



Mr. James J. Mooney

February 1, 1931 - November 24, 2015

Mr. James J. Mooney, 84, of Richmond Shores, passed away on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at home. Born in Pittsfield on February 1, 1931 the son of Richard Sr. and Cecelia Johnson Mooney, he was a 1949 graduate of St. Joseph High School. Mr. Mooney attended the Berkshire Business School as well as earning additional education credits from North Adams State College and the University of Massachusetts. He was also a licensed social worker.

Mr. Mooney had a 40 year career with the Boys' and Girls' Club of Pittsfield, the largest at the time in the Country and shepherded the Club through its greatest years of Membership growth and physical plant expansions. Beginning as Swimming Director in 1949, Jim served as Program Director, Camp Director, Assistant Superintendent and then Superintendent for 17 years. Jim was responsible for starting the Boys' Club Guidance Department, Alcohol and Work-It-Off Programs and influential in beginning the Big Brother Program at the Boys' Club. He was instrumental in increasing the membership to an all-time high of 5,104 in 1984. He implemented a Nursery and Day Care Program and After School Care Program at the Boys' Club. Jim received

the Bronze Keystone with Four Silver Stars from the Boys' Club of America for 40 years of distinguished service. He was Chairman of the Boys' and Girls' Club Fund Drive which raised \$2,200,000.00. Jim retired from the Club in 1989.

At his retirement testimonial dinner honored by 500 guests, the Mayor of Pittsfield, Anne E. Wojtkowski proclaimed Jim Mooney Day and presented him the Key to the City of Pittsfield. The Camp Russell Swimming Pool and newly built Cabin (Mooney Hall) were named in his honor.

Mr. Mooney then went to work at Tanglewood in Lenox. In 1990 Jim served as Audience Service Coordinator at Tanglewood and became Facilities Manager in 1991. He retired from Tanglewood in 1997. He was also proud to serve as Special Sheriff of Berkshire County from 1978 to 2011 and was Interim Manager of the Berkshire County Jail & House of Corrections before his good friend Carmen Massimiano took office.

Jim was much beloved in Pittsfield, which he warmly regarded as both his home and extended family. Throughout his life, Jim strove for the benefit of children and families in Western Massachusetts. He served on many committees and held several directorships and affiliations with social service and financial organizations in Berkshire County. In return, the community publicly recognized his good works with numerous awards and accolades. Among his personal favorites was the recognition by the late Honorable Silvio o. Conte presented before the House of Representatives at the time of his retirement from the Boys' Club on June 27, 1989 and the dedication of the James J. Mooney Swimming Pool at Camp Russell.

For three different terms he was the Director for Berkshire United Way, serving as Tri-Chair on one of its annual campaigns. He was a past President of the Eagle's Santa Toy Fund.

Jim was a member of the Irish American Club of Berkshire County and the Pittsfield Irish Sister City Committee. He was named the Berkshire County Person of the Year by the Irish American Club of Berkshire County.

Mr. Mooney is survived by a nephew, Dr. Richard F. Mooney III of Connecticut and a niece, Lisa Mooney Sherman of Virginia; two cousins, Howard Marshall (wife Denise) and Linda Lussier; close friend, Keith McClellan, Sr. (wife Tanya), several grand nieces and nephews and five godchildren. He was predeceased by his brother, Richard F. Mooney, Jr.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral Services for Mr. James J. Mooney will be Friday, December 4, 2015 with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Church celebrated by Msgr. Michael A. Shershanovich, pastor and concelebrated by the Rev. A. Peter Gregory, pastor of St. Charles Church. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Mooney/Fahey Scholarship Fund, care of the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St., Pittsfield, MA 01201, in his memory. Donations cannot be made online, but may be made through the Dwyer Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Cemetery

222 Peck's Rd.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Previous Events

Service

DEC 4. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Church
414 North St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

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St. Joseph Church
414 North St.
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Tribute Wall

GC

“ Jim has passed from this life to the next.

He was the best man (in more ways than one) at our wedding.

The last time Jim and I went to breakfast two people came over to say "Hi" to Jim. We had not even gotten out of the car yet.

Two more people greeted Jim as we walked into the café, one man very loudly proclaiming "there's the man who taught me to swim". A third person came to our table while we were eating, just to say hello to Jim.

it was obvious Jim had a big impact on their lives.

