



## Norman H. Blanchard Jr.

January 30, 2026

Norman H Blanchard Jr. passed away peacefully at the age of 95 on Friday, January 30, 2026, at Willow Valley Communities in Lancaster, PA, surrounded by his loving family.

He left life the way he lived it: On his own terms with determination, courage, and dignity. He was born in 1930 in Pittsfield, MA, to the late Norman Harris Blanchard and Edna Perkins Blanchard.

He grew up on October Mountain in New Lenox, MA, and was on the ski patrol at Bousquet Mountain, which was on his way home from the one-room schoolhouse in town.

His simple, early upbringing gave him a lifelong love of nature and skiing. He became an accomplished athlete, which was particularly remarkable for a polio survivor. He was skilled as a gymnast and track star, which got him to Tufts University, following in his brother Duncan's footsteps. At Tufts, he joined the ski team and also the ski jumping team. He graduated with a degree in Geology from Tufts University, where he met and married his wife of 71 years, Margaret Eugenie Blanchard, of Harrisburg, PA.

He paid his way through college by washing dishes in the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity for room and board, and working nights at the Shell station on the

Charles River in Cambridge, demonstrating a strong entrepreneurial instinct.

He was drafted into the Army Infantry and subsequently re-enlisted in the Counter-Intelligence Corps, pursuing an opportunity to learn languages and serve in Europe during the Korean War. The army taught him French and then sent him to Germany, so he learned both. Eventually, adding fluent Spanish, some Italian, and Portuguese.

Margaret (Peggy) joined him in France, and they lived in an active water mill on the river Vienne running through the medieval town of Bonneuil-Matours, where they adopted a real French Poodle and named her Pifka.

Upon completion of his military obligations, they returned to Harrisburg, PA, and lived with Peggy's family. He started his first civilian job as a surveyor for the US Geological Survey operation. The pending arrival of their first son prompted him to aspire to more, and he was thrilled to be accepted into the new International MBA program at Thunderbird, later AIFT in Phoenix, AZ. Norman James (JB) Blanchard was born in January 1958 and the family moved to Phoenix in a black VW Beetle, with Pifka riding shotgun, Peg and the baby in the back, and the skis on the roof.

Norm was recruited into the pharmaceutical industry by Upjohn, which led to many career moves and countries. Michele Marie Blanchard was born in London, Ontario, Canada, in November 1960, and shortly after, the family moved to Paris, France, for six years with Sprout Waldron, an animal pharmaceutical company based in Muncy, PA. A brief stint in Charles City, Iowa, to join Salisbury Labs led to an opportunity to open an office for them in London, England. He was proud to have started the new office and cultivated an entirely new market from scratch, backed by corporation's trust and finances in Iowa. A huge entrepreneurial success.

He then joined Smith-Kline and French, and took over European operations from Brussels, and eventually the world market to dominate the animal health industry.

After 16 years abroad, Norm was brought back to corporate in Philadelphia, during the merger that created SmithKline Beckman, to build the new global Applebrook Animal Health HQ for SKB.

Overseeing the world's first symbiotic merger between SKB and Beecham, two compatible competitors, to form SmithKline Beecham is what Norm considered to be his professional crowning achievement. As a result, he was rewarded with a seat on the Board of Directors of SmithKline Beecham Global.

He retired as President of WorldWide Operations, SKB Animal Health, and a member of the Board of Directors for SKB in 1993.

He moved enthusiastically into retirement as an active volunteer for many charitable organizations and advisory boards, became a real estate developer, private pilot, and educated early adopter of emerging technologies. A lifelong talented pianist who played by ear, he was always happy to improvise on requests when he found a piano and an audience. His greatest recent joy at the end of his life, besides ice cream and chocolate cake, was laughing with his great-grandsons.

Norm is preceded in death by his brother Duncan and his parents Norman and Edna.

He is survived by Peggy, his loving wife of 71 years, his son JB and wife Jeanne of Brewster, MA, and his daughter Michele of Lancaster, PA. He has

two married grandchildren: Norman Ross Blanchard to Emily Sanchez of Prospect, CT, and their son Norman Rafael "Rafa" Blanchard; and Amy Blanchard Heeren to Jake Heeren of Durham, ME, and their son Jonathan James "Jack" Heeren. Norm is also survived by his sister Barbara Bosselman of North Falmouth, MA, and a number of nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews, almost all of whom love ice cream because of Uncle Norm.

There are many things we will miss about Norm, but his greatest trait was always enthusiastically making the best of whatever life had to offer, no matter how daunting. His generosity was legendary. We will do our best to carry on his extraordinary legacy.

His favorite expression was "clear prop", as the final pre-flight checkpoint.

N six-niner Papa Alpha, you are clear for takeoff.

At the family's convenience, there will be several Memorial Celebrations of life near family, in Norm's favorite locations.

In lieu of flower a memorial contribution in Norman's name could be made to Hospice & Community Care, 685 Good Dr, Lancaster, PA 17601, or [www.hospiceandcommunitycare.org](http://www.hospiceandcommunitycare.org).

