

Mr. James “Jacko” Hayes

January 5, 1954 - August 16, 2020

Mr. James M. “Jacko” Hayes, 66, of Pittsfield, passed away at home on Sunday, August 16, 2020, surrounded by his loving family, following a long, courageous battle with cancer. Born in Pittsfield on January 5, 1954 to the late Francis and Margaret Collins Hayes, James was a graduate of Taconic High School and spent 40 years working at General Electric in Pittsfield and Schenectady, New York before retiring in 2014.

As a youngster, James attended St. Charles School and served as an altar boy at the church. He delivered newspapers around his neighborhood on Crane Avenue and spent countless hours with his brothers on Oak Hill, camping, fishing, and hunting. A middle child in a large Irish Catholic family—he had six brothers and six sisters—James also learned to cook from his mother and spent many days looking after his younger siblings. James raised his own family on Melbourne Road in West Pittsfield. He shared 44 wonderful years with his wife, Donna M. Hayes (Renzi), whom he married on August 7, 1976. Together the couple had two daughters, Shalene and Amy, and a son, Michael. At home, James could often be found tending to his backyard vegetable and flower gardens, which included growing garlic and tomatoes, as well as his prized morning glories. He loved to prepare meals for his family, especially his homemade apple pies, jarred pickles, and venison jerky. James also cherished his time in the woods hunting, fishing, and searching for mushrooms.

Mr. Hayes appreciated the company of good friends, including Mike Pero, Angelo Tornicelli, Bobby Lussier, Mark Cetti, Jimmy Hinkley, Ray Bushey, Johnny Tyska, Billy Wendell, Mark Mitchell, Kevin Connors, Tom Watroba, Mike Renzi, and many more. In his down time, he was an avid reader, a prolific crossword puzzle solver, and he enjoyed watching the Red Sox, old Westerns, and Jeopardy.

Some of James’ favorite memories included trips to Watkins Glen racetrack; traveling to Ireland where he visited the Cliffs of Moher and the Jameson Distillery; visiting New Mexico to experience the state’s Balloon Fiesta and visit Bandelier National Monument; a trip to Alaska alongside his brothers to fish for salmon and halibut; family getaways to Cape Cod and Gloucester; and vacationing as a young man in Trinidad and Tobago with his brother-in-law.

In retirement, Mr. Hayes could be found at home surrounded by his loving grandchildren;

Kaliegh, Marcus, Gavin, Finias, Sofia, and Madeline. Each held a special place in his heart and will forever miss his resolute guidance and loving nature.

In addition to his surviving immediate family, James leaves behind several brothers and sisters; Margaret B. Percy of Pittsfield, Helen E. Barbiero of Long Island, William L. Hayes of Becket, Mary A. Quinto of Pittsfield, Brigid M. Rufo of Altamont, New York, Robert P. Hayes of East Greenbush, New York, John P. Hayes, Elizabeth M. Flynn, Ann M. Hayes, and Joseph P. Hayes, all of Pittsfield, as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He is predeceased by his brothers, Francis "Chico" Hayes and Patrick P. Hayes.

FUNERAL NOTICE

Public funeral services for Mr. James M. "Jacko" Hayes will be Wednesday, August 26, 2020 with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 9 a.m. at St. Mark Church, celebrated by the Rev. Christopher Fedoryshyn, Pastor. Burial will be private. Public calling hours will be held Tuesday, August 25, 2020, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North Street, Pittsfield, MA, 01201. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a gift in James' memory to the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, <https://www.trcp.org/other-ways-to-give/>, in care of the Dwyer Funeral Home, in his memory. Donations CANNOT be made online, but may be made through the Dwyer Funeral Home.

Cemetery

St. Joseph Cemetery

222 Peck's Rd.

Pittsfield, MA, 01201

Events

AUG **Visitation** 04:00PM - 06:00PM

25

Dwyer Family Funeral Home

776 North Street, Pittsfield, MA, US, 01201

AUG **Service** 09:00AM

26

St. Mark's Church

400 West St., Pittsfield, MA, US, 01201

Comments



“ 59 files added to the album LifeTributes



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - August 25 at 08:39 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. James “Jacko” Hayes.



August 24 at 12:35 PM



“ Donna, Shaleen, Michael, Amy and the rest of Jacko's family. Words can't express my feelings of sadness right now. I was shocked when I heard of Jackos passing. He is no longer in pain and he is whole again. We sure did have a lot of fun back in the day. Heaven has received another Angel. I hope he has just a good time up there as he did down here. Jacko was a friend to and he was loved by many. Keep his memory alive in your heart. Jacko is walking hand in hand with the spirit in the sunlight. Rest in peace my friend.

Nancy Colvin - August 23 at 09:56 AM



“ Donna and family,
my sincerest condolences to you all. Jacko will always be remembered for his gruff exterior but heart of gold and the love for his grandchildren. Miss you "Big guy"!! RIP Jacko

Mardi - August 23 at 09:46 AM



“ Rest in Peace my brother. Life has not ended but just begun. He fought the good fight, a real man's man, working hard, hunting, fishing, cooking, gardening and totally devoted to his family. Big and gruff, he was really a big softy. He knew his faith was what sustained him. We will miss him, but the strong devotion to our Catholic faith given to us by Mama and Papa is the sustenance of this family. Mama and Papa, Pat and Chico and all our family that have gone before us, pray for us and we will pray for you. I love and miss you brother. Brig

Brigid Rufo - August 23 at 08:18 AM



“ Rest in Peace, my brother. He joins Papa and Mama, Pat and Chico, not in death, but in life. He knew that, so he could leave this earth with peace of heart and soul. A real man, our brother, who loved and worked his whole life for his family. He carried his cross like a man. We love you brother, pray for us and we will pray for you every day. You are with us always. Brig

Brigid Rufo - August 22 at 09:43 AM



“ Jacki, the corner, the road, the Doors, Mark Cetti, The Watrobas, Rum, my brother Gene, Tim Lynch, Pat Lynch.....back in the day

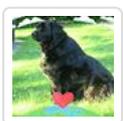
Michele Pompei - August 21 at 01:36 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Photos of Jacko



Michael Hayes - August 20 at 07:56 PM



“ Donna and family, Bob and I have many great memories from back at the big red house you used to live in. It was always so much fun when we got together. Time moved so fast and we all ended up getting wrapped up in our life that we lost touch with each other. We had been looking forward to meeting up again but again life steps in and Jacko with his health and Bob with his health problems we never really got together. we will cherish the memories always . Jacko will always be remembered by us with his big smile and the wonderful way he had of making

everyone feel welcome. Sending our love and hugs.

Julie Daly - August 20 at 11:39 AM



“ 10 files added to the album Jacko



Michael Hayes - August 20 at 09:22 AM



“ My deepest and most sincere condolences to Jacko's family. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Keep memories close to your hearts. RIP Jacko!!

Mardi - August 20 at 02:13 AM



“ Sending you all much love and hugs.. May Mr. Hayes Rest In Peace and continue to fill your hearts with all the love he had while on this side. Love you guys.. Tonja and family aka “T”

Tonja - August 19 at 08:27 PM