



## Mr. Jeffrey B. Thompson

May 4, 1943 - February 18, 2022

Jeffrey Bellinger Thompson, age 78, passed away peacefully at sunset at his home on Friday, February 18th, 2022, surrounded by his loving family.

Jeff was born on May 4th, 1943 in Pittsfield, MA to Zilpha “Sis” Bellinger Thompson and Orlo L. Thompson. He grew up in Dalton, MA and was in the last graduating class (1961) from Dalton High School. He attended the University of Bridgeport (Connecticut) and graduated in 1967. At that time, he was a teacher at Masuk High School in Monroe, CT. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1967 and spent four years in the service. Jeff worked on the flight line and worked in avionics on the F-105 in the instrument shop. That included a year in Takhli, Thailand during the Vietnam era. During that time, he married his college sweetheart, Jean Ruhl from Burlington, NJ.

Following his military service, Jeff attended Virginia Commonwealth University where he received a Master’s Degree in Social Work. Jeff always felt thankful about his career as a social worker, with the perception that he got to do a lot of good things for people. He was initially employed by the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (child protective services). The last 34 years of his work career were divided between Hillcrest Hospital, where he was the Director of Social Services, and Berkshire Medical Center, where he was a member of the “Psych Team” (also known as the Primary Care Outreach Team). Jeff retired from BMC in March of 2008.

Jeff enjoyed a wide range of friendships that were established all along his path of life. He was very active in the community after his retirement, and had the opportunity to serve in many organizations, including The Council on Aging, Berkshire United Way, RSVP, Soldier On, The Santa Toy Fund, Big Sisters, Goodwill Industries, Berkshire Place, and at Berkshire Health System.

He was chairman of the group that restored Pittsfield's renowned sculpture: the World War I "Peace Monument". He also played a key role in the restoration of the sculpture of the Civil War Soldier in Park Square. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Pittsfield. He also volunteered at Tanglewood and the Colonial Theater. Jeff was a past commander of the VFW, Post 448, in Pittsfield, and was very active in the Veterans' community.

Jeff loved living at Pontoosuc lake. He forever loved a beautiful sunset, and often enjoyed time on the dock. He was a sports fan through and through, and especially loved the Red Sox, the Patriots, and Virginia Tech football. He was a daily walker, either indoors somewhere or outdoors on the bike trail, depending on the weather.

Jeff is survived by his wife Jeannie and his two children, Laurie Beth Keatts of Hickory, North Carolina, and Stephen Ruhl Thompson (wife: Debbi Thompson) of Fort Collins, Colorado. Jeff adored his children as well as his four grandchildren, Jillian and Lucy Keatts, and Fiona and Brayden Thompson. The grandkids took to calling him "Bacoobah", following Jillian's lead when she came up with this unique name when she was a toddler. The four grandchildren sure loved their Bacoobah. Jeff is also pre-deceased by his brother, Orlo Stephen Thompson of Groton, MA, and survived by his sister Zilpha "Zell" Thompson Murray of Springfield, MA.

Throughout Jeff's life, he touched the hearts and lives of so many individuals

in so many ways. He was a dedicated true friend to countless people. He was a loving and caring husband, father, and grandfather, and was always there for his family and friends. His many stories, sense of humor, and passion for finding fun and joy in life will live on through his family. He was a bright light in this world, and was always willing to help others in both his professional and personal life. He will undoubtedly be missed by all who knew him, and most especially by his family.

Funeral Notice:

There will be a celebration of Jeffrey's life later in the spring or early summer, with additional details to be finalized at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Jeff's memory to Boston University School of Medicine, Amyloid Center Research Fund, 72 East Concord Street, #K-503, Boston, MA, 02118.

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ Jeffrey helped me to cope with my divorce by providing support, encouragement, and sound advice. He was a real confidence-builder and positive influence. He was also a loyal volunteer at the Colonial Theatre. I will miss him. Brian Harrison

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**Brian W HARRISON** - March 07, 2022 at 12:49 PM

DR

“ A beautiful man and a beautiful family who loved him deeply. We are so sorry for your loss. May god give you strength and peace during this difficult time, Fondly,  
Tom and Dianne Romeo

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**Dianne Romeo** - March 04, 2022 at 09:44 AM

BL

“ I worked with Jeff many , many years at Hillcrest were he was the epitome of a patient s and the patient s family s strongest advocate . He was the definition of advocacy , respect , kindness , empathy and presence.  
And then at BMC too .  
In his tiny office at BMC by the 2nd floor staircase he had a poster hung by his desk .  
It was a picture of a childs tricycle with a divine light shining upon it .  
The poster s text read " remember when this was all you wanted " .  
thank you , Jeff Thompson.  
Barry Lobovits

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**barry lobovits** - February 27, 2022 at 07:19 PM

PM

“ My condolences to Jeanne, Steve and Laurie. Jeff was truly one of the "good" men. He was kind and greeted everyone with a ready smile. Those he served knew his compassion and understanding was real and heartfelt. May he rest in peace.

