, memorial donations may be made in his name to Asylum Hill Congregational Church’s music ministry (“AHCC-Music”), AHCC, 814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105.

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave.  
West Hartford, CT

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

DEC 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

## Funeral Service

DEC 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

# Tribute Wall

KA

“ when it was his birthday had to blow out his candles and he was really funny and he made a monster noise and it was really fun and I remember him every day and I miss him and I rarely got to see him and he was my great Grampy from tori

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**kati** - March 19, 2017 at 10:24 AM

KA

“ I too extend my heartfelt sympathies to the Liebig family. My fondest memories of childhood include many hours at 46 Riggs, sea voyages at Watch Hill, and occasional summer visits with the whole family at Hawk's Nest. I also vividly remember the basement: the Lunalux Office, boat parts in various states of manufacture and assembly (eventually replaced with a ping pong table), and Steven's corner darkroom.

One of my most distinct memories of Preston was at the dining room table, cluttered with various papers and possibly a scattered deck of cards (Chris's), and some type of textbook or mathematics treatise, where Preston attempted to teach me sine, cosine and other useful principles. Despite his obvious frustration with my less than complete comprehension of the material, he was exceedingly patient and generous with his time and knowledge. Although I still don't fully understand what he tried to teach me, I will never forget him or his efforts. Truly a great man, his legacy will live on through his large and talented family and his kind and generous nature. Anyone touched by Preston Liebig has much to be thankful for. He will be sorely missed by all.

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**Kent Avery** - December 31, 2014 at 05:38 PM

RA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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Reed Avery - December 29, 2014 at 10:16 PM

RA

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I remember Preston's home was a home away from home for my brother Kent, and Chris has been his life long friend (from childhood hooligans to attorneys at law)

*I wanted you to know that I have many many fond memories of the boat he sold to me as a kid (\$75). It was a great deal and I bought it with my own saved up money (delivering news papers, cutting lawns, shoveling snow etc. ) . I believe the boat was the first significant purchase of my lifetime.*

*It was something that I understand he made himself, and I worked hard to then make my own. It was worked on in our garage on Sunrise Hill Dr. in West Hartford. I used it from 10 or 11 years old till end of high school (1986). Most significantly in northern Maine on family vacations ( traveling on the roof of our family station wagon upright filled with our stuff with a cover designed and made by mom) and later in the Farmington river in Windsor CT. Early on I t made one journey from Hartford CT all the way down the CT River to the ocean with just me and my dad. The trip ended with it half full of water on the the beach ( I did not know how to get to shore in the crashing surf so it filled up).*

*That little wooden boat meant so much to me that I kept the oars long after the boat had been decommissioned. They were once again used in New Hampshire after moving there in 2001. My oldest son Truman and I used them ( with the original oar lock pegs still attached ) in rowing our aluminum boat there.*

*It was so kind of him to share something like that with a kid, and his boat will always hold a special place in my heart.*

*On a recent trip to my moms in Florida she gave me a ziplock bag with items she believed I would cherish and want from my childhood and youth. There were just three things; my first shoes, a CT license plate from my motorcycle and the oar lock section from my very own*

boat.

*I put a picture I had of the items in the photo section. I will add photos of the boat if I can locate them (pre-digital photo age)*



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**Reed Avery** - December 29, 2014 at 10:08 PM

LR

“ *My sincere condolences to the Liebig family on the loss of a lovely kind man. Linda Jordan Ringstad*

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**Linda Ringstad** - December 29, 2014 at 12:21 PM

MA

“ *Jane, I didn't know your Dad, but after reading his obituary in this morning's Courant, I wish I had: he was a terrific person. When I read about his O'Day 22 sailboat, I felt like his soul-mate, as I used to have exactly the same boat (though I'm sure his was in much better shape than mine). You, Ted, and your family are in our thoughts and prayers during this holiday time of grief. God bless you.*

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**Mike Aparo** - December 29, 2014 at 09:20 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Preston Dean Liebig.*



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December 27, 2014 at 03:43 PM

GG

“ *Boy did he love to SING!!  
He taught me a few including the Old Rugged Cross, but this was  
our favorite monthly tune--  
"you are my sunshine, my only sunshine. you make me happy when  
skies are gray....you'll never know Dear how much I LOVE YOU!  
Please Don't Take my Sunshine away!"  
I lost a bit of sunshine in my life! Preston I will truly miss you!  
Gail Gruszczynski*

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**Gail Gruszczynski** - December 26, 2014 at 08:46 PM