



### PERSON OF THE MONTH: TONY BARONE



Tony Barone was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on April 1, 1935 to Anna and Alexander Barone. He is the oldest of three children and always the best big brother to his sisters, Mary (now deceased) and Phyllis. Born in Long Island College Hospital overlooking New York Harbor, Tony's whole life has been centered around the water.

As a boy, Tony was an avid swimmer and spent every day he could in the Red Hook Pool. Later, he was a champion on the swim team at Printer's High School in Manhattan, winning many prizes and medals. Tony's mother, Anna, was also a great swimmer and during the summer months of the Great Depression took her children on the long subway ride to Coney Island. She packed lunch and they spent whole days playing in the sand and surf. When he was only twelve, Tony started working part-time during the summers for his Uncle Coco, who owned and operated a bait barge in Sheepshead Bay. Here Tony shoveled bait and hung out with fisherman - a harbinger of how his life would unfold!

After graduating from High School, Tony had several jobs as a printer. He met his wife Pat at a greeting card company where they both worked. Pat and Tony were married in 1956 and their only child, Christopher, was born in 1960. Through the years, Tony advanced from a pressman to the plant manager of a major printing company's branch in Long Island City. During these years Tony always had a boat and loved to fish on weekends. During the early years of their marriage, Pat and Tony rebuilt and maintained an old "rum runner" custom built out East on Long Island - a 29' wooden hull. As a family, they caulked seams and painted the bottom every year. Actually,

Christopher grew up on the water even though the family lived in the heart of Brooklyn! One of their fondest memories was being able to watch the building of the Verrazano Bridge from the boat yard.

During these years until the family moved to Connecticut in 1973, every weekend, holiday and vacation was spent on the Early Bird. Tony was always an ardent fisherman and the family cruised the coast of Connecticut, Block Island, Cuttyhunk, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. Their favorite place was Fire Island National Seashore, where they spent many vacations with family and friends. During all these years Tony was an active member of the Naval Reserve. He worked his way up from apprentice seaman to Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate. He received many awards and commendations for his outstanding leadership abilities and retired after 30 years of service.

In 1973, after a serious accident at the printing plant, Tony and his family moved from Brooklyn to Madison, Ct and purchased a small boat yard, Heritage Yacht Harbor on the Hammonasset River. The orthopedic surgeon was "doubtful" that Tony could do all the physical work required to run a marina, but of course Tony proved him wrong and successfully ran the business until 1985. During the boat yard years Tony fished every August for giant tuna off the coast of Provincetown and spent every winter in Key West, Florida, commercial fishing and enjoying island life!

After selling boats for a while, Tony started his next business- Early Bird Charters out of Cedar island Marina in Clinton. He fished and chartered until he was 80 years old when he semi-retired to own and operate Early Bird Bait and Tackle in Cedar Island. Tony is proud of his son, Christopher, who inherited his father's love of the sea and love of animals and grew up to be an operating engineer. Tony is also proud of his granddaughter, Kayla, who is a graduate of Middlesex Community College and is pursuing an advanced degree on-line while holding down a demanding job at a dental practice.

Tony enjoys his time at Strong House, especially the friendly camaraderie and caring staff, and of course winning at Bingo and Jenga! Tony loves to tell jokes and stories and sometimes tease his friends and family - but it always comes from a kind and loving heart.

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## WELCOME NEW FRIENDS

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Charlotte Zawislak-Cole of Madison

Alberta Niedziela of Guilford

Lochlin Syme of Ivoryton

Jerry McDermott of Clinton

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Barbara Nadeau 10/10

Alberta Niedziela 10/17

Stephen Bartold 10/21

We encourage you to send in a cake for the celebration!

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## RECREATION CORNER

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Fall is in the air! Leaves are changing quickly as we say farewell to summer. We did enjoy a beautiful summer day just last week with our annual outing on the Ct. River. 20 of us went cruising on the River Quest enjoying a picnic lunch as we enjoyed the sights. This month we have a date with the residents of Shoreline of Clinton for a dance party! The last week of the month we will enjoy a fall foliage outing complete with cider and donuts! We post pictures of all our adventures on our Facebook page. Give us a "like" when you visit it. Thanks!

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## FRIENDLY REMINDER

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Influenza season is here! Be sure to get your yearly flu vaccine, as soon as possible, to protect yourself and those around you. Please inform us when you have received the vaccine, so we may update your record.

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## IN MEMORIAM

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We would like to express our gratitude to the family and friends of Fred Farnsworth for their thoughtfulness in designating the Strong House as a recipient for donations made in his memory.



**Have you "liked" us on Facebook yet?  
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This program is supported by the Senior Resources-Agency on Aging with Title III funds made available under the Older Americans Act.



# Strong House Adult Day Center

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