



Mr. William R. Minardi

April 17, 1927 - August 1, 2017

Mr. William Richard Minardi, 90, of Adams, passed unexpectedly on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at Albany Medical Center, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in Taunton, MA on April 17, 1927, son of the late Arturo and Rosa (Mencarelli) Minardi. He attended schools in Taunton. Mr. Minardi went on to receive his Bachelor's Degree from the former North Adams State College and then his Master's Degree in Secondary Education from the University of Massachusetts.

Mr. Minardi was a veteran of World War II, having served with the United States Coast Guard until receiving his Honorable Discharge on June 6, 1946.

Mr. Minardi last worked as a college professor, teaching at the former North Adams State College and later Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams. Earlier he taught for the North Adams Public School System and had been the Principal of Mark Hopkins Elementary School, North Adams. As a student at the North Adams State Teachers College, he and a few other men created the men's basketball team at the college.

He was a communicant of St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Cheshire. He enjoyed all types of sports and played basketball, softball, tennis and volleyball. He competed in the Senior Olympics on the volleyball team and was inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame, and he coached the girls' volleyball team at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. He had also been an official for the Adams P.A.L. and Church League Basketball Programs.

He was a published author of poems and, soon to be published, a second book of Children's poems as well. As of late 2014, he was a lecturer in the Elderhostel Program. He shared his knowledge of and passion for astronomy with audiences at Bascom Lodge on top of Mount Greylock – an embodiment of his love of nature, astronomy and teaching. He was the epitome of a teacher.

His wife, the former Doris Ann Knechtel, whom he married on July 28, 1951, passed away on January 31, 2016.

Bill was a devoted father and grandfather. His greatest joy in life was spending time with his family which he called "Heaven on Earth".

He is survived by six daughters, Dina Poplaski and her husband, Jim, of Cheshire; Maria Lahey and her husband, Mike, of Adams; Lisa Tetlow and her husband, Bob, of Cheshire; Carla Stewart and her husband, John, of St. Charles, Illinois; Nora Minardi of Adams; and

Gayna Cross and her husband, Marshall, of Salem, NY; as well as thirteen Grandchildren, seven Great Grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a brother and four sisters.

A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, August 9th at 12:00 Noon in St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Cheshire.

Burial will follow in Maple Street Cemetery, Adams.

Calling hours are Tuesday from 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the PACIOREK FUNERAL HOME, 13 Hoosac St. Adams, MA 01220.

Memorial donations may be made to the William R. Minardi Scholarship through the funeral home.

Comments



“ Sadly another of the Greatest Generation has left us, but leaves a lasting legacy to remind us how great an individual he was. God bless you Uncle Bill.

Ray Minardi - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ I had the pleasure of being one of Mr. Minardi's students at NASC. His knowledge, compassion and love for education impacted me tremendously and helped shape me into the educator I am today. Through his teaching he has touched so many lives. His memory will live on. I am so sorry for your loss. He was such a kind man.

Kathy Buckley - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with you all at this time.

John and Elaine Daniels - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ Bill Minardi was my office mate and friend at MCLA and I thought, upon meeting him in 1986, "What a gentleman and a gentle man." I came to learn that he was also a Renaissance Man! Talented in body and mind and a wonderful model for young people and old. I send my sincere condolences to Bill's family. He was, as they say in Yiddish, a mensch! A good man.

Roselle Chartock - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ Dina, Sorry for your loss. Tom and Judy Bleezarde

Tom and Judy Bleezarde - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ Remembering Mr. Minardi and his years of instruction for the Elderhostel program at The Williams Inn. He always traveled with his solar system! He was a pleasure to know and work with. Carl and Marilyn Faulkner The Williams Inn

June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ I'll always remember Bill's wonderful sense of humor, his ability to tell stories, his competence as a teacher, his empathy for students, and his willingness to answer any questions I had about astronomy. I'll never forget a presentation he made to a faculty gathering in which he flawlessly told the story of Galileo's conflict with the Church. He did so without notes! I'm sure he was a loving and supportive husband and father. He will be sadly missed by all.

Richard Markham - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ I just read of the passing of Mr. Minardi, who was my training teacher in 1960 at Mark Hopkins School. Over the years, I would meet or hear news of him and I always was impressed with his gentleness and intellectual curiosity. He was liked and admired by many people, including me. Russell Pearce Class of 1960 North Adams State Teachers College

Russell Pearce - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this sad time. Our deepest sympathy to all of you... The Lemanski family

Chris Tietgens - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ What an inspirational life he led. Our condolences and best wishes to Bill's daughters and their families.

