



## Mr. Donald J. Gleason

October 22, 1933 - July 3, 2011

Donald J. Gleason died on July 3, 2011 at home with his family, after a brief illness.

Born in Pittsfield, MA on October 22, 1933, he was the son of the late Donald J. and Elizabeth R. (King) Gleason.

A 1952 graduate of St. Joseph High School and a 1953 graduate of Cranwell Preparatory school, he went on to attend Providence College. A three sport stand-out athlete at St. Joseph High School and Cranwell, he also played basketball for Providence College.

He served in the Army from 1956-1958, a member of the armored-tank division in Fort Lewis, WA. After his discharge from the Army he returned to Pittsfield where he married Patricia J. Tremblay on June 25, 1960. After a variety of jobs he settled in the Pittsfield School department and retired in January of 1999.

He dedicated his life to youth sports in Pittsfield. He began his service to Little League Baseball in 1968, where he served as President of the North Little League. He was subsequently named President of the Pittsfield Little League and then named District 1 Administrator of the Massachusetts State Little League from 1985-2011.

He began volunteering at the Catholic Youth Center in 1958 as a basketball coach and continued coaching and running the Bantam and Instructional Leagues until 1999 when he was appointed Athletic Director, a position he held until March of 2010.

In addition to Patricia, his wife of 51 years, he is survived by 5 children, James, Melinda, Nancy (Heather Gleason), Kate (Michael Winston) and Donna, all of Pittsfield. He was the proud grandfather of Casey, Kendall and Andrew Winston, and Haylee, Brooklyn, Raleigh, Jordyn and Jack Gleason and Jessica Winston and her son Mason. He also leaves his sister Jane Gleason Cyr and her husband Deacon Ralph Cyr of Pittsfield, as well as his aunts Eleanor Gleason Carey of Pittsfield and Alva Gleason of Hingham MA, along with several nieces and nephews and many cousins.

His work in youth sports positively impacted the lives of thousands of boys and girls in Pittsfield and beyond. Over the years he was the recipient of countless civil and diocesan awards for his service, including being named to the diocese of Springfield's Circle of Stewards in in 2006.

Funeral services for Donald J. Gleason will be Thursday, July 7, 2011 at 10 am from the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St., Pittsfield, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 11 am at St. Charles Church celebrated by Rev. A. Peter Gregory, pastor. Burial will follow in St. Joseph's Cemetery. Calling hours at the funeral home will be Wednesday, July 6, 2011 from 4 – 7 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Donald J. Gleason Scholarship Fund which was established in 2008 to provide assistance to graduating seniors from Berkshire County who have served the youth of our community, care of the Dwyer Funeral home, in his memory.

# Tribute Wall

KA

“ Dad-

*I missed watching you open your birthday presents this year and pretend to read your cards! That always made me chuckle. We could have gotten you a Happy Kwanza card and I don't think you would have noticed. Hope there were lots of cards and presents in Heaven!!! Miss you tons!!*

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**Kate** - October 25, 2011 at 01:26 PM

RR

“ My condolences to Don's family. I left Pittsfield in 1953 where I participated in baseball and basketball at Pittsfield H.S. I first met Don in middle school at the FMTA and battled with this "GYM RAT" from middle school to H.S. Appears that Coach Fox at PHS always gave me the assignment of guarding "Gunner Don" when PHS played St. Joe.

*He was a "gamer" and never saw a SHOT he didn't like. Much to my dismay he ran me "ragged" on the court.*

*After graduation, we played together and won the Boys Club Championship which pitted High School All star team players of graduating Seniors thruout the County against each other. Yes, I did feed the ball to Don as much a possible, because "he said so."*

*Such a competitor, in reading his Obit. he certainly left a legacy which was typical of the drive he had in life. I salute him for the tireless work and devotion he did with the youth in Pittsfield, and it was my pleasure to have know such a guy.*

*Chief Master Sergeant USAF Retired in 1976, Chandler Arizona  
Rick "Lefty" Rivard, PHS Class of 1952*

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**Richard "Lefty" Rivard** - July 09, 2011 at 05:31 PM

JW

“ A couple of months ago I went with Melinda to see him in the hospital, and as I walked in the room, I announced myself by saying "Hey Uncle Donald, look at what the cat dragged in!" to which he responded ... "must have been a mighty big cat!" :)

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**Judy Williamson** - July 08, 2011 at 12:06 PM