



Jeffrey Whitehouse

November 22, 1946 - May 2, 2025

Jeffrey Whitehouse, aka “Uncle Jeff”, reached his “Best If Used By Date” on Friday, May 2, 2025.

Jeff was the son of Darwin and Grace Butler Whitehouse. He attended Morewood School and was a graduate of Pittsfield High School. He also studied (not too hard) at Berkshire Community College and Southern Colorado State College.

Insistent on writing his own obituary, Jeff transcribed the above, but, following in his true fashion of procrastination, he completed nothing more than those words.

We hope to do him justice in finishing what he started.

Continuing where Jeff left off, still the beginning of his story, in 1968, amid his (so-called) studies at Southern Colorado State, Jeff enlisted in the United States Army. As he loved to tell the story, Jeff's ability to type 120 words per minute set him apart from many of his fellow counterparts, allowing him to be stationed right in Colorado Springs as opposed to overseas in Vietnam.

After his time in the military, for the majority of his career, Jeff was employed by Reynolds, Barnes, and Hebb, where he worked as an insurance agent.

Following his time there, he worked at AAA Insurance.

Proposed by his uncle Don Butler, Jeff joined the Rotary Club in October of 1978, and was a long-standing member of 46 years. There he served in many capacities and held several titles. He received the Club Paul Harris recognition in 1987, was honored with the Don Butler Award in 1998, was their president in 1989, and also served on the Rotary Club of Pittsfield Foundation Board of Directors. In 2024, The Jeff Whitehouse/Paul Harris Fellows Scholarship was named after him, recognizing Jeff for his contributions to the club and to those continuing their education.

All who knew (or even just knew of) Jeff, understood that he was never solely defined by his career, or by what he did, but by his vibrant (and, perhaps at times, overpowering) personality, his boisterous laugh, and (irreverently) fantastic sense of humor. He was always around others, and was at his best when he was.

Constantly active in the community, he participated in multiple projects, such as Dictionary Deliveries for 3rd graders, Ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army, collecting for the Food Drive each fall, and even packing bags for the homeless. Jeff was fondly known to many as the "Rent a Rev", as he presided as justice for a number of marriages. He knew everybody in town, plus quite a few more, and once even toyed with the idea of running for mayor. While (again, perhaps in true Jeff fashion) he never followed through, Jeff was deemed one title better, the "Unofficial Mayor of Pittsfield"... a little less responsibility, and a lot more fun.

Jeff's family meant the world to him. He is survived by his sister, best friend, and partner-in-crime, Deborah Robitaille, and her children, Lindsay Robitaille (Jason) and Jarrett Robitaille (Halley), as well as his grand nephews, Charlie, Jack, and Shea, all of whom he adored. Jeff leaves behind numerous nieces,

nephews, and cousins, of whom special gratitude goes to nephew Michael Whitehouse and cousin Jeanne Butler Boino, for their unwavering love and support. Jeff is also survived by longtime friends whom he thought of as family, Jim and Peggy Hashim, as well as a myriad of cohorts too abundant to count.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Donald Whitehouse.

Jeff's family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Nisar Ahmad, Rebecca Souza, and the entire staff at the Phelps Cancer Center, as well as to the doctors and nurses of the fourth floor at BMC, for their excellent care and compassion throughout this time. A special thanks also goes to Tony Mazzeo and his entire family and staff at Mazzeos Ristorante as well as Candace Lyon and her entire family and staff at Proprietors Lodge.

While Jeff may have "reached his 'Best If Used By Date' ", we know that the impact he had on each one of our lives will never expire. May all of those who were blessed to have known him raise a glass of Maker's Mark in his memory and toast a life well-lived. Here's to you, Jeff.

Funeral Notice:

Calling hours for Jeff will be Sunday, May 18, 2025, from 12noon to 3pm at the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the Berkshire County Jimmy Fund or to the Jeff Whitehouse/Paul Harris Fellows Scholarship in care of the Dwyer Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 18. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer Family Funeral Home
776 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-5094
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

DG

“ I knew Jeff in high school and church fellowship--and then again, decades later, as my brother Jim Hashim's close friend. His warmth and humor and caring will be greatly missed. Now he has angels smiling and laughing, while those of us here smile with gratitude, even as we mourn our loss.

Diane Glynn - May 16, 2025 at 08:05 PM

CD

“ PHS 1964 has lost a most steadfast supporter and for many of us a friend !
See you "over the RAINBOW.LOVE Mammy Yokum!!!

