



Walter T. Goodwin

July 30, 1943 - February 19, 2026

Walter Thomas Goodwin of Humarock, Massachusetts and Sebastian, Florida, known to most as Walt, was born on July 30, 1943, in Providence, Rhode Island to Walter Thomas Chalmers and Doris Johnson Chalmers, who predeceased him. At the age of ten, he was adopted by William Goodwin, who proudly raised him as his own and whose name he carried throughout the rest of his life. He grew up to become a man with strong convictions, sharp instincts, and a determination that shaped all 82 years of a life lived fully and unapologetically on his own terms.

Walt never believed in doing things halfway. Though he once joked that he preferred to "do a little, not a lot," the philosophy that inspired the name of W.W. Dolittles on Attitash Mountain, he built a life that was anything but small.

Earlier in life, Walt made his mark in politics. He served as campaign manager for State Senator Jack Quinlan and later chaired the Massachusetts campaign for Richard Nixon under the Massachusetts Republican Party. He loved strategy, debate, and the thrill of a well-fought campaign. He especially loved being right.

After his time in sales at IBM, Walt leaned into entrepreneurship, where his love of independence and making deals could thrive.

He also owned the beloved Grandma's Restaurant and Pie Shop and Grandpa's Tavern in Bourne. The property included a memorable tugboat that operated as an ice cream shop, something that perfectly fit Walt's appreciation for character and charm. He had an eye for places that brought people together, and he loved being at the center of it all.

Later, Walt and his wife of 41 years, Jane Schruender Goodwin, moved to Sebastian, Florida where he founded The Business Brokers Company and built a successful final chapter of his professional life before retiring.

Outside of work, Walt had great loves that defined him. He loved animals, especially cats, and welcomed many into his home over the years. He loved boating and always had a boat. Whether it was a pontoon, his 32 ft. Carver, or something in between, being on the water brought him peace and joy. The beach in Humarock was one of his favorite places in the world.

In Humarock, he created what may have been his proudest personal kingdom,

the barn. It was his man cave, his gathering place, his headquarters for storytelling and laughter. The barn was where friends became family, where drinks were poured generously, and where Walt held court on his swing with a story, an opinion, or a perfectly timed laugh.

He followed the motto, "He who dies with the most toys wins." He enjoyed researching the stock market, talking strategy, and keeping a close eye on how things were performing. He was stubborn to the bone and liked things done his way, which he firmly believed was the best way. At the same time, he was a loyal friend who would do anything for the people he loved. He was social, generous, and always ready for a party. If there was laughter nearby, Walt was likely at the center of it.

Above all, he was devoted to his family. He is survived by his wife, Jane; his children, Blake Goodwin-Crooks, married to Jason, and Jillian Nashawaty, married to Thomas; and his four cherished grandchildren, Dylan and Isabel, who lovingly called him Popoff, and Inari and Emilia, who knew him as Grandad. He shared special relationships with many cousins, nieces, and nephews, all of whom experienced his loyalty, humor, and unmistakable presence.

To know Walt was to laugh with him, debate with him, and understand that he would likely have the final word. He built a life full of family, friendships, boats, businesses, beach days, cats, and stories that will be told for years to come.

Services and a celebration of life will take place in Humarock this summer, a fitting setting for a man who loved the water, loved a gathering, and loved having everyone together.

In lieu of flowers, all donations can be made to For The Love of Paws in Indian River County, FL: <https://donorbox.org/for-the-love-of-paws-1>

Those desiring may leave messages of sympathy and encouragement may go to his tribute page at: <https://www.stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/walter-goodwin-6/#!/TributeWall>.

St. Johns Family Funeral Home of St. Augustine is assisting the family with arrangements.

Tribute Wall

RO

“ Jane,
Although I never met Walt I feel I knew him personally from all the stories you've shared with the “Pelican girls”! Walt sounds like a character and every time you talk about him, your love for him, his for you and your love for your family can be felt! I love Walt's obituary and it made me feel like I knew him. Love, love, love to all of you, family and friends! What a precious gift our memories are... love you Jane!

Rosemary - April 15 at 09:39 PM

CS

“ Dear Jane and Jill,

So very sorry to hear of Walt's passing. Your lives will have a massive hole now. Fill it with memories and love.

