



Mr. John Cote

FEB 19, 1913 - MAR 21, 2013

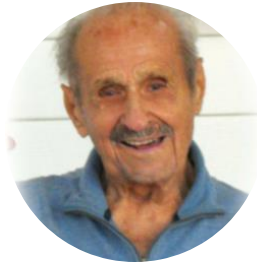


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John Cote, of, St. Petersburg, died peacefully in his home on Thursday, March 21st. He had just reached his special personal goal of living to be 100 years old a month ago. Family and friends from all over came to help him celebrate this occasion with a special gathering in his honor.

John was born in Drummond, New Brunswick, Canada on February 19, 1913 to Eugene and Alphonsine Cote. He was one of 10 children; only 5 survived through early childhood. He was raised and went to school in Van Buren, Maine, where he only made it through the fourth grade. After fourth grade, he left school to help his mother with cooking for many people, and thus, a chef was born.

He enlisted in the Army in April, 1940, before Pearl Harbor and the United States joined World War II. There, he pursued his future career as a cook. John was stationed in North Africa and the Persian Gulf with the 69th regiment during the War. He traveled and cooked for General George Patton and his troops as they chased Rommel through Africa. He once prepared a meal for General Patton that so impressed the officer, that the General gave him a non-commissioned battlefield promotion, a field order upgrade from Corporal to Sergeant.

When John returned from the war, he married Yvette Couture of Lewiston, Maine in September of 1945. They had one child, Donald, who died in infancy in May, 1946.

John traveled and worked in many places, including Rumford and Lewiston, Maine, Cambridge, Mass., Hartford, CT, Boston, Mass., and Los Angeles, CA. He and his wife decided to retire in St. Petersburg. They first lived in the French Quarter on 4th Street in 1973. They purchased their trailer in Venetian Motor Court in 1978.

Yvette passed away in April of 2009 after a long illness, and John continued to live alone with his beloved cats until his recent death. He was able to do so because of the generosity and help of his kind neighbors and friends. He never had a driver's license, but did all of his own shopping by taking the bus, riding his tricycle, and



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finally, in his later years, riding his motorized scooter. He became a familiar sight to those people who saw him traversing 4th Street and going to and fro his favorite shopping places. Shopping was a great love of his because he enjoyed looking for the bargains.

John was also pre-deceased by his brothers, Felix and Emily Cote, and his sister, Jeanne Bourgoin. He is survived by his brother, Roland Cote, who lives in Mexico, Maine, and many loving nieces and nephews. He will be sadly missed, especially by his brother, Roland, niece Linda and husband Dick, of Waldoboro, ME, niece Debbie Lamkin and husband, Dow of Gray, ME, nephew Real Matthieu of St. Petersburg, niece Elaine Palmer and husband, Noel of Rumford, Maine, godchild and niece Teresa Whitney of Rochester, N.Y., and many other Cotes, Bourgoins, and Coutures. His friends and neighbors of Venetian Motor Court will miss him also. They honored him by flying their flag at half-mast until his funeral.

John touched many lives with his gentleness, good humor, and love of life. He lived a very simple life, but left his mark on many hearts with his living example of independence, appreciation for the little things, and generosity of spirit.

Services will take place at Memorial Park on 49th Street in St. Petersburg on Tuesday, March 26. Family visitation will be at 10:00 a.m., with friends invited at 10:30. The service will take place at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in John's name to Holy Family Church on 301 78th Ave NE in St. Petersburg, where the decedent was a long-time communicant.



Tribute Wall

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PC

Phillip Cote posted:

Uncle John was an inspiration to us all. What an exiting experience to be part of the celebration of his 100th birthday party. Glad I made the trip down to florida to share with him and the family. Rest in peace Uncle John, you will be missed and I will remember you forever.

April 10 at 3:32 AM

CL

Cecile Lebel (Leon & Corinne Lebel) posted:

What a Blessing to have enjoyed life to the beautiful age of 100 yrs. Being the youngest of the Lebls I remember the Mom and Dad and Emile, Felix so so well Would it be fair to offer my deepest sympathy to family members? I think not For God was so Good in allowing John memorable life on earth with such accomplishments for a Northern Maine young man, from as small a town as Van Buren.. Country boy he was and had to be. Will keep him and family in our prayers as we do for all our dearest deceased, Mister and Mrs Cote as well, Sincerely, Cecile a Leon et Corinne (Denis Bell - neighbors /

April 6 at 1:21 PM

RM

Rita Bourgoin Mercurio posted:

My dear Uncle John you will always be in my heart, thoughts and prayers forever. We will never forget your 100th birthday with family and friends. I will always remember your sense of humor and being able to make me laugh. Being one of mom's brothers made you very special to both to us. My love for ever your niece Rita.

March 27 at 7:18 AM

TW

Theresa Marie Cote Whitney posted:

My Dearest Uncle John, Words cannot express the sorrow I have in my heart over your passing from this world into the other. Faith somehow will get me through this sad time with the help of our Lord. Like everyone else I have many fond memories of you, too many to mention at this time. These memories will remain in my heart forever, many will be shared with friends and relatives. your recent celebration of 100 years of your life was truly a big milestone in your life. I can't help but think how many times you told me , " I just hope I can make it", and I told you, I'll go get you in heaven if I have to." you certainly had a good laugh at that one. I shall never forget the time when we were there a few years ago and you insisted that we try your brand new scooter. You were so proud of it's large size . What fun Ken, Roger and I had driving it up and down your street. when we went to say our goodbye you gave me a

March 25 at 5:11 PM



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Scott Cleere posted:

I will always remember the great times we had specially during Christmas time. He always had enjoyed Real and I's Huge Christmas display and open concerts we did. He will surely be missed but, We shall someday meet again.

March 25 at 4:49 AM



Jane Lehr posted:

My deepest sympathy to Real and his family. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Fondly, Jane

March 24 at 12:09 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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