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**Paula Morey** - February 27, 2022 at 11:16 AM

RL

“ I was saddened to learn of Jeff's passing. My prayers and condolences to the family.

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**Robert Lee** - February 27, 2022 at 10:10 AM

KD

“ Dear Jean and family,

*I was saddened to read about your loss of Jeff. My memories of him date back to high school days when he delivered groceries to my family in Dalton. He was always cheerful and smiling. My mother used to bake almost every day and enjoyed offering cookies to him which he didn't refuse! When you and I met as social workers, we easily connected and I was happy to learn about you and Jeff and the Dalton connection.*

*He and I also enjoyed a professional relationship and in later years, looked forward to running into the two of you in the grocery store or elsewhere around Pittsfield. I recall him talking about living at the lake and how much he loved his home and family. As a community, we are lucky to have beautiful war memorials because of his efforts and dedication.*

*I look forward to joining you at a celebration of his life in the future.*

*With deepest sympathy,  
Kathy Duquette-Penna*

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**Kathy Duquette** - February 27, 2022 at 09:47 AM

NS

“ Dear Jean and family,  
We were very sorry to read about Jeff's passing. Our heart felt sympathy to you. He left an admirable foot print and many beautiful memories. May he rest in peace and may those beautiful lake sunsets you shared continue to be a sources of comfort to you.  
Doug and Nanette Spoehr

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Nanette Spoehr - February 26, 2022 at 05:24 PM

GB

“ Jeff was by far one of my favorite people at BMC. Whenever we crossed paths in the hospital, he always took the time to ask how things were. We chatted often about our beloved RED SOX and our families. He was in the perfect line of work with his obvious kindness towards everyone. You will be missed by many, my friend.  
RIP Jeff.  
Gail Broderick

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Gail (Barzie) Broderick - February 26, 2022 at 01:51 PM

AP

“ In behalf of VFW Post 448, as comrades and friend, we were very saddened to hear that Jeff has left us.

Jeff and I were recently emailing each other regarding a veteran issue, not fully knowing the degree of his condition of health, I mentioned hooking up for a coffee at some point, as he had mentioned the same in past conversations. I was sorry to hear his reply, saying, don't know if coffee is in the cards and that he was pretty sick and weak.

Over the years, and in addition to performing many military funerals together, Jeff and I worked on four veteran monuments in Pittsfield, the WWII, Korean War, WWI Peace Monument and the Civil War Monument Restoration at Park Square. Jeff was an invaluable asset to all of our committees, had great perspectives and was highly appreciated for his contributions from start to finish on every project. I, as well as his comrades, will really miss Jeff.

*Arnie Perras, Commander, VFW Post 448*

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**Arnie Perras** - February 26, 2022 at 10:43 AM

BL

“ I am sorry to learn of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. I met Jeff through his work at BMC and served with him on the RSVP Board. Such a caring, special person. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

*Bertha Lawrence*

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**Bertha Lawrence** - February 26, 2022 at 10:36 AM

SM

“ Dear Jeannie and family, please accept my heartfelt condolences upon the passing of Jeff. I remember his ready smile and that twinkle in his eyes. He always made me feel he was happy to see me—he had that gift that made people feel good. May your many wonderful memories of him help to comfort you- he was one of the good ones.

Fondly, Sally Mawhinney

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**Sarah Mawhinney** - February 26, 2022 at 10:29 AM

JE

“ I remember Jeff when his family lived on Weston Avenue in Dalton. We were part of the Chamberlin Park gang. More recently, I remember his kindness, compassion and most helpful suggestions when we lost a loved one. Always with a smile on his face and a very caring heart. Certainly as stated in his obituary, he will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege to have known him. God bless you all, and may he rest in the presence of his Lord.

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**Jean(Brewer)Gingras** - February 26, 2022 at 10:24 AM

WF

“ I am sad to read of Jeff's passing. He was a wonderful social worker and a friend to many. My sympathy to all of you in this time of grief and remembering. I pray that you will find some solace in beautiful memories and in the support of friends and family.

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**William Frazier** - February 26, 2022 at 08:34 AM

CF

“ My deepest sympathy and love to Jean and family. Jeff was a very special person and will truly be missed by so many. I will miss his big Bellinger hug and a chat whenever I would meet him shopping.

Your cousin, Carole Bellinger Forward

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**Carole Forward** - February 26, 2022 at 08:28 AM

RG

“ Dear Jeannie.  
Just heard the very sad news, and want to express how much we will miss Jeff on the RSVP Board, and how much he influenced so many of us. Please accept our deepest condolences to you and your whole family. We loved him a lot.  
All the best,  
Roger.

