



Paul W. Hanslin

*formerly of Fitchburg, was president/owner
of Hanslin Travel Service in Fitchburg; 81*

CHARLESTOWN, RI - Paul W. Hanslin, 81, formerly of Fitchburg and an active proponent of Finnish-American culture, died July 17, 2010 at his home in Charlestown, RI, where he had resided since his retirement in 1998. He was the husband of Mirja (Ekman) Hanslin.

Mr. Hanslin was born October 17, 1928, in Helsinki, Finland, the son of Emil and Aino (Anttila) Hanslin. He proudly served in both the Finnish and U.S. Armies during the early 1950s, demonstrating his dedication to both his native Finland and adopted United States. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1954 and settled his family in Fitchburg, where he became employed by the United Cooperative Society. Mr. Hanslin later founded Hanslin Travel & Realty Service on Main Street of Fitchburg in 1962 and, as owner and

president, became an active member of the local Chamber of Commerce, Fitchburg Rotary Club, Friends of the Fitchburg Public Library and the Fitchburg Art Museum among other organizations and agencies.

Mr. Hanslin became actively engaged in the Finnish-American community of greater Fitchburg, promoting Finnish culture, commerce and tourism. He belonged to over 20 organizations dedicated to Finnish-American culture and business life in the U.S., having acted as a member of the Finnish Memorial Committee of Fitchburg, the fraternal organization of Saima Park, organizing member of the Finnish-American Marathon Association, past president of the Finnish Cultural Center of Fitchburg State College, general chairman of the New England Finnish-American Bicentennial Committee, and Board of Trustee member of the National Finlandia Foundation. During his years in Fitchburg, Mr. Hanslin also served as the producer and announcer of several Finnish radio programs at radio station WEIM and a part-time editor of the Finnish newspaper, Raivaaja.

Mr. Hanslin purchased Leeman Travel of New York City in 1968 to expand his Finnish tourism business and later moved to New York City to build Hanslin Travel and Holiday Tours of America into one of the largest promoters of Finnish tourism in the U.S. During the late 1990s, Mr. Hanslin retired and he and his wife, Mirja, permanently settled in Charlestown, RI, founded and operated Country Corner Restaurant in Charlestown, RI and became active in local organizations and events for several years.

Along with his beloved wife, Mr. Hanslin is survived by loving daughter Merit (Hanslin) Mailloux and son-in-law Paul Mailloux of Fitchburg, loving daughter Meria Hanslin of Charlestown, RI, loving son Mark Hanslin and daughter-in-law Suzy Hanslin of Princeton Junction, NJ; five grandchildren, Christopher Mailloux, Jessica (Mailloux) Tuoti, Tom Hanslin, Brian Hanslin and Sarah Hanslin as well as a brother, Mauri Hanslin of Helsinki. He was predeceased by his first wife, Margit (Rontu) Hanslin of Fitchburg, and a brother, Arnold Hanslin of Helsinki, Finland.

The Buckler Johnston Funeral Home, 121 Main Street, Westerly, RI, is handling arrangements and a memorial service will be held 2:00 PM on Saturday, August 21, 2010 at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 383 Old North Rd., Kingston, RI. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may also be made to the Finlandia Foundation National (www.finlandiafoundation.org), P.O. Box 92298, Pasadena, CA 91109, Ph. (626) 795-2081 or the International Myeloma Foundation (myeloma.org).