

Michael Coles, a long-time resident of Shelter Island, NY, and pillar of the community, passed away peacefully at home on August 4th, 2025 surrounded by loved ones.

Born in England on April 14, 1932, Michael joined the Royal Navy at age 18, piloting single-engine fighter-bombers from an aircraft carrier during the Korean War and later training the next generation of fighter pilots. In 1959, he married Joan Cullen Collins in Cyprus, where he was stationed at the time. He then left the Royal Navy and moved to the United States to attend Harvard Business School.

Upon earning his MBA in 1961, Michael joined Goldman Sachs in New York as an investment banker. Over the next 25 years he played an instrumental role in building the firm's international presence, including by opening Goldman's first overseas office in London.

After retiring from Goldman Sachs in 1987, Michael, who did not have an undergraduate degree, enrolled as a graduate student at Columbia University where he earned a Master's degree in history. A prolific writer, Michael published a number of scholarly articles on naval history. He also wrote two well-received memoirs: *A Boyhood in Wartime Britain*; and *Lucky, Not Smart* about his remarkable journey from growing up on a farm in Devon, England to becoming a Wall Street banker.

Michael and Joan began visiting Shelter Island in the early 1960s, and bought their first home there in the mid-1970s. An avid sailor, Michael plied the waters of Gardiners Bay and eastward, often accompanied by a few of his five children and many grandchildren. He continued flying airplanes into his mid-70s, keeping his open cockpit Tiger Moth biplane at Klenawicus International Airport.

Over the decades, Michael was an active member of the island's civic life, serving for six years as chair of the board of the Mashomack Preserve, among other leadership roles. His contributions earned him the Lions Club Citizen of the Year award in 2013. He also chaired the board of the Manhattan Theater Club and the Foreign Policy Association in New York.

Above all, Michael adored his family. He is survived by his loving wife, Dr. Edie Landeck; his brother, Tony Coles; his daughters, Caroline Scudder and Isobel Coleman (Struan); and his sons, Richard (Kelly) Coles and Douglas (Carol) Coles. He is also survived by 19 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. His daughter, Alison Aldredge, passed away in 2015. His beloved first wife, Joan Coles, died in 1999.

Visitation will be held on Monday, August 11, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at 28 Tuthill Drive.

A funeral service for Michael will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 12, at Our Lady of the Isle Church on Shelter Island, followed by a reception at the Gardiners Bay Country Club.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to either Mashomack Preserve (TNC Mashomack Preserve, P.O. Box 850, Shelter Island, NY 11964) or the Shelter Island Educational Foundation. (PO Box 1950, Shelter Island, NY 11964).