

Russell L. Alexander

Russell Lewis Alexander, 73, of Waterford, peacefully passed away at his cherished home on Bear Pond on July 15, 2025, after a long and courageous struggle with dementia. Born on September 19, 1951, in Rochester, N.Y., he was the only child of Evangeline Hill Alexander and Lewis Knapp Alexander.



Russell is survived by his beloved wife, Kerry Wholey Alexander; his three children—Jason Russell Alexander, Sarah Alexander Bacon, and Margaret Alexander — as well as his seven grand-

children: Iamme Thomas Alexander (22), Eleanor Elizabeth Alexander (19), Victor Ira Parker Alexander (18), Penelope Rose Alexander (8), Makala Grace Bacon (17), Andrew Bradley Bacon (14), and Benson Steven Bacon (11). He is also remembered by his five step-grandchildren: John (Jack) Robert Major (3), Sloane Loretta Major (22 months), August William Phillips (13), Hudson Somes Phillips (11), and West Blue Phillips (11).

After high school, Russell moved from New York to Tucson, Ariz., where he trained as a welder. He met his first wife, Janice Howell Alexander, and together they moved to Portland, Ore. Russell began his career in the shipyards of Portland, becoming a dedicated union man. He led a year-long strike advocating for workers' rights and fair compensation and served as the shop steward and dispatcher for Boilermakers Lodge, Local 72. He also served as president of the local and represented the union in Washington, D.C.

His career took him to San Francisco and eventually led him to start his own business, Alexander Offshore Marine Inc., in south Texas. Later, he accepted an international opportunity, relocating to Belfast, Northern Ireland, to work at the Harland and Wolff shipyard with Global Marine. When the shipyard closed, Russell became an offshore oil rig inspector for TransOcean, traveling worldwide and earning respect in his field. His travels took him to Africa, Southeast Asia, the Americas, the North Sea, and Europe. Beyond his work, Russell cherished collecting small cultural treasures and gaining a deeper understanding of the people he met.

While he was living overseas and working, he lived in Belfast, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Bonn, Germany

A true music lover, Russell was an original Dead Head who followed the Grateful Dead throughout his life. His extensive collection included classic rock, jazz, and traditional Irish music. An avid reader, his home was filled with books, reflecting his curious and contemplative nature.

Known for his kindness, patience, and laid-back demeanor, Russell loved Ireland's rugged landscapes, poetry, and music — elements that inspired and nurtured him. In 2013, he bought his home on Bear Pond in Waterford, and in 2015, retired there, where he met Kerry Wholey. They married in 2018, sharing years of companionship and love in his favorite place.

A celebration of Russell's life will be held 1-4 p.m. on October 25, 2025, at the 302 West Smokehouse in Fryeburg. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Russell Lewis Alexander's legacy is one of kindness, adventure, and deep connection to the world around him. He will be dearly missed but forever .