Thinking of you,
Claudia Staples

Claudia Staples - March 28 at 05:39 PM

RT

“ Our deepest sympathy to Walter's family. We shared many memories at his home on Pleasant Street in Franklin. His parents were wonderful friends of ours as well. Rest In Peace. Roger and Roberta Trahan

Roberta and Roger Trahan - March 07 at 01:12 PM

SC

“ My deepest sympathy to Jane, Jill, Buffy, grandchildren and family. What a beautifully written obituary. It was a wonderful tribute to Walt, his personality and the life he lived. I know he will be missed greatly by family, friends and all who knew him.

Sharon Cascio - March 05 at 01:12 PM

KC

“ Walt was a very special person. We met him when looking for a house. Although we didn't rent his, my friends my husband and I would go to THE BARN for cocktails and many laughs. He will be missed. My condolences to his family

Karen M. Cahill - March 04 at 06:48 PM

LS

“ Jane, Jill and T, We were very sad to hear about Walt's passing. When Jill was young, we remember how much time he spent at the beach watching her swim for hours! As everyone got older...it was so much fun to watch Walt hold court on the bench at the end of Newport Street. He loved good conversation and always held up his own. Laurel and Keith

Laurel Starks - March 04 at 05:42 PM

CM

“ Jane, Jill & T
So sorry to hear of Walt's passing. Hugs to you all. I chuckled multiple times reading the recap of his life. Spot on and I sure will miss my walks by the open garage door with Walt swinging on his "throne" always sending a welcoming invite to come, sit down, chat and have a drink. A void we all will feel but every time I pass by that door I will hear his voice. Thinking of you all and looking forward to a celebration this summer.

Candace Mitchell - March 04 at 05:35 PM

KD

“ We were saddened to hear of Walt's passing. His obituary is spot on and made me chuckle at times. I enjoyed visiting him in his "barn" and was always welcome with a seat, a drink & a smile. Walt will be sorely missed in the neighborhood. We've never had a summer here in Humarock without him.
I'll never forget the time he "trimmed" our trees when we weren't home because they were blocking his view. Only Walt!!! We will look forward to raising a glass this summer in celebration of a life well lived. 🙏

Kelly Dwight - March 04 at 04:49 PM

TM

I'm ending this day on the saddest note after just learning of my friend Walt's passing. One big reason I loved summers in Humarock was knowing Walt and Jane old be back from Florida. I cherish my memories of Walt especially the times he came to 4th Cliff to visit me at the mess hall. Even living in For Lauderdale for 8 years, we got to see Walt and Jane when they booked a cruise out of Lauderdale. Summers will never be quite the same in Humarock without seeing Walt's smile or lifting his glass to toast a friend. Rest in peace my friend. Terry Murphy

Terry Murphy - March 04 at 11:17 PM

DW

“ Walt was such a unique man . He loved to joke with me . He never had a problem telling me what i should do . I think he thought that I was one of his kids . Thats ok - I respected his judgement. I treasure those moments and wish I could have them again . He always welcomed me as well as my family . Trips to his Massachusetts Paradise were always fun .He made many great choices in life and one was marrying Jane.
Rest in Peace Walt ! I'm sure you will be one of the first to watch the stock market from heaven .

Donna Wentz - March 04 at 04:36 PM

RK

*Loved mowing the Goodwin lawn by the sea for the last 12 years. Best part. .though the sun was down as I finished cutting the last green grass blade, and though I was filthy from a day of heat and sweat, Walt would invite me in the barn to join the party. Generous, thoughtful, and Walt couldn't have been happier than when the well started pumping water again and making his grass greener than ever before.
Will forever miss pulling up in front of the Goodwin cottage and Walter bounding outside yelling "Hey Richard !"*

Richard Kinsman - March 06 at 12:20 PM

DC

*I feel very lucky to have a cousin like Walt Goodwin. Remember him picking me up when I was 9 to go skiing at a small hill in Wrentham Mass. My mother was a little nervous but he challenged me and took good care of his younger cousin
We disagreed on many things but
agreed on enjoying life to the fullest, especially family
Will miss him till we meet again somewhere down the road*

Love Cousin Donny

Don Cataldo

Don Cataldo - March 20 at 12:41 PM