



Brian Bissett Acworth

June 18, 1928 - January 8, 2026

Brian Bissett Acworth passed away peacefully on January 8, 2026 at the age of 97 in Manhattan, New York.

He was a sailor, entrepreneur, adventurer and benefactor.

Brian Acworth was born in London on June 18, 1928 to Angus and Edna Acworth. He and his sister came to the US as children during World War II. They were among the thousands of children evacuated from England for their safety.

While in the US, he attended The Choate School in Connecticut. He returned to England after the war and attended Merton College at Oxford University, graduating Class of 1951 with a degree in philosophy, politics and economics. As an undergraduate, he developed a love for theatre production that continued into his later years, as he invested in several plays and musicals in London's West End. Later in life, when he maintained a home in the Murray Hill area of New York City, Brian could often be found enjoying plays, operas and all the other arts and culture that the city has to offer.

Brian was an entrepreneur throughout his life. In the 1950s he founded Seafarer Yachts in Amsterdam, a boat building company that worked with some of the maritime world's best architects to build elegant yet affordable

sailboats. In the early 1960s he chose the north shore of Long Island as the company's headquarters because of its proximity to the waters of Long Island Sound, and he lived on Long Island for the next several decades.

Faced with the economic challenges of the 1970's, Brian wound down the Seafarer operation and developed a vision for the conversion of the Seafarer factory into a unique condominium-based office building known as The Huntington Atrium. Brian continued to develop and manage the property until his death.

Ever the entrepreneur, in his 80s Brian started another company, the MuseumLight Company, which combined his passion for art and his keen eye for a business opportunity.

Based on his own experience of having been supported in secondary school by an anonymous benefactor, Brian passionately believed in the importance of education and lived a desire to pay it forward. He formed The Acworth Foundation to support scholarships at a network of private primary schools in the US and the UK.

Brian is survived by his children William (Suzanne) Acworth of Silver Spring, MD, Eleanor Acworth of Millbrook, NY, Persis Acworth of Seattle, WA and Edward (Martha) Acworth of Hamilton, MA. Brian treasured his time with his nine grandchildren Emery Bauer, Evan Acworth, Peter and Ilse Kollmar, Ryan and Nicholas Acworth, and Edward, Emmett, and Georgeanne Acworth. He welcomed his first great-grandchild Adelaide Bauer in 2025. Brian is also survived by his nephew Nicholas Rickett of Peterborough, England and he was predeceased by his sister, Alys Rickett of London, England.

Brian loved to sail the oceans, fly the skies as a private pilot, ski the mountains of Vermont, travel through foreign lands, and experience world

cultures. He was an adventurer to the end.

A Memorial Service is planned for Thursday, January 22 at 11:00 AM at AL
Jacobsen Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to

The Parkinson's Foundation

1350 Broadway, Ste 1530, New York, NY 10018, USA

<https://www.parkinson.org/>

or

The Acworth Foundation

<https://www.acworthfoundation.org/>

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JAN **22**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

A.L. Jacobsen Funeral Home, Inc.
1380 New York Avenue
Huntington Station, NY 11746
(631) 423-2185
jacobsenfuneral@gmail.com

Tribute Wall

BO

“ It has been close to 20 years since I last saw Brian in person, but the impression he made on me as a young girl will last my lifetime! From allowing me to host my sweet 16 slumber party in his NYC apartment while he was out of town (brave man!), to inviting us up to ski in VT (always the adventurer) or to catching up with him in Paris during my study abroad (the forever traveler), his eccentric spirit and generosity are woven into so many of my cherished and formative memories.

*You'll always have a place in my heart, Brian.
Brynne (Damman) Olsen*

Brynne Olsen - January 23 at 04:48 PM

KD

“ My relationship with Brian..30 years. Brian with his British/Long island accent opened many doors and provided much stability for my children and myself. I learned about being an entrepreneur which served me so well in developing my own business. He will always have a special place in my heart. My love, Brian. Katie Damman

Katie Damman - January 22 at 09:19 AM

JA

“ I remember when I went to Paris with Brian on a work vacation. He had purchased the apartment and had a vision for what to turn it into and it had a tile wall kitchen in its middle area. My job was to paint the bedroom and living room and remove all of the kitchen things from the kitchen. So we bought the few tools we needed and on day one for work I found out Brian was going to come and work alongside. This was not the muscled agile shipbuilder Brian. No, this was the determined and still ambitious and headstrong Brian. This man from his disability Walker came upstairs with me and took a hammer and chisel and started beating the tile off the walls. He worked for a good hour and a half and there were many times we stopped for water or to notice something about the tile or pick up the hammer and chisel that had fallen to the floor. We only stopped because I started seeing red streaks and dots. The sharp tile was cutting him and he hadn't noticed it. He insisted that he was fine but once it became apparent that he was also getting tired he agreed he was hungry and would like to go. At dinner that evening he told my family and I about his plan to cut the bottom out of a concrete wall so that it could float freely while we installed new flooring. He wanted to work the jackhammer. He had a project, and he likes to complete them.

He worked hard and did make progress at over 85 years old at the time. The lovely apartment I hope his dear friends and family have the joy of using is built with his literal blood and sweat. We had a lovely vacation with him and my boys ALWAYS thank him whenever we go to Paris.

I thank Brian for helping me instill a love of travel in my children. I thank him for his generosity to me and my family. He was a force to be reckoned with for sure. I believe he's found peace.

Joe Alesci - January 22 at 08:17 AM

MA

“ Once Holden and Theo were back in Brooklyn, Brian would come to visit, and after we moved to Portland, we would make sure to visit him whenever we were back in the New York. Theo and Holden will continue to know and hear of Brian as someone who gave them a wonderful start in life.



Mike Alesci - January 21 at 10:03 PM

LA

“*Brian’s generosity is integral to our family story. From the early years of our relationship when we relaxed with a staycation in Manhattan or escaped on a ski trip in Vermont, to a trip to Paris where we were able to rebuild after a miscarriage, Brian’s place has been our backdrop. While our landlord redid our bathroom in March of 2020, Brian graciously allowed us to stay in the Manhattan apartment again. I found out I was pregnant the day after we moved back to Brooklyn, the day after we started to work from home because of Covid. We didn’t know it then, but that wouldn’t be our longest stay. When our twins were born at 30 weeks, they were admitted to the NICU at NYU Langone. Because Brian allowed us to stay at his apartment, we were able to visit them every day. At a time when riding the subway felt dangerous, it was a huge relief to be only a five minute walk away from our precious boys. When Theo was finally released after 63 days, he spent his first five nights out of the hospital in that apartment while he waited for his brother, Holden, to be released after 68 days. Our first moments outside of the NICU as a family of four were spent in Brian’s apartment. As the boys grew, Brian continued to support them. When they started preschool, his foundation provided financial aid. We love their school and are amazed by how much these boys have learned and grown. Brian has been a part of our story and we cannot express how grateful we are to have had his support and such an amazing champion for our boys.*”



Lindsay and Mike Alesci - January 21 at 08:57 PM

LA

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Lindsay and Mike Alesci - January 21 at 08:57 PM

JA

“*Nobody knew the importance of a good view more than Brian did. Thank you for the countless nights I was allowed to stay in your NYC apartment while working late nights in the city.*”



Jude Alesci - January 21 at 08:40 AM

JA

“ One of the first trips I ever took with my wife was to Miami where we stayed in your apartment. We got to see the Everglades for the first time and we will always remember how generous you always were to allow us to stay there. It’s also the reason why I have one of my favorite photos of my wife and I. Rest in Peace Brian.



Jude Alesci - January 21 at 08:36 AM