



Russell R. Bessette

July 21, 1940 - August 25, 2021

SHELBYVILLE – Russell R. Bessette age 81 of Mattapoisett, MA and recently of Shelbyville, IN, passed away Wednesday, August 25, 2021. Born on July 21, 1940, in Acushnet, MA, he was the son of Henry Bessette and Mary Jane (Poulin) Bessette.

Russell graduated from St. Anthony High School, New Bedford, MA in 1958 where he served as the president of his class for all 4 years. He continued to honor that position throughout his life organizing class reunions. After high school he attended the College of Pharmacy at the University of Rhode Island graduating in 1962. He continued his education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and earned his PhD. In Analytical Chemistry in 1967. In 1964, while still in graduate school, Russell married his high school sweet-heart, Claire Belanger.

Russell worked at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth as a professor of Chemistry serving as the Department Chairperson for 4 years. He retired in 2002 as a chancellor professor after 34 years of service and remained an active member of the American Chemical Society.

When not working, Russ enjoyed most of all spending time with Claire, his family, and friends. He liked camping, traveling, going to concerts and attending any activities or sports events that his grandchildren where involved in. He was a sports fan with a particular affinity to baseball and was an avid Red Sox fan. A seasoned tennis player, Russ spent every Friday evening for more than 25 years playing doubles tennis with his 3 close friends. Russ was active in fundraising efforts for several organizations and with Claire, looked forward to monthly meetings of the Gourmet Dinners Club with some of their closest friends.

Russell is survived by his loving wife, Claire; two daughters, Danielle Galley (Paul) and Leanne Nadeau (Joseph Loccisano); eight grandchildren, Rose (Galley) Hall (Tyler), Laura (Galley) Jennewein (Blake), Nicholas Nadeau, Abigail Nadeau, Christian Nadeau, Andrew Nadeau, David Nadeau and Isabelle Loccisano; great grandson, Calvin Hall;

cousin, Robert Bessette (Donna); and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Mary Jane; his 4 brothers, Donald, Normand, Fernand and Joseph Bessette; and sister, Pauline (Bessette) Ramos.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, August 28, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Erlewein Mortuary and Crematory, 1484 W. US Hwy. 40, Greenfield, IN 46140. A celebration of his life will follow the visitation starting at 2:00 p.m.

A final visitation, celebration and burial will be held in Russell's beloved town of Mattapoisett, MA. on Friday and Saturday, September 10, and 11, 2021. Visitation and celebration of life; Friday, September 10, from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.; with a service at 7:00 p.m. at Saunder's -Dwyer Funeral Home, 50 County Road, Mattapoisett, MA. Everyone is welcome to attend the graveside burial service on Saturday, September 11, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Anthony's Cemetery, North Street, Mattapoisett, MA.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made by mail to the Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, 114 16th Street, #2011, Charleston, MA 02129 and to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, 577 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104. Donation envelopes will also be available at the mortuary. Friends may share a memory or condolence at <http://www.erleweinmortuary.com>.

Events

AUG **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

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Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory - Greenfield

1484 West US Highway 40, Greenfield, IN, US, 46140

AUG **Celebration of Life Service** 02:00PM

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Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory - Greenfield

1484 West US Highway 40, Greenfield, IN, US, 46140

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory - August 27, 2021 at 02:27 PM



“ The video is an awesome tribute to Russell's life. Sincere condolences to you Claire and your family. I hope you can glean comfort knowing that Russ is at peace. Again, sincere sympathies and may God bless you all at this time.

Dee
Denise (Schwartz) Carlson

Denise M Carlson - August 30, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ I remember Dr. Bessette as a colleague and friend. He taught analytical chemistry for most of my years at UMass Dartmouth and was supportive of our efforts as Dr. Smith and myself built up a biochemistry program within the department. I remember his sense of humor and his undying loyalty as a Red Sox fan. Every year at our department awards ceremony he would wear his Red Sox cap "this is the year" - and it finally was! I also remember his contributions on the faculty softball team in those years when we had a faculty-student game. I am sad to learn of his passing and send my sincere condolences to his family and many friends.

