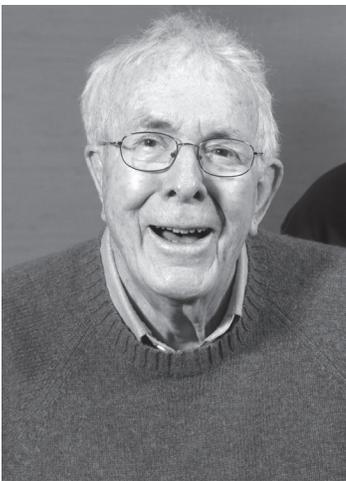




## ALBERT CREIGHTON, JR.

— 2015 ESSEX HERITAGE HERO —



At 95, Albert Creighton, Jr. holds fast to a vision: To have a core area in Essex County delineated as wilderness. Taking root in the late 1950s, Al's passion and life's work is protecting open space. Al grew up in Lynn where his family owned a shoe factory, and he often visited a family farm in Middleton where he developed his love of the outdoors. In an early affirming act, the family donated the farm to the Boys & Girls Club of Lynn so others could experience the joy of nature that so influenced Al.

Following his education at Harvard, Al served in the Army's Office of Strategic Services in China during World War II, where he witnessed a tank repair explosion in southwest China. Upon his return, he created a safer patching material and founded an adhesives company, Devcon, in Danvers, Massachusetts.

During this time, Al became one of the first board members of the Essex County Greenbelt Association, then an all-volunteer organization meeting in the Winthrop family barn. To recognize his enduring legacy Greenbelt established the Al Creighton Conservation Award in 2011 recognizing area leaders in natural resource protection. Al's passion for conservation also led to the creation of the Manchester Conservation Trust ("the Trust"), which he founded in 1963 alongside friends Frances Burnett and George Loring. Their primary focus was to protect "The Wilderness," a vast area of 17th century woodlots, from suburban development.

In the 1970s, the Trust, under Al's guidance, twice defeated proposals to build overhead transmission wires in the "wilderness." Now in its 50th year, the Manchester-Essex Conservation Trust exists as a public charity and owns and protects many acres of land in Manchester-by-the-Sea and Essex. Al's goal is to save many more acres in the wilderness conservation area.

Al has also lent his passion and persistence to lands outside of Essex County. He has served as a long-time member of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, which conserves and stewards Maine's coastal lands and islands for their renowned scenic beauty, ecological value, outdoor recreational opportunities. Al is also a founder of the Vinalhaven Land Trust in Maine, serving as President from 1988 to 1990. He and his wife, Hilary, were recently recognized by the organization for their generosity, through which almost all of Penobscot Island's 258 acres have been conserved.

Al is still very active in his own community of Manchester-by-the-Sea and serves as an honorary Trustee of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem. Along with Hilary, Al enjoys spending time with his sons, Albert, III, Peter, and Bill, and daughter Sarah.