Carol Ann Duquette - May 16, 2025 at 06:13 PM



“ 64 files added to the album LifeTributes



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - May 16, 2025 at 12:39 PM

RH

“ dear family and friends of jeff,

i knew jeff from our PHS class of 1964 and our 50th reunion in september 2014, in which he did an incredible job for a wonderful weekend. the 'best used by date' is a heartfelt and humorous way of leaving without wanting us to feel doomed.

i also knew his dad, darwin, as fellow drummers for many years in the eagles band and other groups.

i am sorry for the suffering he went through in his battle with cancer, no one should have to experience the horror.

here is a poem i wrote for jeff, adding most of it to the hopi prayer, and i hope it eases your loss, my deepest condolences for his passing:

HOPI PRAYER FROM OUR ANCESTORS, FOR OUR ANCESTORS

words from the hopi people of southwest native america and royal hartigan 1999

for jeffrey whitehouse, fellow pittsfield high school class of 1964 graduate -

do not stand at my grave and weep, i am not there i do not sleep

i am a thousand winter winds that blow, i am the diamond glints on snow

*i am the summer's sun on the ripened grain, i am the gentle
autumn's rain*

*i am new england harvest leaves of red and orange and gold, i am
the life force of all beings, great and small, fleeting and eternal,
young and old*

*i am mountain meadows of brown and tan and green, i am the inner
secret shadow spirits of all things, visible and unseen*

*i am the dawning dew in may's blooming mist, i am the heartbeat of
your dreams kissed*

*i am the sounds of music, dance, and song, from up on high, i am
the clouds in an endless massachusetts sky*

*when you awaken in the morning's quiet hush, i am the swift
uplifting rush of birds in circled flight*

i am the soft stars that shine on a moonlit pittsfield night

so do not stand at my grave and cry, i am not there, i did not die

*and as before, jeff, wherever you go we are with you near or far,
and wherever we walk on the paths of this long cold night of life
without you, you are right here with us, inside our hearts*

*a mirror for each other's souls through time and space we are one,
and someday yet again we will be whole as we awaken together in
the evening's midnight sun*

as we awaken together in the evening's midnight sun

and we'll dance with spirits deep, sing the whole way through,

*we'll laugh at life's old ills, and to each other be true, as we awaken
together in the evening's midnight sun*

in the evening's midnight sun

we are one

we are one

we are one

all one all

one all

and beyond

with you in our hearts, jeff

forever

royal hartigan - May 15, 2025 at 08:59 AM

JB

“ So very sorry Deb for the loss of your brother Jeff. He was a great
guy and big force of nature. May he be at peace and eternal rest.

Janet M Belanger - May 13, 2025 at 06:09 PM

LC

“ Rest in Peace Jeff. Condolences to all his family and friends.

Linda Carter - May 10, 2025 at 09:48 AM

KL

“ Dear Debbie and Family,
I am so saddened to see this. My sincerest condolences to you and your entire family including the “ Table 1” Rotary family.
“Uncle Jeff’s” light will continue to burn bright for All of Berkshire County. He truly lived to the Mantra of the Club , “ Service before Self” with a laugh and joke attached. A legend , a historian , and a great friend to all, he will be missed. May your grief be brief and your fondest memories be an everlasting blessing.
Sincerely , Kim Leavitt

Kim Leavitt - May 10, 2025 at 07:28 AM

MY

“ This tribute to Jeff is perfect! I had the privilege of knowing Jeff through years in the Rotary Club where I was often the brunt of his blond jokes. He and I served together as Sargent of Arms and together fined our fellow Rotarians to raise money for charity. We had a lot of fun and I have numerous photos of the two of us in that role. His sense of humor was quick and sometimes caustic but his heart was wide open and loving. Jeff Whitehouse will be truly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him, but his memory will always bring a smile. His presence on this earth will be missed.

maryAnn Yarmosky - May 09, 2025 at 08:37 AM

DB

“ Our Jeffrey, one of a kind, spunky, wonderful man. You will be missed by many. I will personally miss the nights at Mazzeos when you would voice your opinion no matter who was listening without a care in the world. As you left each night, you would sing the song from the 60's to me "Denise, Denise, I will always hear your voice singing to me. God bless you and your family. May you rest in peace. Watch over us Jeffery.

Denise Bouchard - May 08, 2025 at 09:20 PM

CR

“ Jeff and I began our friendship at AAA, and we hit it off immediately, since we both had a warped sense of humor. We joked about someday, being sent to "Progressive Counseling" due to our humor. Our running joke was regarding a #2 pencil. I'll "pencil you in Jeff, with a #2 pencil". I love you and will miss you so very, very much.

Caroline Russo - May 08, 2025 at 07:18 PM

DW

“ Save me a seat in the heavenly class of detention my friend, I'll be there eventually. Miss you buddy, RIP.
Don Warfield

Donald Warfield - May 08, 2025 at 02:25 PM