



A Tribute to George R. Graves

On the 18th of March 2017, George R. Graves passed away with Joan, his loving wife of 63 years, by his side. For those of us at The Nemasket Group, Mr. Graves' passing marks the end of an era. We appreciate Mr. Graves' 30 year service to The Nemasket Group as President of the Board of Directors, his love for and pride in the organization, his interest in those served and their families and his unwavering support of our staff.

On November 5th, 1962 George and Joan Graves welcomed their newborn son, David, to their growing family. In 1984, when David was graduating from Fairhaven High School, his mother and father began looking for a program that would support him. As is typical for the parents of a child with a disability, George and Joan were concerned. They wondered what David would do with his day, would he be challenged, would his daily activities match his interests and abilities? Clearly, David did not like to sit idle but enjoyed being outside visiting and meeting people. His parents did not think he would enjoy spending his day in a sheltered workshop (the only option available at the time) stuffing screws into small plastic sleeves. They wanted more for their son. Mrs. Graves turned to her prayer group and faith for inspiration while Mr. Graves started hitting the pavement. They soon discovered that the programs that were available did not match the dreams they had for their son and if they wanted a quality opportunity for David, they would have to create it themselves.

Working with the Department of Developmental Services and State Senator William (Biff) MacLean, the Graves were able to see their dreams realized. In 1984, The Nemasket Group was created with Louis Nisenbaum as its founding Executive Director. Mrs. Graves' vision of a meaningful life for David matched Lou's intention to create and support real opportunities for individuals in their communities. Mr. Graves' work was to obtain funding, find a building site and garner resources for the renovations that were necessary to the abandoned Tripp Elementary School on Bridge Street, Fairhaven that would become the original location of the organization.

Mr. Graves had a 38 year career in the banking industry and was highly regarded by all who knew him. He was a true community member – interested in people and willing to help whenever he could. At his memorial service, it was said, "If you wanted something done, Mr. Graves was the person to ask." And much of what Mr. Graves did was done quietly and without fanfare. Thirty-three years after the organization was founded, The Nemasket Group is now a thriving service provider providing individualized, non-site based supports to individuals and their families throughout the Greater New Bedford area.

Mr. and Mrs. Graves could not have possibly predicted the countless number of lives that would be impacted in the coming decades. They simply wanted a brighter future for their son, David and for others like him. They certainly have achieved that!

George R. Graves is loved. He will be missed but the legacy that George and Joan have created will live on.

Dustin Green
Emily Murgo Nisenbaum
Ross Hooley

Our "VISION for the future"

The Nemasket Group envisions individuals leading successful lives that are rich with meaningful roles



George Graves standing next to David's right at the ribbon cutting of The Nemasket Group in 1985.

the nemasket group

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People who fill roles that are valued by others (example: photographer, employee, co-worker, voter, musician, volunteer, college student) will be granted the good things of life.



Thanks to everyone that participated in our 4th Annual 5K Walk/Run at Fort Phoenix this year. We look forward to seeing you again next year for this great event!



Save the Date

Summer Sizzler

Date: August 17, 2017
(rain or shine)
Time: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Location: Mattapoisett YMCA
38 Reservation Road
Mattapoisett, MA