



Mr. James Thomas MacDonald

March 29, 1950 - December 11, 2020

James Thomas MacDonald, 70, of Pittsfield, MA passed away last Friday night on December 11, 2020 after a long battle with cancer. Born in Pittsfield, MA on March 29, 1950, the son of the late James MacDonald and Mary Kelly MacDonald, he graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1969, and then went on to earn his Bachelor's degree in Physical Education and Health from the University of Massachusetts in 1976. He attended Westfield State College and was enrolled in the Master's program studying education for children with moderate Special Needs.

Jim worked at Hillcrest Educational Centers for many years and had a positive impact on the students that he worked with. He then went on to teach at the alternate school before it closed and then was transferred to Pittsfield High School before his retirement when he fell ill 6 years ago. He also worked at the Boys and Girls Club camp helping children with special needs with recreational therapy. Jim was an advocate for the students that came from all backgrounds, including special needs children and trauma victims. He also had a lawncare business years ago, We Care Lawn Business where he would often be seen mowing lawns with his son next to him with his Little Tikes' mower.

Besides being a teacher Jim was an avid sports fan. He loved all New England teams, including the Red Sox, the Celtics, and the Patriots. He was a youth baseball coach who could talk for hours about coaching little league, and Babe Ruth when his sons were growing up. In 1995 he coached his 14

and 15-year-old Babe Ruth team to the world series. They played in Millville, New Jersey and placed 5th in the nation. He enjoyed coaching his sons in baseball and had a love for Clapp Park (west little league) as those are where some of his best memories were made. He had a special place in his heart for all the players he had coached over the years. Aside from coaching one of his greatest joys was watching his grandsons play sports. This summer he was able to watch his grandson play little league, all stars and a travel team where he played throughout Berkshire County. He was a devoted Papa never missing a game and would always be standing behind the center field fence watching his granddaughter run around the park, while watching his grandson pitch. We will miss Papa Jim at all the games.

Aside from being a coach Jim was also a very talented artist and enjoyed giving his paintings out to friends and families. He had just finished a picture for his grandson of a boxer that he was determined to get done even though he was sick.

Jim could talk politics for hours and loved a good debate. He loved talking about growing up on Edward Ave, his summers as a youth hanging at Deming Park and his memories when his children were young on Taylor St.

Jim fought a long battle with cancer and after it returned this past summer, his health declined quickly. Through all of this he was a warrior and never complained. We are so proud of him for the fight he gave even until the end. Jim is now reunited with his son Michael Broderick MacDonald, who passed away in September of 2006, as this loss weighed very heavy on his heart over the years. He founded the Michael MacDonald Baseball Memorial Scholarship in 2006 after his sons passing which has helped many students with college related expenses.

Jim is survived by his son Christopher MacDonald of Pittsfield, his daughter Marielle MacDonald Appleton and her Husband Kyle Appleton, his beloved sister Patricia Duma and her husband Paul, a brother Jack MacDonald and his wife Colleen, a brother Bob MacDonald and his wife Shirley of Dalton. He leaves his grandsons, Patrick Konefal, Kevin Konefal and his granddaughter

Juliet Appleton along with several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for James Thomas MacDonald will be Friday, December 18, 2020, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 9:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, celebrated by the Msgr. Michael A. Shershanovich, Pastor of St. Joseph Church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Michael MacDonald Scholarship Fund 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.

Previous Events

Service

DEC 18. 9:30 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Church
191 Elm St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Jack & Family, sorry to hear of Jimmys passing, may he rest in peace! John & Cathie McHugh.

John McHugh - January 08, 2021 at 10:14 AM

HT

“ The Tierney family has many fond memories of Jim. I worked with him at Hillcrest Ed, Highpoint campus. He taught me how to have fun with the students there and had a kind manner and great sense of humor with everyone...staff and students alike. For many years, we also would love attending the Thanksgiving day (sometimes in the snow!) home run derby in Michael's name. He would patiently pitch endless rounds to "kids" of all ages. Shane Tierney would have stayed there all day taking swings. Later, Shane received the scholarship in Mike's name. He was so proud of that and we really cherished it. We will remember his love of baseball, his sense of humor, and ease with people.....The Tierney family

Heather Tierney - December 23, 2020 at 06:28 AM

MR

“ I basically grew up at 107 Edward Ave. Some of my fondest memories are of Christmas Eve at the Mac's; everyone was welcome. Jimmy was an important part of that loving family. He was one of the "cool" guys at PHS. Jimmy was an athlete with a biting wit, but was also kind and funny. He had a well lived life and will be dearly missed by his friends and family. I hope that Pat will take solace in the fact that she worked tirelessly to assure he had the best care; and that he is now reunited with his beloved son. My deepest sympathy. Mary Kate Rodman

Mary Kate Rodman - December 19, 2020 at 02:00 PM

RF

“ *To the MacDonald family
We are saddened by Jim’s passing. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to everyone. We share fond memories growing up on Edward Ave!!
The Caden Family*

Robin Caden Farrigan - December 18, 2020 at 11:45 AM

KP

“ *Have so many fun and remarkable stories that centered around both of us and our sons playing baseball together...It was even better going through Babe Ruth coaching against each other and everything that gave us unity as All Star Coaches.....Jim was special away from the field with friendship playing a very important part with all those who knew him...He and his family have endured some very trying times and I feel for them...he will be missed and my prayers to the family.....Keith Palmer*

Keith Palmer - December 18, 2020 at 11:03 AM

JC

“ *Bob, Jack, Patty
Hanging out with Jim, umpiring little league baseball at Deming and playoffs are just a couple of my fond memories of a really good guy!
I hope your memories help you through this tough time.
Jeff Ciuffreda*

Jeff Ciuffreda - December 17, 2020 at 04:45 PM

DC

“ To the MacDonald family- Our deepest sympathy for the loss of JT MacDonald. A lot of good times were had during the Deming Park years and the Connolly Clubhouse.

Sincerely, Tiny Whelp and Sue Condron

David and Sue Condron - December 17, 2020 at 12:47 PM

CM

“ Bob, Patty Jack & Family. I am so sorry to hear about Jimmy. My sincere condolences to everyone. What a great guy. I have many memories of jimmy growing up at Deming Park and being one of the Pims Boys. We were at the park all summer long. I will keep everyone in my prayers at this difficult time.

Chico Martin

Chico Martin - December 16, 2020 at 12:13 PM

DH

“ To the family of Jimmy McDonald,
I am so sorry for your loss. I have many fond memories of him during our days growing up in the neighborhood and Deming Park. He was a real good guy may he rest in peace.

David Hinkell - December 15, 2020 at 08:19 PM