



Leo P. Collette Jr.

May 3, 1932 - June 17, 2022

ASHBURNHAM: Leo P. Collette, Jr., 90 of Ashburnham, died Friday, June 17, 2022 at UMass Memorial Medical Center - University Campus.

Leo was born in Fitchburg, May 3, 1932, a son of Leo P. Sr and Albina (Thibault) Collette and grew up in Fitchburg. He was a 1950 graduate of St. Bernard's Catholic High School and continued his education at Wentworth Institute where he received Associates Degree in Machine Design and Pattern Making. Years later he received another Associates Degree in Industrial Management from UMass.

During the Korean Conflict, Leo served his country in the United States Coast Guard as chief damage control officer on the USS Duane.

Leo began his career as a Mechanical Designer at General Electric Corporation and later Barkley & Dexter as a Project Engineer. In 1961 he went to work as a Project Engineer at Crocker Burbank Corporation in Fitchburg, and subsequently became Chief Engineer at Weyerhaeuser Corporation and at James River Paper Company before his retirement in 1990.

Leo leaves three sons, Richard M. Collette and his wife Theresa of West Boylston, Michael P. Collette and his wife Dawn of Gardner, David J. Collette and his wife Rita of Ashburnham; his only daughter, Michelle A. Gianino and

her husband Dr. David Gianino of Ashburnham; his daughter in law Patricia Collette of Westminster; ten grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Loretta E. (Leger) Collette in 2014 and his son, L. Paul Collette III of Westminster in 2019. He was the brother of the late Anne Blanchard of Lunenburg, Robert Collette of California and Peter Collette of Fitchburg.

An avid golfer, Leo was a longtime member of Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg. In 1982 he and Loretta participated in the People-to-People Cultural Exchange as a paper making ambassador where they travelled throughout China for a month. He was a member of St. Denis Church in Ashburnham where he served as a lector and past member of the Men's Club. Leo served his community in many capacities including a member and past chairman of the Ashburnham School Committee, Chairman of the Ashburnham Cub Scout Pack #18 Committee, founding member of the former Ashburnham YMCA, Chairman of the Board of Selectman for many years and a member of the Ashburnham Conservation Trust, Ashburnham Board of Water and Sewer Commission and a member of the Fitchburg Rotary Club.

Leo loved spending time with family and friends. He and Loretta traveled all over the world making friends where-ever they went. Leo was a storyteller and loved reading poetry. He loved a good joke or a funny story. He enjoyed spending countless hours working in his yard on Upper Naukeag and raking the beach at Lower Naukeag where he loved to swim and watch the sunset surrounded by his family. Leo loved playing cards with family and friends, watching old slides and classic movies. Leo especially enjoyed cheering on his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in all their many events.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated 11 AM Thursday, June 23, 2022 at St.

Denis Church, 85 Main Street, Ashburnham. Burial will be in the parish cemetery.

Calling hours are 4-7 PM Wednesday at the Isabelle & Anderson Funeral Home, 316 Clarendon Street, Fitchburg. For additional information or to leave an online condolence, please visit their website at www.andersonfuneral.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to Ashburnham Conservation Trust, PO Box 354, Ashburnham, MA 01430.

Cemetery Details

St. Denis Cemetery

Ashburnham, MA

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JUN **22**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Isabelle & Anderson Funeral Home - Fitchburg
316 Clarendon Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420
(978) 343-4407

Funeral Mass

JUN **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Denis Church
85 Main Street
Ashburnham, MA

Tribute Wall

RB

“ Dear God in Heaven, may your love, comfort, strength & guidance be felt throughout the lives of those who've lost(temporary in God's name), all who lived alongside, in the heart. My short time with Mr. & Mrs. Leo P. Collette Jr. was a beautiful treasure, I'm my heart a treasure, Leo & Loretta. I thank God for such time, as with the short times with those family members of whom now grieve of such devastating loss. Love, prayers and forever treasured. God bless, my sincere condolences. ~ ✨ 🕊️ ❤️ 🙏 ~

Ronnie B. - September 19, 2022 at 09:14 AM

KB

“ Please accept my most sincere condolences.
Leo was always one of my favorites, whether at OHCC or in my office. I will miss seeing him.
Peace.
Kelton Burbank

Kelton M Burbank - June 22, 2022 at 05:01 PM



“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Leo P. Collette Jr..



June 21, 2022 at 06:30 PM

WB

“ My condolences to the Collette family, extended family and friends. Leo was so kind, thoughtful and caring. My fondest memory of Leo came many years ago when I was so fortunate to be invited to Christmas Eve. at Leo and Lorretta's home. Although I didn't know it at the time, an annual tradition at the Collette's was Leo's reading of 'The night before Christmas'. With all the kids gathered around we all eagerly awaited for the story to began. Leo's calm gentle voice began reading the story I knew so well. He captured aptured the hearts and minds of us all. It really was magical, the spirit of Christmas was all around us. As the years past I looked back on the simple tradition and remember fondly how Leo gave me (really all of us) the gift of Christmas in such a beautiful way. Thank you Leo. You were a gem and will be missed by so many. Rest in Peace my friend.

With Love,
Wendy B.

Wendy Boucher - June 21, 2022 at 03:22 PM

RM

“ My deepest sympathies. Many good memories from the past of family get togethers and visiting at Naukeag. I was blessed with great Collette family aunts and uncles and cousins. Rest in peace Leo Paul.

Richard Mailloux - June 21, 2022 at 07:14 AM

CM

“ We will always remember Leo sweeping that driveway...happy as can be. The only peace we can now have is that he is up in heaven teasing Loretta!

Colleen Moya - June 20, 2022 at 06:30 PM

LC

“ *Linda, Dean and Colleen purchased the Sincere
st Sorrow - Blue and White for the family of Leo P.
Collette Jr..*



Linda, Dean and Colleen - June 20, 2022 at 06:22 PM



“ *Eternal Grace was purchased for the family of
Leo P. Collette Jr..*



June 20, 2022 at 04:41 PM



“ *Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Leo P.
Collette Jr..*



June 20, 2022 at 01:23 PM