



Mr. James Paul Bigelow

June 6, 1946 - June 26, 2020

Mr. James Paul Bigelow, 74, of 430 East Housatonic St., Dalton, formerly of Adams, died suddenly at home on Friday, June 26, 2020. Born in Adams on June 6, 1946, the son of the late George and Patricia (Sokolowski) Bigelow, he attended school in Adams including St. Stanislaus Kostka Elementary School and was a 1964 graduate of Adams Memorial High School where he played baseball and basketball. He was a proud recipient of the James Urquhart Memorial Trophy. Jim earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1968 from North Adams State College where he played both basketball and baseball and earned a Masters Degree in Education in 1973. While a senior in college he coached the McCann boys' basketball team.

Mr. Bigelow began his teaching career at St. Joseph's High School in Pittsfield where he taught biology from 1968 to 1970, and coached the golf team. During this time he also taught a biology class at Belfontaine Seminary in Lenox. He joined the Adams Cheshire Regional School District in 1970 as a science teacher, a position he held until his 2003 retirement. He was famous or infamous for the yearly plant project where students collected, identified, and mounted 100 plants. He believed this project, done in the last several weeks of the school year, was an example of life-long learning, and it became very special to him. He also coached both JV and varsity boys' basketball at Hoosac Valley for several years.

Following his retirement, Jim enjoyed spending time with his family, traveling, mushrooming, watching the Boston Red Sox and golfing, sinking his first hole-in-one in Florida earlier this year. Gardening was a special talent and over the years he grew various vegetables, had peach, pear, and apple trees, raspberries and strawberries. Hanging plants and flower gardens flourished under his green thumb, and caring for his garden and plants was always a labor of love.

He is survived by his wife, Sally L. Bigelow née Tetlow, his life and golf partner, whom he married on June 17, 1967, his son Christopher James Bigelow and daughter-in-law Ebru Kardan of Northampton, his daughter Jenna Elise Bigelow and her fiancé Nick Deary of Woburn, three sisters-in-law, Marie Bigelow, Jane Brown, and Lisa Tetlow, brothers-in-law Robert Tetlow and Stephen Brown, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two brothers, George and Robert Bigelow and by his sister Dorothy Russett.

A graveside service will be held under a small tent on Monday, July 6th at 11:00 A.M. in Bellevue Cemetery, Adams. Due to current restrictions, all attending are required to wear a face covering and social distance as best as possible. The family requests you express your care by refraining from hugs and wishes everyone to understand they sincerely appreciate how you feel. The family intends to have a celebration of life at a later date once restrictions are lifted. There are no calling hours. Memorial donations may be made to the James P. Bigelow Scholarship Fund at Hoosac Valley High School, which will be established for students pursuing a degree in the sciences, through the PACIOREK FUNERAL HOME, 13 Hoosac St., Adams, MA 01220, or through GoFundMe at <https://gofundme.com/u/ycm4ma>.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUL 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bellevue Cemetery

Bellevue Ave.

Adams, MA 01220

Tribute Wall

BS

“ *Sally, I am sad to learn of Jim's passing. Jim was a great person, a true gentlemen and like his brothers a great athlete. I was fortunate to have him as a teammate through out high school, as well as knowing both of you as personnel friends for a very long time.*

Sally and Family please accept my deepest sympathy and condolences to all of you.

Billy Senecal

Bill Senecal - July 01, 2020 at 06:21 PM

DF

“ *Dear Sally and Jim's children,
I was saddened to learn that Jim passed away. He and I were friends and classmates at AMHS and played basketball and baseball on many different teams while growing up in Adams. My sincerest condolences to all of you. Dave Fiedler*

David Fiedler - July 01, 2020 at 09:02 AM

SS

“ *Dear Sally,
Heartfelt condolences to you and family.
Sincerely,
Dick and Sandy Sheldon*

Sandra J. Sheldon - June 30, 2020 at 01:00 PM

NC

“ *Sally - thoughts and prayers with you and your family.*

Nora Langer Curran

Nora Curran - June 29, 2020 at 08:18 PM

JC

“ *Sally Chris and Jenna. So sad to see of Jim passing. Our deepest condolences to you and your family. . May he RIP.. prayers to you and the family. Jackie n bill cote.*

Jacqueline Cote - June 29, 2020 at 07:27 PM

BB

“ Dear Sally & family

My sincere heartfelt condolences on Jim's passing. May God hold you close and comfort you during this difficult time.

Barbara DeCoigne Bessette

Barbara Bessette - June 29, 2020 at 06:36 PM

LA

Sorry to hear of Mr. Bigelow's passing. My two memories of science class was the plant identification project and dissecting a frog. Science class was fun and interesting. Prayers for Mrs. Bigelow and family. Lisa Lemieux Allen

Lisa Allen - June 29, 2020 at 06:45 PM

GI

Sally, so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. You have many wonderful memories to comfort you and your family. Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

Fran and Ginger Alibozek

Ginger - June 29, 2020 at 08:38 PM

DR

I first remember hearing Mr. Bigelow's name when my older sister had to dissect a worm (eeeew!) and then build a plant press and collect plants (so much effort! so many bungee cords!). 4 years later (1991), I entered Mr. Bigelow's class with much trepidation but his class was absolutely one of my favorite classes at Hoosac (as was the entire science curriculum there) and I think I still have my plant project around here somewhere... There's lots of great memories tied up in those plants!

Mrs. B (and Chris and Jenna) you know how much your family helped develop me during those years and I cherish those times we were together. My most sincere condolences on Mr. B's passing and now I need to hunt down where I put that plant project...

Dan Roy

Daniel Roy - June 30, 2020 at 07:35 AM

 Paula Johnson

Mrs. Bigelow and family,

I'm so sorry to hear the sad news. Mr. Bigelow was such a kind and gentle soul who dedicated his life to education. I was fortunate to have had him (and you) as my teacher(s). I am glad he had a chance to enjoy retirement and the things he loved. I am sure you are comforted in knowing how many lives he touched with his love of science and nature.

May God give you comfort and peace in your time of sorrow.

Paula (Gamari) Johnson

Paula Johnson - July 01, 2020 at 02:49 AM

VA

You may not remember every teacher you had but I fondly remember Mr. Bigelow when he taught at St. Joe's. He made science interesting and fun and I still think about the lessons and concepts he taught. He brought out the best in his students.

My sincere sympathy to the Bigelow family at this time.

Vanessa Cieslak

Vanessa - July 01, 2020 at 01:31 PM

PL

Sally, and family, We are so sorry about the loss of Jim, he was such a gentleman. Prayers are with you all. Phyllis & Rick LaBlue

Phyllis & Rick LaBlue - July 02, 2020 at 05:43 PM