



Mr. Norman J. Bessette

November 23, 1933 - July 17, 2020

Norman J. Bessette, 86, of Dalton, MA, passed away at home on Friday, July 17, 2020, after several months of declining health. Norman died peacefully with his beloved wife Lois and his family by his bedside.

Norman was born in North Adams on November 23, 1933 to the late Dorothy and Leo Bessette.

In 1953, Norm joined the Air Force, proud to serve his country. He married the woman of his dreams, Lois Mann on June 7, 1957. Together they began a lifelong journey of public service and community involvement. He was a Pittsfield Police officer for over 30 years, rising to the rank of Lieutenant prior to his retirement in 1990. Not to be outdone, Lois worked as a Public Health nurse for over 50 years and continues to volunteer to this day as treasurer of the Bishop Memorial Alumni Association.

Norman spent the majority of his professional career in law enforcement in some fashion or another; Pittsfield Police Lieutenant, Berkshire County Sherriff's Department, Security Guard for Berkshire Armored Car Service, Personal Body Guard for international dignitaries and, as an accomplished marksman, he was a certified firearms instructor for the State of Massachusetts. After his retirement, he pursued a diverse list of occupations and avocations. He worked as a clerk in the mailroom for TD Bank, was a frequent courtesy driver for snowbirds in the Berkshires, delivering their vehicles to and from Florida and worked as a driver for Haddad Motors. He made daily trips to his second home in Pittsfield, Berkshire Nautilus. He won several weightlifting competitions in his seventies, often at the expense of his much younger competition. Norm was the first to volunteer for whatever organization or cause needed him at the time, pit crew at the Josh Billings Runaround, bartender at local brew fests, dutiful playmate of his great granddaughter and buddy Sophia and au pair for his favorite four legged granddaughter, Sadie, just to name a few.

Regardless of his stage of life, Norm (Bump) always felt his true calling and most important job on earth was that of a family man, husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. As such, he is survived by his wife of 63 years, Lois Mann Bessette, four children: Mark Bessette and his wife Julia, Michele Bessette and her partner Roger Martin, Melanie Bessette and her husband, Paul Fortini and son Michael Bessette. He also leaves

behind his dear sister-in-law, Carol Gendreau. Additionally, he was blessed with several grandchildren: Shaun, Christopher and Aimee Bessette, Caitlyn Lyon (Christopher Lyon), Matthew Bessette and Nicholas Martin. His three great granddaughters are Sophia, Savannah and Riley Bessette. Norman is survived by many dear nieces and nephews, as well.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother Roland Bessette.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Mr. Norman J. Bessette will be Friday, July 24, 2020 with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 11:30 a.m. at St. Agnes Church, 489 Main Street, Dalton, MA, 01226, celebrated by the Rev. Christopher Malatesta, Pastor, and concelebrated by the Rev. A Peter Gregory, Pastor Emeritus of St. Charles Church. For all those who would like to view the service through a live webcast, please contact the Dwyer Funeral Home by 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2020. Burial with full military honors will follow at St. Joseph's Cemetery. Calling hours will be held on Thursday, July 23, 2020, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St, Pittsfield, MA, 01201. For those who have inquired or are interested, donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Eleanor Sonsini Animal shelter, Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine in memory of Sadie or the Jimmy Fund in care of the Dwyer Funeral Home. 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

JUL **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

23

Dwyer Family Funeral Home

776 North Street, Pittsfield, MA, US, 01201

JUL **Service** 11:30AM

24

St. Agnes Church

489 Main St., Dalton, MA, US, 01226

Comments



“ Condolences to the Bessette family during this time of loss. I have not looked at the news very much recently so missed the obituary and the opportunity to express my condolences in person. I knew Norm for many years through the Police Department, the Sheriff's Department and Berkshire Nautilus. Many years ago there was a boxing ring downstairs when the gym was on West St. From time to time, Norm and I would lace on the gloves and box a little bit. Neither one of us were contender material and we had a great time laughing about that in subsequent years. All who knew him will miss his friendly greetings and his keen sense of humor. My apologies for missing the service.

Michael McMahon - July 29 at 09:36 AM



“ So sorry to hear the news. He will be missed greatly. I have many fond memories of all of us when we were young and a ton of when all of us were getting older. May all of you be watched over in this time of loss. Wish I could be there. Miss all of you so much.

Love Deb

Debbie Mann - July 25 at 12:09 PM



“ Please accept our deepest condolences. Norm was blessed with a loving family, and we are sure that your wonderful memories will help you through this difficult time.

Steven and Kathleen Sturm

Steven Sturm - July 23 at 02:05 PM



“ Lois and family,
So sorry to read about Norm's passing. May many happy memories bring smiles to your faces at this sad time and in the days ahead. Thoughts and prayers are with you. With sympathy, Susan and Brian Phelps

Susan Phelps - July 23 at 09:39 AM



“ 2 files added to the album LifeTributes



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - July 23 at 09:37 AM



“ 165 files added to the album LifeTributes



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - July 22 at 04:07 PM



“ 74 files added to the album LifeTributes



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - July 22 at 12:44 PM



“ "Auntie Lo" and family. Am so very sorry for your loss. He was a good man. Sending prayers of live and strength. Dons

donna - July 21 at 04:53 PM



“ Dear Lois and family
My sincere sympathy on the loss of such a great man. I have very fond memories of Norm when I was a young nurse working in BMC ER. We both worked the night shift and had great need for the PPD many nights. Norm was always ready to be of service, regardless if he was on the desk or out commanding the troops. Then Lois & I connected through Bishop Memorial alumni association. Great family. He was a great friend. God bless and may he rest in peace. Marie Evans

Marie Evans - July 21 at 02:03 PM



“ Lois and Family,

I remember both of you as I was growing up in Pittsfield and Mable worked for my father Sam Katz and Uncle Jay Katz at S and J Variety.

Cherish the memories.

My condolences to you and your family.

Lynn Katz Danzig - Ohio
Lynnsphoto@gmail.com

Lynn Katz Danzig - July 21 at 12:11 PM



“ Lois, Michele and family,
I am so very sorry for your loss. Please know that you are in my prayers.
Chris Thomson

Christine Thomson - July 21 at 11:05 AM



“ Mel and family,

Please accept my condolences on your loss

Carmen Simonelli

carmen Simonelli - July 21 at 06:51 AM



“ Such good memories of Norm. Love and prayers from Michael Povey

John Michael Povey - July 21 at 04:53 AM