



## Samuel B. Saxton

June 5, 2021

Sam was born January 30, 1926, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and passed away on June 5, 2021, in Allentown, Pennsylvania. On graduating from high school, he joined the U.S. Navy and served in the Pacific during World War II. After the war, he came to Allentown where his father was establishing Cedar Hill Memorial Park on Airport Road. He attended Moravian College on the G.I Bill and took part in an exchange program with Huron College in Huron, South Dakota. On the Western plains, Sam found a world that he loved. He developed lifelong friendships there and on graduating from Huron College, he worked in the oil fields. One of his lifelong dreams was to own a square mile of ranch land and he eventually did. He returned to Allentown to help his father in the memorial park business and stayed until the park was sold in 2003. During those decades, his involvement included being President of Pennsylvania Cemetery Funeral Association and President of the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association, including being a recipient of its Hall of Fame award. He acquired and developed other cemeteries and was an advisor for the first Memorial Park in Japan. He was a Pennsylvania State Real Estate Commissioner for twenty years and Chair of PCCFA Legislative Committee for decades, affecting the cemetery laws of the state and making lifelong friends in the legislature. His commitment to local, state and federal politics was well known. He was President of the Young Republicans and continued support throughout his life. Among Sam's many interests, was a love of flying. He held a commercial license and flew his own Steersman bi-

plane, SNJ-5, and a Cessna 210 that traveled from Alaska to the Caribbean and all spots in between. He was a member of the local Kiwanis Club, Masonic Lodge, Ducks Unlimited Chapter, the Quiet Birdman, Queen City Airport and served on the Lehigh County Airport Authority for ten years. Yearly, he flew to Colorado to ski in the Rocky Mountains and to salmon fish in Alaska. He was a member of the Tunkhannock Creek Association, Bear Hollow Club, Grays Run Club, The Camp Fire Club of America, NRA, African Safari and Conservation Club of Philadelphia, and International Order of St. Hubertus, all organizations dedicated to the outdoor life. Sam had been an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America and he supported their shoot at the Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays, which originated on his farm outside of Allentown. He was friends with Connie Raker and supported his fundraising efforts for the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital there. Sam traveled abroad many times, but he loved particularly England and Africa, which were second homes to him. His friendships were worldwide, and a love of life was his message that he shared with all. It was often said that Sam could land his plane at the most remote airport and someone would greet him with a "Sam, good to see you again." Sam was a lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown.

He is survived by his wife, four children and five grandchildren.

His interment will be private at Cedar Hill Memorial Park. Arrangements by the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home, Allentown. Condolences may be offered at: [www.jsburkholder.com](http://www.jsburkholder.com)

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be sent to the Boy Scouts of America Minsi Trails Council, P.O. Box 20624 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0624 and Kiwanis Club of Allentown, 1000 Postal Road, P.O. Box 91226, Allentown, PA 18109.



# Tribute Wall

JW

“ Dear Missy,  
I was away for the month of June and just returned to learn of Sam's passing. I am so sorry for your loss but so happy for all the wonderful years that you spent together! I can say with the utmost sincerity that Sam became one of my dearest friends over the few decades that we have known each other. What started as a contact through the legal system, blossomed into what I considered to be a mentorship in fishing and a great friendship. Every time I would see Sam, it is not exaggerating to say that a huge smile came over my face; he made so many people feel the same way. He was a special person as no one knows better than you.  
Tom Wallitsch

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**Judge Tom Wallitsch** - July 04, 2021 at 03:56 PM

TC

“ The Grays Run Club purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Samuel B. Saxton.



