

Proclamation

Selectboard Proclamation

A Proclamation honoring the Life of Ed Billings, on the Occasion of his 100th birthday

Whereas, longevity of life is a blessing for an individual and for a community, which benefits from the knowledge, creativity, and experiences this individual brings to all; and

Whereas, the Town of Stowe wishes to honor Ed Billings on the occasion of his 100th birthday for his service to our country and the Town of Stowe by his example, and his indelible impact on the Town and its Citizens, and the quality of life we enjoy; and

Whereas, Ed was born in 1921 and raised just north of Greenfield, Mass. When he was in high school, Ed showed an early interest in drawing and designing and an intellectual capacity for advanced math and science. Upon graduation, Ed sought out the best building contractor in the area and so began his apprenticeship with learning quality house construction while at the same time attending the University of Massachusetts part time; and

Whereas, in 1941, Ed joined the Merchant Marines. He received extensive basic training at the Merchant Marine facility in Sheepshead Bay, N.Y., and while there was trained as a hard-hat deep-sea diver. Following his basic training, Ed was selected for officer training at Kings Point Academy and upon graduation he was assigned as the navigator on his first ship. In late 1945, Ed left the Merchant Marines and returned home to the Greenfield area and was hired as an engineer at Colonial Engineering in Springfield; and

Whereas, in 1951, having become an avid and accomplished skier and truly bitten by the ski bug, Ed resigned his job at Colonial and headed to Stowe with the sole purpose of joining its famous ski patrol. George Wesson, then head of the patrol, put Ed through the rigors of the patroller's test and Ed safely and successfully brought a loaded toboggan down Mt. Mansfield's steepest trail. Ed was a highly regarded member of the Ski Patrol and proudly served as a "Black Knight" for several decades. During his tenure Ed rose the ranks to become head of the nation's oldest ski patrol; and

Whereas, while Ed spent his winters on the mountain, his summers were dedicated to house construction. For a few years Ed teamed up with another Ski Patrol Director, Hal Wilhelm, to form a house construction business. In 1969, Ed struck out on his own, and for more than 50 years designed and built many quality homes in the Stowe area; and

Whereas, Ed's accomplishments in building and skiing are complemented by his creative passions for music and visual arts; Ed is a wonderful pianist and talented landscape artist. With a life so well lived, Ed is cherished by all those who know and love him for his wisdom, his humor and his masterful story telling.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE THE STOWE SELECTBOARD, on behalf of all of the people of our community do hereby resolve, proclaim and honor Ed Billings for his 100 years on this earth, as a treasure to this community for his exemplary life well lived and its indelible impact on the Stowe community, and wish him many more years to come.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands this 15th day of September, 2021:

William (Billy) Adams II

William (Willie) Noyes

Lisa Hagerty

Dominick (Nick) Donza

Jo Sabel Courtney