



COOMBS: Donald E., 81, of St. Johnsbury Center, died early Wednesday morning, Oct. 6, 2004, at Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury. He was born in St. Johnsbury, Sept. 19, 1923, son of the late Howard W. and Norene S. (Jones) Coombs. Don was a graduate of St. Johnsbury Academy, Class of 1941. In 1942, he graduated from Aero Industries Technical Institute in California as a combination airplane craftsman. he then served his country during World War II in the U.S. Navy, on the Navy Construction Brigade. On July 18, 1955, he married Dorothy Morrison. Don worked for New England Telephone for 40 years, retiring in 1985 as the central office repairman in the St. Johnsbury office. He was active in the Telephone Pioneers of America Club. An avid reader, Don kept up with current events and local history. He enjoyed feeding and watching the local ducks and wild birds. He was a strong Red Sox fan as well as a Bruins, Patriots and Celtics fan. He also enjoyed keeping up with his children's and grandchildren's activities. For the last six years, Don's daughter Diane provided cared for him so he could maintain his independence at home. Survivors include his wife of nearly 50 years, Dorothy M. Coombs of St. Johnsbury Center;

three children, Lynn Root and her husband Terry of Lebanon, N.H., Diane Coombs and her friend Randy LaLonde of St. Johnsbury, and Ken Coombs and his wife Sheryl of Concord, N.H.; seven grandchildren, Justin, Patrick and Megan Root, Blakely Jenkins II, Michael Sumner, and Justin and Allie Foy; a sister, Lorraine Laurin and her husband Richard of Star Lake, N.Y.; two brothers-in-law, Carl Morrison and his wife Loraine of Lebanon, N.H., and Herbert Barrett of St. Johnsbury; and nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by an infant sister, Narene Coombs; a brother, Kenneth Coombs; and his sister-in-law, Martha M. Barrett. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Oct. 9, at 11 a.m., at the funeral home with longtime family friend, the Rev. Sally Chamberlin, officiating. Friends may call on the family beginning one hour prior (10 a.m.) to the start of the service. Burial will follow at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations made in Don's memory may be directed to Caledonia Home Health Inc., P.O. Box 383, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819.