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**The Grays Run Club** - June 11, 2021 at 03:44 PM

RM

“ Missy - what a beautiful joie de vivre Sam possessed. My deepest condolences. Dad let me know. I will always treasure that time together in Tulum in March 2001. And my awe the first time Betsey brought me by the house at the Zebra skins. May his Love for you all burn bright in the memory banks. 💜 Rach

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**Rachel Barrett Martin** - June 11, 2021 at 09:33 AM

MW

“ Dear Missy, “young Sam” and family,  
Please accept my deepest sympathy. I was just 23 when my Dad passed away and very “green” in funeral service when Sam introduced himself to me at Kiwanis Club. His genuine concern and guidance in those early days was so helpful to me. Later on our friendship grew through Ducks Unlimited and his tales of adventures in the wild were the best! Always a gentleman and a Mentor, Sam will be remembered often and fondly by many.  
Sincerely, Mike Weber

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**Michael Weber** - June 11, 2021 at 09:08 AM



“ Many Blessins to Missy and Sam Jr. with whom Joyce and Greg shared many wonderful times. Sam was a special pesron who walked, talked and shared with everyone he met.  
His embracing of all is guide for us and all humanity.

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**Gregory Hurst** - June 10, 2021 at 10:24 PM

RD

“ After seeing the litany of organizations & people that Sam helped, I am sending our condolences from a small group - the Ironton Rail Trail which he helped. Sam worked with us for many years to get the trail built around the Sporting Clays. Without his donation of land and his effort we might not have completed the last leg of our Ironton Rail Trail. I just talked with him about a month ago and he sounded good. It was a pleasure knowing a nice man like Sam.  
Ray Deutsch for the Ironton Rail Trail

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**Ray Deutsch** - June 10, 2021 at 10:26 AM

RS

“ In my brief tenure over the last 8 years in the Lehigh valley, I grew to know Sam and Missy and was able to call them friends.. My conversations with Sam always got around to hunting and fishing, His constant smile was infectious and I always came away with a fabulous story. In the short time I knew Sam, he had a profound effect on me.. I admired him and in a sense tried to copy those traits that made Sam , Sam. It breaks my heart that over the past 16 months with Covid that I did not get to see him, but when I am in the stream, I know he will be there in spirit.

*My sincere condolences to Missy and the family. You lost a Prince. May the fond memories of many years and your faith carry you at this time of loss.*

*With true regards and sympathies,  
RayJ*

*Ray J. Starner*

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**Ray Starner** - June 09, 2021 at 05:46 PM

DP

“ Mrs Saxton. My sincere condolences to you and your family on Sam's passing. He was a true gentleman who always made you feel welcome. You and he were most gracious when Diana and got married. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. May he Rest In Peace. Don Patt

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**Don Patt** - June 09, 2021 at 05:13 PM

JH

“ Missy & Family,  
My condolences on your loss! Sam was a great leader and always willing to share his knowledge about many things. He was my first introduction to the cemetery business. We both had a love for flying, a topic we often discussed. He will be missed!

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**Joseph V. Huber** - June 09, 2021 at 04:04 PM

TC

“ Dear Sam & Saxton Family,

*You have our sincerest condolences; we are saddened to hear of your great loss. The Marwin and Validor Teams are sending many thoughts and prayers your way during this difficult time.*

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**The Marwin Compnay** - June 09, 2021 at 12:55 PM

MN

“ dear Missy and family, I was so sorry to hear about Sam's passing. He was a wonderful man. He always loved to make people feel welcomed. We had so many wonderful functions at the house and the clay shoot. I think he was at his best visiting in a room full of friends. And everyone was a friend, He made sure you felt that way. He will be greatly missed. He is now hunting in paradise.

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**Mark Nilsen** - June 09, 2021 at 12:36 PM

LF

“ Saxton Family,  
*I just want to send my sympathy to the family. I do not know you, but my mother graduated high school with Mr. Saxton in Pittsburgh. She would mention him every now and then since he had Cedar Hill which is where my father is buried. My mother is still living in an assisted living home. I will tell her of his passing.  
Sympathy to the family.*

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**Linda Ferenchko** - June 09, 2021 at 10:45 AM

CO

“ Dear Missy and family, I learned of Sam's death from Larry Miley just now. Please accept my sincere condolences on your loss. Sam was the consummate gentleman, quiet, observant, charming, and always kind and thoughtful. He lived a great life filled with productivity, fun, adventure, and giving back to his community and profession. A life so well lived.  
Christine Isabelle Oaklander, Ph.D.

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**Christine Isabelle Oaklander** - June 08, 2021 at 08:08 PM