



Mr. James J. Walsh

November 15, 1938 - June 11, 2020

It is no coincidence that we announce the passing of our dear uncle on Father's Day, as he was like a second father to us. His big sister, Norma Levante, who he had great admiration and respect for, always told him that she was leaving "the kids" to him. We think he may have worried about that when we were younger, but felt incredibly thankful to get us much later in life, and told us he now thanked his sister every night in his prayers. James. J. Walsh, 81, of Pittsfield, MA, returned to his heavenly home on June 11, 2020, with his adored big sister's children by his side, to be united once again, with his beloved wife, Judy, who predeceased him.

Born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on November 15, 1938, to the late Thomas and Geneva Walsh, three things were evident early on. Jimmy was blessed with extraordinary athletic abilities, a humble heart, and a thankfulness to God, as he was always mindful of all He had done in his life.

He was a three-sport standout athlete at St. Joseph High School, class of 1957, where he excelled in football, basketball, and baseball. He earned many awards, honors, and trophies, but never focused on that or the fact that he was a captain of any given team. He focused on the teamwork, collaboration, and talents of others. When reminiscing about that time period in his life, it was his teammates, the fun, and the laughter that he recalled the most, as well as Monsignor Reidl, who was always there to guide and support him. After high school, he went on to Cranwell Preparatory School in Lenox, MA, and Saint Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, continuing his athletic endeavors and earning more awards while maintaining his humbleness. During his time at Saint Francis Xavier University, he decided to enlist in the United States Army amid the Vietnam War. Primarily stationed in Germany and part of the infantry, he shared mesmerizing stories and, again, a humbleness of his experiences.

After he was honorably discharged, he said that he truly felt lost and prayed for guidance. Soon after, according to our uncle, his prayers were answered when he met the love of his life, our Aunt Judy, who he thanked God for every night until her passing.

He returned to school in Nova Scotia, earning his Bachelor's Degree, and then, in 1967, he married the angel God had sent him. They built a beautiful life together as he earned his Master's Degree from MCLA, the former North Adams State College, and began a

long teaching career at Nessacus Middle School in Dalton, MA, where Judy worked as well, until they both retired in 1995. They socialized with their fellow teachers who they always referred to as a great bunch of people. They traveled to Big Pond, Nova Scotia to their second home for 41 years. While there, they enjoyed the beautiful views of the Bras d'Or Lakes from their deck as well as their many dear friends who were like a second family to them. When not traveling to Nova Scotia, they would often travel with their family and friends to Maine, Las Vegas, and Foxwoods Casino. Their lives were completely intertwined, and they had a storybook romance of true soulmates.

Jimmy is survived by his nieces and their spouses; Karen and Michael Furey, who he loved doing home projects with; Lisa and Doug Pope, who he loved talking with for hours about anything and everything, especially those Red Sox; his nephew and his spouse, Glenn and Linda Levante, who he shared Saturday morning coffee with to discuss sports and family history. He is also survived by his best friend and his spouse; Dick and Catherine Roberts, who he shared so much joy and laughter with; his beloved Judy's family who continually kept him in their prayers, sisters-in law Pat Crivello and Judy Bassett; nieces and nephews; Andra Crivello, Jeannie Crivello, Denise Bassett, George Crivello, and Brian Bassett, as well as many great nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his cherished wife, Judy; his loving parents, Thomas and Geneva Walsh; his much loved sister and her husband, Norma and Ray Levante, and his wife's wonderful family; parents-in-law Bill and Cecilia Bassett, and brothers-in-law Michael Bassett and Tony Crivello.

Finally, Jimmy's family would like to thank Dr. McInerney, the staff at BMC from the ER, 2nd and 4th for their compassionate care and constant communication. Thanks to Robyn Lamoureux of the Berkshire VNA who exuded kindness, warmth, and genuine concern for our uncle and us. Thanks to Hillcrest Commons for their short-term care when our uncle needed support to get back to his much loved home. Thanks to Father Peter Gregory for his continued prayers and support. Thanks to our family and friends near and far for all of your help through a very sad and difficult time for us. We couldn't have made this journey without your love and kindness.

Funeral Notice:

Due to COVID-19, a private Liturgy of Christian Burial for Mr. James J. Walsh was held on Friday, June 19, 2020 at 11 a.m. at St. Charles Church, celebrated by the Rev. A. Peter Gregory, Pastor Emeritus. Burial followed in Saint Joseph's Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to St. Charles Church, as his Catholic faith was ever present in his life, or to the Berkshire Humane Society, as their cherished cat, Skidmore, brought our beloved Uncle Jimmy and Aunt Judy many years of joy. Donations can be made in care of the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North Street, Pittsfield, MA, 01201, in his memory. Donations CANNOT be made online, but may be made through the Dwyer Funeral Home.

Comments



“ We were two of the lucky teachers who got to work with Jim and Judy at the old Nessacus. Jim was a loyal colleague as well as an outstanding educator. He was always a gentleman with a delightful sense of humor. We find ourselves repeating some of his favorite phrases - “Let’s go, let’s go, let’s really go!” Karen, Lisa and Glenn - bless you. You were there for Jim and Judy and they loved you very much. Another great one has left us and he will be missed. Sincerely, Susan Luba and Brian Poopor

Susan Luba - July 04, 2020 at 05:09 PM



“ I taught at Nessacus, but arrived much later than Jim, Judy and everyone else. It was quite a close knit group, with Jim and Judy enjoying the life they shared. I always thought Jim was a great teacher, very popular with everyone, and always seemed happy to be there every single day. I am so sorry that circumstances prevented me and many others from saying good bye.

Edna Dugas



edna dugas - June 27, 2020 at 12:33 AM



“ I did not know your uncle, but stumbled across his obituary and wanted to offer my condolences on this beautifully written remembrance of your Uncle. It brought tears to my eyes to read it, and I just wanted you to know. <3

Kari S Sagan - June 23, 2020 at 04:52 PM



“ So very sorry for your loss. Mr. Walsh was one of the best teachers I ever had. He taught with great patience and kindness. Everyone loved him.

Pamela Monterosso - June 23, 2020 at 06:38 AM



“ I'm very sorry for your lost, Jim was a old friend to me. Played Little League up to high school together.
Helped me to get elected Mayor of Pittsfield back in the 70's.
Your write-up about him was so true, just a great guy.
Very Sorry
Paul Brindle

Paul Brindle - June 21, 2020 at 09:42 AM



“ Dear Glenn, Karen and Lisa,
I pray that all the wonderful memories of Uncle Jimmy that you hold in your hearts bring you some peace. He was quite a guy and you all were so fortunate to share in his life as was I. Rest In Peace Uncle Jimmy, we will miss you.

karen ebbeling - June 21, 2020 at 07:58 AM