# Tribute Wall

EO

“ Norm was my CEO at SmithKline Animal Health Products from August 1981 until he retired in 1993. I was his Human Resources Chief and people confidant the entire time. I am proud to say Norm was the absolute best boss/boss/colleague I had in my 40-year HR career. He was an excellent leader and fantastic communicator. He had great energy and built a strong leadership team. He was humble while also being strong. A great memory I have of Norm [and one that I adopted personally] was his humble personal trait to write a handwritten note to each person he visited in his international travels to both celebrate their achievements and to inspire them on to greatness. Norm helped me to grow into a real business partner and gave me great latitude to help all of our business segments in many areas outside of HR. I feel I owe him such a debt of gratitude. Norm was a personal friend and I missed his kind ways for years after I left SmithKline. I know how much Norm cared for and loved Peggy, JB, Michelle and their families. I pray for God's Peace and comfort for all of Norm's family and friends.

*Edward J. O'Brien*

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**Edward O'Brien** - February 11 at 12:08 PM

JB

“ 25 files added to the tribute wall



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**JB Blanchard** - February 06 at 05:46 PM

JG

“ *In Loving Memory of Uncle Bub*

*Uncle Bub was truly one of the good ones, and the world feels a little less bright without his spark. He had a heart of gold, a great sense of humor and grit. When he set his mind to something you knew it was going to get done and maybe with a bit of flair—especially when he sat to play the piano.*

*We will remember his love of ice cream and all things chocolate, especially his amazing birthday cakes. Many of us will be more than happy to continue this ice cream and chocolate devotion in his honor.*

*He was also the ultimate big brother to our mom, Barbara. Their bond and the way looked out for her from childhood to adulthood was a testament to the man he was. He will be missed.*

*Sending much love and strength to Aunt Peggy, J.B., and Chele and perhaps a little extra chocolate today as we celebrate a life incredibly well-lived. Julie G.*

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**Julie Gray** - February 06 at 10:38 AM

CC

*Enthusiasm is the key word ! Enthusiasm for all things ! A never ending quest for knowledge and eager to explore everything ! My wife, Claire and I never knew where our encounters would lead, but they were always exciting ! Thank you "Bub" for so many good times, so many picnics, treating all of us as family, we truly love you and Peggy and every opportunity to be together. We cherish the very special hand drawn picture you made of our home on cape cod. Such a talent. We enjoy it every day ! You have filled our lives with fantastic memories. God bless and keep you safe until we meet again ! We love you very, very much !*

*Claire and Bob Chiarello*

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**claire and bob chiarello** - February 07 at 09:49 AM

BB

*Norman was known to family and friends as Bub. Mother told me that as a child Duncan had a hard time saying baby brother and it came out as "Bub". Bub was my only playmate until the family moved into Pittsfield from New Lenox, I entering third grade, Bub fifth grade, and Duncan high school. We attended a one room schoolhouse in New Lenox, all grades taught by Miss Parsons. Duncan said she was one of the best teachers he ever had. The schoolhouse does not exist today. Bub and I remained very close throughout our years together as brother and sister. Many fond memories with Bub exploring October Mountain, skiing at Bousquets, riding in the Model T, sailing to Cuttyhunk on Pegasus and flying in Bub's plane. My brother Bub will be deeply missed. Barbara.*

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**Barbara Bosselman** - February 08 at 02:55 PM

RC

*Hello Peggy 🥺 this is Raymond Crettol; please accept my sincere condolences for your loss of Norman he will be deeply missed. We were both stationed in Poitiers. We drove to StAnton in Austria for some skiing vacation and from there visit the Winter Olympics in Cortina 3x. Had the pleasure of his visit in New York in 1959. Lost contact. Then one day in 1970 ? I ran into him at Orly Paris. Then probably around 1978 at JFK. NY. While waiting on the bridge of the flt. Out comes Norman? It's a shame that I had forgotten that you lived in Lancaster for there twice a month for period 1998/2009? So sorry for the delay !! phone 516 2984646. Fond memories 🥺*

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**Raymond Crettol** - February 10 at 05:42 PM

RC

*Courage in adversity and serenity for the future 🙏*

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**Raymond Crettol** - February 10 at 05:46 PM

JB

*From Han and Lyda VanVeen*

*Heartfelt condolences from Lyda and myself to you, Peggy and family with the loss of Norman.*

*Your message caused a wave of tearful sad emotion but also a flow of vivid fantastic memories of the times Norman and I shared in work and as friends. Norm was pivotal in my desire to end up in this great country and I believe he knew my heart always thanked him for that. More than twenty years flew by from my thirties to fifties. Memories! Brussels; his broken ankle in plaster and he went on a flight to Joburg. Your dad and I were in Hobart Tasmania watching JohnMcNroe beating Borg in Wimbledon at 2 am.*

*Victoria Falls meeting; etc etc.*

*Those were great times!*

*Friendship; the 3rd important factor in one's life; well highlighted by Norman.*

*He will continue to be my friend in memories until I catch up with him.*

*Han*

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**JB Blanchard** - February 11 at 12:59 PM