



Richard E. LaFrance

December 6, 1933 - May 8, 2012

Mr. Richard Edward LaFrance, 78, of 457 Savoy Road, Cheshire, died Tuesday evening, May 8, 2012, at North Adams Regional Hospital.

He was born in Adams on December 6, 1933, a son of the late Leo and Anna (Rudd) LaFrance. He attended Adams schools, and graduated from the former Adams High School in 1952.

A longtime local businessman, Mr. LaFrance was the owner and operator of LaFrance, Inc., a dealer of swimming pools and spas, which he founded in Adams in 1963. He moved the business to its current location in Lanesboro in 1973, and was active in the business until his death. Earlier, he had worked at his father's store, Leo's Market in Adams, had operated a fresh vegetable stand, and then operated the former Dick's Auto Sales on Commercial St. in Adams for several years.

He was a communicant of the Parish of Blessed John Paul the Great, Adams. He was a longtime member of the Adams Lions Club, and was awarded Lion International's highest honor for service to the community, the Melvin Jones Award, just last year. He was also a corporator of Adams Community Bank. He enjoyed cars, puttering around the house, spending time with his grandchildren, and especially enjoyed the Saturday night family dinners held for many years at his home.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, the former Ilene Kolis, whom he married on July 4, 1956;

a son, Keith LaFrance, and his wife, Susan, of Cheshire;

2 daughters, Lori Bracci and her husband, John, of Dalton; and Jill Staffin and her husband, David, of Cheshire;

10 Grandchildren, Ashley, Jared and Tyler LaFrance; Matthew, Jenna, Jonathan and Noah Bracci; and Nathan, Nicholas and Samantha Staffin; a sister, Margaret Rancatti and her husband, Charles, of Adams; and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

He was predeceased by a grandson, Michael J. Bracci, on June 21, 1997; and by 2 brothers, Donald LaFrance and David LaFrance.

The funeral will be held on Saturday, May 12th, at 1:00 PM from the PACIOREK FUNERAL HOME, 13 Hoosac St. Adams, followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 2:00 PM in the Parish Church of Blessed John Paul the Great, Adams, celebrated by Rev. Daniel J. Boyle, Pastor.

Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Calling hours are Friday from 4 to 7 PM at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Parish of Blessed John Paul the Great, or to the Adams Lions Club, through the funeral home.

To leave a message of condolence, or for directions, please go online to www.apsfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ Prayers and thoughts being sent your way. So Sorry for you loss.

May 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dick was one of the nicest guys in the pool industry and I am proud to be able to have been able to work with him over my last 30 years in the pool business. My deepest sympathy goes out to everyone in his family. Dick was a great man who will be sadly missed by many people. Heaven just got themselves one special angel.

Dan Vennard - May 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Prayers, love and support to the LaFrance family at this difficult time.

May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I was sorry to hear of Dick's death. I bought my first car from Dick, a 1963 split back window Corvette Stingray back in 1965, just as my brother Pete had done before me (a 1957). The thing about Dick was that he not only would find you the car you were looking for, but he was honest and he was 'cool'. That's right always got you what you wanted, right deal, but also he was a cool dude. So 40 years later when I wanted a jetted tub, guess who I went to, Dick of course, still had the best product, was honest and still 'cool'. What a legacy he left behind.
My love and thoughts to his caring family.
Dave Daunais - Lanesborough.

May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *thinking of you & hoping you find comfort in all your special memories... Jodi & Steve*

May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *I have so many fond memories of my time with all of you at Imperial Pools. I was sad to hear the news. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.*

May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Richard E. Lafrance*

May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Please accept our deepest sympathy and know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Dick was a super guy and I always enjoyed our conversations. What a wonderful legacy he has created. May you all find peace in the fact that he was a wonderful person and his life had value.*

May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM