

McKEE: Howard R. "Howie," 68, of St. Johnsbury, passed away at Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury, Tuesday evening, Aug. 19, 2003, surrounded by his entire family. He was born Nov. 20, 1934 in St. Johnsbury, the son of Ronald Lionel and Myrtle (McElreavy) McKee. He graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy in 1952 and was a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War. The McKees had been former residents of 9 Garey's Drive in Littleton. Howie was employed as a salesman for the former W.S. Tilton Food Co., a.k.a. Independent Food Co. He was a member of Elks BPOE 1343 and the St. Johnsbury Country Club. At the age of 53, Howie suffered a life-altering stroke. He and his wife Nancy moved back to St. Johnsbury. He demonstrated a grace and dignity in dealing with his everyday life. Weather permitting, he could be seen around the upper Main Street area with his motorized wheelchair; that first day out in the spring was so very special. A daily destination was the fire department where he continually reminded the firefighters to "plug the engines in" after a call. Of all the challenges he faced, his greatest loss was not playing golf. He is survived by his wife, Nancy (Leach) McKee of 17 Church St., Apt. 2, St. Johnsbury; four children, Timothy McKee of St. Johnsbury, Linda Stafford and husband D. Neil of St. Johnsbury, Lisa McKee of Hatfield, Mass., and Todd McKee and wife Shannon of Littleton; seven grandchildren, Jarrid and Jason McKee; "DB," Adam, Elliot and Aaron Stafford; and Jack McKee Heath; one great-granddaughter, Emma Stafford; one sister, Phyllis Lawson and husband Tom of Middlebury; three nieces, one nephew, cousins and the entire Leach in-laws. He was predeceased by an infant son, Jeffrey, who would have been the second oldest. Visiting hours will be held at the Sayles Funeral Home Friday evening from 6-8 p.m. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Aug. 23, at 2 p.m., at the North

Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury. Burial will be at the convenience of the family at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be directed to either the Santa Fund or the Gene McDonough Scholarship Fund, both in care of St. Johnsbury Fire Dept., 1187 Main St., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819.