

**NEWTON, John Douglas**



Age 88, passed away suddenly on December 8, 2017 at his home in Halifax. Born in Hamilton, Ont., he was a son of the late Harry and Jean Newton. Big John was a Merchant Marine, RV technician, lumberyard foreman, Gilwell Scout, trucker and gar-

dener's helper (wheelbarrow engineer). But it was 25 years of honourable service in the navy (1950-1975) that provided him worldly experiences and adventures to fuel his passion for storytelling. He served in Her Majesty's Canadian Ships, Ontario, Micmac, Quebec, Athabaskan, Swansea, Algonquin, Skeena, Annapolis and Cormorant. Climbing the ranks to Chief Petty Officer First Class, he was the last Chief Boatswain's Mate of the aircraft carrier, HMCS Bonaventure. From the lost generation of sailors, he fought the Cold War, struggled through Unification, and conducted patrols during the Cuban Missile Crisis and frequent overseas deployments. He revelled in commanding naval tenders, sailing and working on small boats. He displayed courage and grit as a deep-sea diver during his early career, then as an inexperienced crew during the coastal transfer of the sail training vessel HMCS Oriole in 1954. It was during a port visit in Norway that he was introduced to downhill skiing. Repatriating this exhilarating sport for his entire family to enjoy, he purchased a chalet in the Wentworth Valley, and served for decades as a volunteer ski patroller then professional ski instructor, a passion he finally had to give up at 86 years of age. Survived by his loving wife, Esvelda (Pennachiette) of 66 years; sons, Paul (Sherry Hudson) and John (Tara Purcell); daughters, Lynette, Julie (Paul Smulders) and Sarah (Rory Luxmoore), and adopted daughter, Beth Guptill (Bruce Jollimore); brother, Peter (Betty); sister-in-law, Joan Newton; 12 most-loved grandchildren, Laura, Erica, Ezekiel, Alysia, Cecilia, Lucy, Angus, Olivia, Celeste, Anthony, Nelson, Alexandra, and great-grandchildren, Zane, Theo and Xavier. He was predeceased by his brother, Ken; his niece, Jane Haines; and nephew, David Newton. A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, December 15th, in St. Benedict's Catholic Church, 45 Radcliffe Dr., Halifax. His ashes will be scattered at sea at a later date. Donations can be sent to St. Benedict's Parish, The Salvation Army or a charity of choice. No flowers please. On line condolences may be sent to the family by visiting: [www.tjtracey.com](http://www.tjtracey.com), or at Esvelda's Facebook.