William "Toby" Dills - August 30, 2021 at 10:06 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Erlewein Mortuary - August 30, 2021 at 10:17 AM



“ I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Russ Bessette. Russ has been an example to me since I joined UMass Dartmouth (then SMU) in 1975. From the outset, I have learned teaching skills and commitment from him. He always placed the interest of the students first. After his retirement and the few years before COVID, I have witnessed his dedication in updating and restructuring the freshmen lab together with Paula. His contribution to the department is immeasurable. I will always remember his kindness, his gentleness, and his smile. He will be missed.

Tim Su

Tim Su - September 10, 2021 at 01:49 PM



“ We remember with great fondness Russell and Claire's visit to the UK in 1990-1991 when Russ spent a year on sabbatical at the Alcan Labs in Banbury. I worked closely with him on developing lithium and silver oxide batteries and, through his inventiveness, this resulted in a process which was patented. He was a delight to work with - always cheerful and encouraging and full of excellent ideas. He took a great deal of interest in people and always had a good word to say. He will be sadly missed and our thoughts go out to Claire and the family.

Clive and Jean Tuck

Clive Tuck - September 09, 2021 at 05:12 AM



“ I was one of many graduate students and I always found Dr. Bessette to be a great teacher and truly concerned for the students. When I was having trouble with my Master thesis, Dr. Bessette spent many hours guiding me in writing the thesis although he was not involved in an official capacity. He helped me merely out of kindness. I am forever grateful for his help and concern during that difficult time. I will always remember him fondly and continue to think about him often.

Iana Mandravel-Hutchins

Iana Mandravel-Hutchins - September 05, 2021 at 07:18 PM



“ I was student of Dr. Bessette’s at UMass Dartmouth (’01) and I was fortunate enough to be taken under his wing in his research at NUWC. He taught me so many valuable skills both inside the lab and out. The positive impact he has had on my life cannot be understated. I am a faculty member now myself teaching analytical chemistry, and very much strive to emulate him. He was an excellent mentor and role model. I still regularly share pearls of wisdom I learned from him with my own students. He will be greatly missed.

Chris LaFratta - September 01, 2021 at 03:27 PM



“ I just met Russell a few months ago, but when I told him my grandfather's name was Russell R I saw a twinkle in his eyes and a slight smile. When we were spending a few days in his wing while they repaired our damaged villa we were able to put part of a puzzle together and I enjoyed his smile when I got a piece in the right place. When I ask him if that was him standing by his RV in the picture outside his room I made the mistake of repeating the question after he had said yes and he very clearly said "Are you questioning me?" again with that twinkle in his eyes. I wish I could have known him in his early day. He must have been a wonderful husband, father and teacher. My sincere sympathy goes to his wife and family. Ruth Nunn resident at Ashford Place.

Ruth Nunn - August 28, 2021 at 10:18 PM



“ I remember Prof. Russell Bessette with great fondness for his kindness, generosity, and openness and acceptance towards me. He was the Chair when I was hired as visiting lecturer and shared his wet-lab with me when I started mentoring students for research work, giving me access to his equipment. He convinced me to stay although I had accepted a tenure-track position at Baltimore in 1990. He was also very supportive of continued research work although my hiring was for teaching only. He invited me to his home and we visited each other developing a strong friendship and with his family including children. His contributions to the department were immense and he was highly appreciated by both students, faculty and technicians. I was sad to learn of his passing and will continue to remember him for his goodness.

Emmanuel Ojadi - August 28, 2021 at 09:58 AM



“ I am truly sorry for your loss Mrs. Bessette. My sincere condolences to you and your family. I will forever miss Mr. Bessette’s smile, kindness and his stories. RIP



Laura Fidalgo-Teves - August 27, 2021 at 07:25 PM