



New Hampshire Veterans Home

139 Winter St.
Tilton, NH 03276



Louis "Lou" Solomon

Resident Spotlight

Lou was born in Irwin, Pennsylvania in 1929. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1950, just two years out of high school, serving for four years during the Korean War. Lou was never deployed, but likes to tell the story of how he was lined up on the runway to board a troop transport to the war zone when his squadron was inexplicably sent back to the barracks as the war was winding down. He served as a supply sergeant in the PX at Loring Air Force Base in Limestone, Maine, near New Brunswick, Canada. His position along with his natural good humor enabled him to make many new friends.

In 1953, he met the woman who would become the love of his life, Marcelle Deschenes. Marcelle, then a young Canadian nursing school graduate from nearby New Brunswick, was shopping for a graduation dress in a small town near the Air Force Base. Lou and some of his Air Force buddies encountered Marcelle's entourage, and the rest is family history. The couple had three boys, and in their time together lived in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area (where Lou was from), New Brunswick (where Marcelle was from), and in Maine (where they met). They retired in Vero Beach, Florida in 1994. After retiring, he and Marcelle purchased a gift shop in Vero Beach, which they operated for 10 years. They also enjoyed occasional cruises and trips to Atlantic City. Over time, Lou moved to New Hampshire to live with his sons.

Within two years of his discharge from the Air Force, Lou began a career as an insurance salesman. He was a branch manager for Equitable in the Pittsburgh area. He eventually became a general agent for Horace Mann, first in Northern Maine and later in the Portland area. He was a successful insurance agent and regularly qualified for the annual Leadership Conference in his 20 years with Horace Mann. Lou was best known as a "kidder" who was always ready with a joke. He was profiled in the Horace Mann newsletter in 1989 under the headline "Humor Helps Solomon Find his Niche." The author wrote, "He's the type of guy who kiddingly asks people if they'd like to buy war bonds. Whether they exist or not is not the point. Lou just likes to make people smile."

Even today, Lou maintains an outstanding sense of humor here at the New Hampshire Veterans Home where he's lived since April 2016. He's often the smiling face in the crowd and the one to throw around his engaging, quick wit. Lou enjoys music programs and social gatherings, where he always shares a laugh. He is also a news junkie, reading newspapers and magazines while CNN plays in the background. He loves history and professional sports, particularly his beloved Pittsburgh Steelers. Lou has always been a creative story-teller who could weave tales that kept his kids and grandkids clamoring for more. Lou would always advise his sons to stay positive and not take everything so seriously. It's a pleasure interacting with Lou as his bright personality, positive demeanor, jokes, and love for family always brings a smile to the people around him.

We are thankful you chose the New Hampshire Veterans Home as your home, Lou.