RSVP Advisory Board  
Roger Gutwillig, President

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**Roger Gutwillig** - February 24, 2022 at 12:24 PM

JL

“ Oh no. I am so sorry. Jeff was a super a great and caring person. In the 70s I spent 91 days at Hillcrest hospital and Jeff was there everyday. He also was a super representative of our class of 1961. Jeff we sure are going to miss you. Sending love and prayers to all

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**Jill Lane** - February 23, 2022 at 03:55 AM

SE

“ I first met Jeff when I started working weekends at BMC. He was one of my go to people who was always willing to go above and beyond to help in an unusual patient situation. And always willing to lend an ear when crazy happened. His contagious smile, twinkling eyes and calm demeanor always made things better! Thank you for your big heart Jeff and Thank you Jean for sharing him. With sincere sympathy..Sending Love and prayers...

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**Sue Earle** - February 22, 2022 at 08:48 AM

CF

“ Such sad news. I, too, met Jeff while working at Hillcrest and witnessed his ready smile, his kindness to all, his humor. RIP, Jeff, your work here is done and you did it well. Condolences to the family and many friends who will miss him. Prayers for peace and comfort as you start this journey without him.  
Cherie

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**Cherie Francis** - February 22, 2022 at 08:13 AM

MF

“ I am so saddened to hear that Jeff has left this earth. The world was a better place because of his kind presence. I had the pleasure of working with Jeff at Hillcrest Hospital and witnessing the warm affect he had on patients. Walking on Dawes Ave, we could always count on a greeting from Jeff, as he held court on his porch. He will be truly missed by many. I send condolences to his beautiful family.

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**MaryAnn French-Yarmosky** - February 22, 2022 at 07:29 AM

CC

“ Jeannie and family ~

*So very sorry to learn of Jeff's passing! He was a gentle and kind person. You all now have a guardian angel looking over you! RIP, Jeff!*

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**Craig & Sandy Crosier** - February 22, 2022 at 05:09 AM

DF

“ Jean, Laurie, and Stephen,

*I am very sorry to learn that your husband/father passed away. I first met Jeff at BMC after my young wife passed in 2000. He was wonderful helping me deal with my loss. After my counseling sessions ended, we remained friends. I always admired Jeff for the professional way he handled my situation. Although we saw each other infrequently, I always considered him a friend. I know how much I will miss seeing him and truly understand how much each of you will miss him as well. Dave Fiedler*

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**David Fiedler** - February 21, 2022 at 07:11 PM

RM

*Jeff will always remain a shining light in this world. He reached out to so many, including me and made a huge difference in lives. i am filled with gratitude to have met jeff and jean next door on the lake. they are and will always be dear to me. jeff had an infectious personality in every wonderful way! what an amazing wonderful family, Steve, Debbie, Fiona and Brady. and Laurie. jillian and lucy. god bless you all . your dad will forever be in my heart. His loss has been very heartbreaking to me 🌹  
Roslyn Robinson Mann*

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**Roslyn Robinson Mann** - February 22, 2022 at 07:23 PM

MM

“ I loved working with Jeff. He treated everyone, staff and patients with kindness and dignity with his greatest gift of really listening and a big smile. The family is in my prayers.

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**Marie Mathews** - February 21, 2022 at 06:18 PM

AP

“ Jean,  
Bill and I were saddened to hear of Jeff's passing. He was a very caring man, always ready to lend an ear. He had a positive impact on many people over his years of service to the hospital and the community. We send our heartfelt condolences to you and your family. ❤️



*Alison and Bill Phillips*

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**Alison Phillips** - February 21, 2022 at 05:12 PM

DL

*I am so very saddened to learn of Jeff's passing. I worked with Jeff for many years at Hillcrest Hospital. He was a wonderful, kind and caring individual who always had a smile that could light up any room. Back in the day we enjoyed many happy hours after work. RIP Jeff. You will be missed by all who knew you.*

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**Debbie Lyon** - February 21, 2022 at 07:56 PM

MM

*I have always enjoyed the roommate stories, but my most precious memories are times at the lake - the sunsets, hugs, hikes & laughter. I wonder what he & Tom are doing now...  
Much love, Margo*

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**Margo Marrone** - February 27, 2022 at 03:30 PM

AH

“ I’m so sad to know Jeff has left this world. He was so gifted at reaching people, and a marvelous sense of humor. My deepest sympathies to Jean and his family.  
*Alex Huber*

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**alex huber** - February 21, 2022 at 05:01 PM

MD

“ Sending love and prayers to Jeff’s family and friends Working with jeff for many years was a gift such a kind man who taught me so much god bless you jeff

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**michele Drysgola** - February 21, 2022 at 04:44 PM

PB

“ Our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Jeff. He was a treasured friend and therapist who did so much to help my sister, Sue Bachli, through her struggle with diabetes and declining health. She thought the world of him. He was always kind, funny and caring. May he have eternal reward for his good work.  
*Sincerely, Peter Bachli*

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**Peter Bachli** - February 21, 2022 at 04:33 PM