



James M. Callahan

May 24, 1937 - October 2, 2023

Ayer—James M. Callahan, 86, of Leominster, former longtime resident of Ayer passed away peacefully on Monday, October 2, 2023 in his home, surrounded by his loving family.

James was born on May 24, 1937 in Lowell, MA a son of the late Thomas L. and Ruth (Evans) Callahan. He graduated from Ayer High School in 1955 and Bentley School of Accounting and Finance in 1957.

James was an auditor for the Federal Milk Market Administration with the Department of Agriculture for 40 years, retiring in 1998. He was also a member of the US Army National Guard for over 36 years, and an assessor for the town of Ayer.

James met the love of his life during the Washington, DC high school field trip, and from that moment on, he planned and executed an incredibly fulfilling life. He was an athlete, having excelled in many sports throughout high school and his love for sports continued throughout his life. He was a camper, and a boater, owning kayaks, motorboats, and he himself enjoyed, then taught all his daughters, how to waterski. He enjoyed snow skiing, playing hockey in the “old man’s” league, and he coached girls’ softball, but the sport he loved the most and missed the most, was golf.

James was an exceptional provider, considered by some a financial genius, so together with his wife Sylvia, the adventurer, they traveled the world by plane, ship, train, car, you name it. James and Sylvia enjoyed a summer home in South Harwich, MA and wintered in Vero Beach, FL for many years, often joined by their children and grandchildren, creating many great memories. He was also a man of many names; James, Jim, Cal, Slim, Duds, Grandfather, and "Clam". The last name was created by his four grandchildren, who will miss him deeply.

James leaves the woman he adored, his wife, of 65 years Sylvia A. (Lambert) Callahan of Leominster; three daughters, Megan A. Callahan, MD, and her former husband, Hilmy Ismail of North Attleboro, Kathleen A. DiRusso and her husband, Michael, of Leominster and Hilary S. Callahan, PhD of New York, NY; a brother, Francis P. Callahan of Ayer and a sister, Mary Guthrie of Ayer; four grandchildren, Justin Ismail, Abigail Ismail, Nina DiRusso, and Daniel Watahan, and several nephews and nieces.

He is predeceased by his two brothers, Thomas F. Callahan and William J. Callahan, and Hilary's lifetime partner and Daniel Watahan's father, Thomas Waters.

His funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday morning October 7 at 10:30 AM in St. Anthony de Padua Church 14 Phoenix St., Shirley. Calling hours will be held on Friday, October 6, from 4 to 7 PM in the Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Rd., Ayer. For further information or to leave an online condolence please visit their website at www.andersonfuneral.com

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or the Dementia Society of America.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

OCT 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home
25 Fitchburg Road
Ayer, MA 01432
info@andersonfuneral.com

Funeral Mass

OCT 7. 10:30 AM (ET)

St Anthony of Padua Church
14 Phoenix St
Shirley, MA 01464-2507
(978) 772-2414

Tribute Wall

MC

“ 1 file added to the album *Daddyman*



Megan Callahan - October 08, 2023 at 06:46 PM

MC

“ 2 files added to the album *Daddyman*



Megan Callahan - October 08, 2023 at 11:43 AM

MC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Megan Callahan - October 08, 2023 at 11:38 AM

MC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Megan Callahan - October 08, 2023 at 11:34 AM

DS

“ Denise Stepleton lit a candle in memory of James M. Callahan



Denise Stepleton - October 06, 2023 at 02:36 PM

DS

“ Kathleen & all the Callahan family, My deepest sympathies to all of you. Kathleen, You took such great care of your father.

Denise Stepleton - October 06, 2023 at 02:35 PM

HC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Hilary Callahan - October 06, 2023 at 09:53 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of James M. Callahan.*



October 05, 2023 at 01:46 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James M. Callahan.*



October 05, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of James M. Callahan.*



October 05, 2023 at 07:36 AM



“ 7 files added to the album *Jigga and the Clam--Let me tell you 'bout my best friend <3*



Kathleen DiRusso - October 05, 2023 at 02:05 AM



“ 3 files added to the album *Daddyman*



Kathleen DiRusso - October 05, 2023 at 02:00 AM



“ *Condolences to Kathy Di'Russo and all her family on the death of James Callahan. So sorry for the loss of such a wonderful man.. Sounds like he will be missed terribly. Joan Spinelli and Anthony Ingemi/*

Joan Spinelli - October 04, 2023 at 09:44 PM

TC

“ Tobe Conway lit a candle in memory of James M. Callahan



Tobe Conway - October 04, 2023 at 09:22 PM

GM

“ Jimmy was in MMC of the 26th YD. I was his company commander for 2 years and we both remained in the unit for some years after. My E8s and E7s were a close bunch along with the First Sergeant. They were the reason MMC won an award our first year together at Ft. Drum. The guys never let me down through all our challenges those 2 years. I was proud to be their Skipper! LTC(ret) Trudy Mc Adams

Gertrude McAdams - October 04, 2023 at 09:06 PM

JF

Our sympathy to Sylvia, and the girls.. Jim was a neighbor on Oakridge Dr for many years, A guy with many facets, work, family.golf travel. More golf. Many fond memories of the 20 years being across the street!! He certainly left a legacy to all those who knew him, Rest in peace 🙏 Jim. Your memories will live on, 🏌️

Jim & Maribeth. Denis & Craig Finnerty - October 05, 2023 at 01:38 PM