He was my inspiration, my big brother, my friend and my mentor.

He was the person I went to when I had a problem.

He was my hero and everything I always wanted to be.

Already, I miss him so very much..

Gary

Gary Crippa - December 05, 2015 at 03:43 AM

LS

“ Uncle Jim’s public life was always about the kids and giving back to the community to make it a better place. He had this way of making his point clear. He also was a story teller and a jokester. You’d know he had you when you leaned forward for more and you looked at his face to see that smile and twinkle in his eye. He was a straight shooter, often telling you the reality of things when other sugar-coated it. In my early twenties attending BCC, we had many of “those” conversations in his office at the Club.

Outside of his very public life he was a family man too, attending celebrations, funerals, graduations, cookouts- just the general celebrations of life. He didn’t miss much. He was my Dad’s best friend, as well as his brother. He would come out to the house after church and share a story or two of what happened during the week and talk to Dad for hours. During the summer, we would meet him at Camp Russell, where he loved Richmond Pond and shared his summer family with us.

Tying it all together was his gift of peace-keeper. Whether it was it was a disagreement over a basketball or whatever else, he helped you solve it and make the best decision- one you could learn from. He was all about you being a better person.

Thank you for the guidance all through the years- even as I raised my own family so far from home. Yiu were a phone call or letter away. You were loved and will be missed by many, but most of all, by your family. Love you Uncle Jim. – Lisa (Mooney) Sherman

Lisa (Mooney) Sherman - December 03, 2015 at 08:44 PM



“ 54 files added to the album Life Tributes



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - December 03, 2015 at 05:15 PM

TR

“ Rest in Peace Jim. Thank you to Jim and all his family. I spent my childhood under his guidance; first as a member of the Boys' Club and Camp Russell attendee. I then became a camp counselor, and worked the front desk at the Boys' Club. Jim had a direct positive influence on me in countless ways; not excluding the rides home in the deep of Winter when I was working the "late" shift. The "Jim Mooney's Bus" song still pops into my head at the oddest times. Thank you Jim.

Love,

Timothy J. Ryan

T.J. Ryan - December 02, 2015 at 02:34 PM

TS

“ In my mind Jim Mooney is one of the best things that ever happened to this city. Generations of boys got to enjoy one of the Best Boys Clubs in the country. Camp Russell could not have been any better. You played such a big part in these institutions. You only knew one way the right way.
I never met anyone that didn't respect Jim Mooney. Well done Jim!!
RIP

Thomas Shepard

T Shepard - December 01, 2015 at 07:02 PM

DW

“ Thanks again, Jimmy, for your guidance to me and other "boys" of my era.
(1949-1956)
David Webster

david webster - December 01, 2015 at 11:50 AM

FL

“ So very sorry to hear of Jim's passing.
He will certainly be a great loss to the Pittsfield community.
I have many fond memories at the Boys Club as well as the wonderful summers spent as a camper and later as a counselor at Camp Russell where Jim was a compassionate and character building role model for many young boys and men.
Thanks Jim.
Francis J. Lipari
Plymouth, Pinehills, Massachusetts

Francis J. Lipari - December 01, 2015 at 09:53 AM

RM

“ *Best uncle ever. I sought his sage counsel in all important things in my life and I will miss him sorely. It is said that death ends a life but not a relationship. His advice will stay with me throughout my life. And who can forget his warmth and charm? And his deep regard for the people and families--and especially the children--of Berkshire County? When he was a kid I'm told he used to say, "I want to be like the common man" and indeed he stood up for the "common man" his whole life and in doing so, became a prince. Goodbye sweet prince!*

Rick Mooney - December 01, 2015 at 07:38 AM

LL

“ *God just got a good one. We had such a great family. Growing up with you around was a very special part of my life. Christmas always stands out the most for me. We had such good times at grandmas...times I'll never forget....ever since I can remember you were so special to everyone. As a teenager I remember hiding from you at the Club dances...we all ran when we saw you coming! Those were the good old days for sure. I have your Christmas gift sitting here....I got it early this year.....although we were cousins...we always called you "uncle". Maybe because we always had to say "UNCLE" so we could escape the wrath! The finger crunch or the tickling....would never have changed a thing about you! I'm going to miss you "uncle Jim"..❤️ Love You. Linda Marshall Lussier...*

Linda Marshall Lussier - December 01, 2015 at 04:47 AM