Jill and David Stewart - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ So sad. Remember Bill playing in the Berkshire County Men's Volleyball League when I first started and fell in love with the game. He and his friends are a big reason why I'm still involved today!!! R.I.P.

Dave Lussier - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ To the Minardi family, It is with the deepest Sympathy that I write this little note. Please except my condolences on the loss of Bill, one of the favorite people I have ever known. He was a special guy.With much Love.Tommy Morin

June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ To the family of Mr. Bill Minardi I offer all my family's condolences.The memories I have of Bill are as clear to me now as they were when they occurred. During the early years growing up in the old North Summer St. neighborhood, there were parties, picnics, days of work at Hoffman's Flowers, and of course volleyball at the Turn Hall.I had many man to boy talks with Bill in my teen years. These talks inspired me to also become a teacher in my adult life albeit not on par with Bill's career. He enriched my life beyond expectation.In eulogizing my father upon his passing in Dec. 1991, Bill revealed his mastery of poetry and his skill as a speaker. He quoted Tennyson and Sandberg while capturing my father's simple qualities. Bill was a man of letters and learning; Nave a working man, yet what great friends they were! How unique and refreshing in today's world. I wish they could tell the secrets of this relationship to all, though they do in their family's values. To steal a phrase from Bill in my father's eulogy: But I (and my family) will miss him sorely. Love to the Minardi family from mine.Mike Morin (student)

Mike Morin - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ I was deeply sorrowful to learn of Bill's passing and wanted to extend my heart felt sympathy to his family and friends. In 1970, when I arrived at North Adams State College as an instructor of Reading and Language Arts and as the reading teacher at Mark Hopkins School, Bill was the school's principal. I was not from the area, and he immediately made feel welcome and at home. At the time, he may have been the most popular school principal in the area: he loved our school's pupils, he demonstrated to everyone his enthusiasm for teaching and for learning, and he was right out there, coaching pupils and teaching them the meaning of good sportsmanship. When he later became a professor in our Education Department, he was an inspiration to all our pre-service teachers in the Early Childhood Program. Even after his retirement, he served as a part-time supervisor of pre-service teachers. What an outstanding mentor! He touched the lives of so many. I join his family, his colleagues, and his former pupils and pre-service teachers in mourning his passing.

Neil McLeod - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ I send my deepest condolences to the Minardi family. From 1978-1982 I had the honor of having Coach Minardi as our volleyball coach at North Adams State College. He taught me much more than how to play volleyball. I was blessed to reconnect with him at his 90th birthday party and spent an afternoon with him just a few weeks ago. I am so grateful for that visit. He truly was an amazing person.

Eileen Fernandes - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ Gayna and family, I am so sorry to hear about your dad. He was the nicest, easiest going guy I knew at the time. He will be missed.

Robert Harrington - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ My wife Peg and I send the family of Bill Minardi our deepest sympathies. I would like to share a quote from astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson who said "If you ask adults how many teachers-out of scores in elementary, middle school, high school, college, and graduate school- made a singular impression on who and what they are, it's never more than three or four teachers. Everybody else is a distant second to this set. When we finally create a cloning machine, we should clone those teachers." If and when a cloning machine machine is created Bill will be at the head of the line.

Benjamin Morandi - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ Carla, Nora, and family--I was so sorry to hear about your dad. He was such a kind and wonderful man. May loving memories ease your loss and bring you comfort during this difficult time. With deepest sympathy--Kathy Whalen Thies

Kathy Whalen Thies - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to your entire family on the loss of your wonderful Dad. My husband and I always thought Bill was one of the nicest people we had ever met.

Barbara Favreau - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ Unfortunately I am not able to attend Billy's wake but want to send my condolences to the family. I was fortunate to have played with and against Billy for years in the game of volleyball. I learned so much from him in both the skill sets of the game as well as how to be a good person. He contributed so much to the game as well as to those who played with him. I had nothing but the utmost respect for Billy and will miss him. RIP

Derek Malcolm - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ I remember Mr Minardi from PAL and Church League basketball, and when he refereed our high school basketball games. He was such a great role model for the kids in Adams. I saw Mr Minardi when his late wife was at Williamstown Commons, where my Mom was. We'd chat - he was such a nice man. My deepest sympathies to the family.

Mike Dziadzio - June 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ An honor to have known such a true gentleman. Heartfelt sympathy to Bill's lovely family. With love, Theresa

August 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM