



Dr. Mark J. Rollo

March 13, 1950 - August 19, 2022

Fitchburg - Dr. Mark Joseph Rollo, 72, passed into eternal life unexpectedly on Friday, August 19, 2022 with his wife Annette by his side. Mark and Annette had spent an idyllic day celebrating 49 years of marriage.

Mark joins his parents, Quintino and Claire (LaFray) Rollo, and his infant son Timothy in his heavenly home. Mark leaves behind his wife, Annette, along with their three living children of whom he was very proud and who followed in his footsteps in healthcare: Dorothy Rollo (RN) of Fitchburg, MA; Quin Rollo (LMHC) and his wife Megan of Fitchburg, MA, and Madeline Doyle (DPT) and her husband Derek of South Kingstown, RI. As well as being a dedicated son, husband, and father, Mark was also a beloved brother to John Rollo and his wife Anne of Deperes, MO, Frank Rollo and his wife Stephanie of Queensbury, NY, James Rollo and his wife Rhonda of Norfolk, VA, Paul Rollo and his wife Margaret of Leicester, MA, and Leslie Ann Capoccia and her husband Jerome of Newport, RI. Mark's most enjoyable role was being the best Pépé to 9 grandchildren: Cedrick, Raquel, Haeley, Elijah, Gianna, Delina, Marielle, Timothy, and Aila. Mark was also blessed with 3 great-grandchildren: Juliette, Rowen, and one baby boy on the way.

Mark was born in Boston, MA on March 13, 1950, the devoted son of Quintino and Claire (LaFray) Rollo. Mark married the love of his life, Annette Claire (Gemme) Rollo, on August 19, 1973. Together they welcomed four children

into the world: Dorothy Claire, Timothy Quin, Quin Raymond, and Madeline Lois. Mark's entire professional life was devoted to caring for and helping others. After graduating the Pre-Med Program at the College of the Holy Cross in 1972, he attained his Masters Degree in Education in 1973 from UMASS Amherst and worked with children with behavioral issues at Spaulding Youth Center in New Hampshire. Subsequently, he earned his Masters Degree in Social Work in 1976 from Boston College and worked with people struggling with mental illness at Northampton State Hospital.

In the effort to increase his ability to provide for his growing family, he pondered changing careers to become a doctor. All he needed to hear was the affirmation from his wife asking "Why couldn't you be?" and the direction of their lives changed dramatically. With the steadfast love, support, and encouragement from his wife, Mark was accepted to Loyola Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago where he was enrolled in the Air Force Health Profession Scholarship Program. After he attained his MD in 1984, he served as a physician in the Air Force at bases located in Maryland, Michigan, South Korea, and upstate New York.

Mark and Annette and their three children eventually settled in Fitchburg, MA in 1991 and moved into a home they have resided in ever since. Mark continued to practice medicine as a family physician at Fitchburg Family Practice until 1994 when he then transitioned to Fallon/Reliant Medical Group where he served his community until his retirement in March 2020.

Besides raising his family and caring for his patients as a doctor, he was passionate about carrying on his mother's legacy as a staunch proponent for the pro-life movement. He devoted his time, expertise, and energy as a political advocate and as a volunteer and Member of the Board at Mass Citizens for Life. As a board member, he fought for the end to abortion and was simply overjoyed when the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in

June. His most recent focus had been fighting against Physician-Assisted Suicide. In 2004 he was honored with the Mother Teresa Pro-Life Award from the Diocese of Worcester and in 2016 he was presented with the Life Recognition Award from the Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center in Fitchburg.

In his leisure time, Mark enjoyed watching all the New England Sports teams, but especially his Boston Red Sox. Few photos capture more joy than the photo of Mark holding the 2004 World Series trophy—the first one the Red Sox achieved in 86 years. As a young adult, he became skilled as a guitar player, and during his retirement he renewed his boyhood interest in playing the piano. Mark developed quite the green thumb as a retiree, tending to his ever-growing garden of fruits and vegetables often with the assistance of his youngest grandchildren. There was no better sound to his ears than hearing his grandkids exclaim “Pépé!”

During the last year and a half Mark delved into radio broadcasting, having been asked to host a show on WQPH, a local Catholic radio station. He called his show “First Do No Harm” in which he imparted knowledge about medical ethics from a Catholic perspective. His Catholic faith guided him in all his earthly endeavors. His favorite scripture passage was “I am the way, the truth, and the life” from John 14:6. Mark lived his life with that scripture engraved on his heart.

Calling hours for Mark will be held from 4 to 7 PM on Friday, August 26, 2022 at the Isabelle & Anderson Funeral Home, 316 Clarendon St., Fitchburg. Mark’s funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, August 27, 2022 at 10AM at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 84 Salem St., Fitchburg. Burial will follow in St. Bernard Cemetery, Fitchburg. 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 Massachusetts Citizens for Life, 529 Main St., Boston, MA 02129; Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center, 515 Main St. #1000 Fitchburg, MA 01420; or to St. Anthony of Padua Church 84 Salem St., Fitchburg, MA 01420.

Cemetery Details

St Bernard's Cemetery

96 Goodrich St
Fitchburg, MA 01420
(978) 342-4820

Previous Events

Calling Hour

AUG **26**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Isabelle & Anderson Funeral Home
316 Clarendon St
Fitchburg, MA

Funeral Mass

AUG **27**. 10:00 AM.

St. Anthony's Church
84 Salem Street
Fitchburg, MA

Tribute Wall

BC

“ I just learned of Dr Rollo's passing today when visiting with my new PCP at Reliant. How sad I am. He was my doctor for 30+ years at Fallon/Reliant. I felt that he watched over well with all of my health concerns including having been diagnosed with Bipolar disorder. Thank you Annette for sharing his wonderful obituary - very impressive with all of the boards and committees he sat on. And he was instrumental as an advocate against abortion. I never knew of all his interests!!
May God bless you Annette with peace, friends, and good health.

Brenda Caldwell - March 24, 2025 at 07:19 PM

DS

“ My deepest thoughts, prayers and condolences for Mark's family. He was a great brother and I know he was also a great man who helped anyone and everyone he could. He will be sadly missed by many. May the Lord watch over his loved ones and welcome a new Angel into heaven.



David Smith - September 09, 2022 at 11:12 PM

JS

“ It is heartbreaking to read this today. I am praying for you. All the years I have kept, on my bureau, the bridge you gave me as a memento when parted from your beloved parish, it has had such meaning for me. From my memories of him, and learning so much more about him in the beautiful obituary, Mark built, and crossed, a lot of bridges, and crosses now his final one, built in union with the Lord: Mark's faith, hope and love and the Lord's gift of risen life through the paschal mystery. We can hardly imagine what he beheld beyond the bridge's crest; but may this vision bring you solace.

Jack Siciliano - August 29, 2022 at 12:05 PM

PC

“ We will pray for the soul of Dr. Rollo and for his family.

Paul Czynodel - August 27, 2022 at 11:43 AM

JR

“ Dr. Rollo was a man of great faith, compassion, and principle. His courageous and energetic stand against physician assisted suicide was inspirational. We were shocked and dismayed to learn of his passing. We have lost a champion. Our prayers are with the family. Reverend Eugene Rivers and Jacqueline Rivers

Jacqueline Rivers - August 26, 2022 at 10:27 AM

GG

“ When I was 25, I thought 50 was old, now that I am 81, I think 72 is young. I know Dr. Rollo is in a better place. St. Paul said, in his letter to the Philippians, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." We have lost a powerful warrior for life, but the work he has done in the battle remains. Thank you, Dr. Rollo, for fighting the good fight.

Respectfully,
Gail Gardner
Executive Director
Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center

GAIL GARDNER - August 26, 2022 at 10:23 AM

JL

“ It is with great sadness that I read this news today. Dr. Rollo was such an amazing man and doctor. His care for myself, my husband and two sons was done with such love and compassion. I was saddened when he retired and now saddened for this world to lose such a great person. But I know that Heaven is having a grand celebration! Welcome home Mark. Thank you for your faith filled life and dedication to bring that to your helping others. To his family, you have every reason to be proud of this great man. Our sincere Condolences. Give Jesus a hug for me Mark.

Joyce Leite - August 26, 2022 at 10:11 AM

GN

“ Condolences to the Rollo family on the passing of my Holy Cross classmate. May his memory and the impacts of his service be eternal.

Grafton Nunes - August 24, 2022 at 09:13 AM

LL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Leo Leger - August 23, 2022 at 04:57 PM

LL

My sincere condolences to Annette, your children, his siblings and extended family on Mark's untimely and sad passing. I have known Annette since grammar school and Mark was a best friend during our days at Notre Dame High School. I spent many times at the Rollo house working on school assignments, studying, and as (winning) debating team partners, preparing for debate tournaments. These occasions were usually followed by music and a pool game in the Rollo basement and was always cordially hosted by Mrs. and Dr. Rollo. Earlier this year, I began circulating a proposal for an ND circle of friends get-together. Now I deeply regret that Mark, Norman Prince, Kevin Moran, Peter Lehndorff and I simply waited too long. Good lesson for all.

*RIP Mark and thanks so much for your precious friendship.
- 8/22/22 Leo Leger, Wilmington, MA ND '68*

Leo Leger - August 23, 2022 at 04:58 PM

NP

So unexpected and sudden, and too soon! It goes to show that we never know when it will be our turn. I am so sorry, Annette. - Norman Prince, Montreal

Norman Prince - August 23, 2022 at 09:50 PM

LD

“ *I am so heartbroken to hear Dr. Rollo has passed. He was my primary Physician for many years. He was the kindest and most caring Doctor.*

Blessings to his family and friends. 💕🙏

Lorraine Daigle - August 23, 2022 at 03:42 PM

PA

“ My most sincere condolences to Dr. Rollo's wife, Annette, and all his family. I crossed paths professionally with Mark when we were working with the NSH patients and family clients in Holyoke back in 1983 (just prior to his heading off to medical school, I believe). Seeing his photo in his obituary as a very young doctor quickly brought me back to that time and I am shocked to hear of his passing so unexpectedly. But I am not at all surprised to read about Mark's service and dedication to his family and medical practice. As a social worker early in his career, Mark displayed a maturity and professionalism, care and compassion that undoubtedly his medical patients and his family would have witnessed in the following decades. Again, my deepest condolences to all his family and friends. Sincerely, Peter Antonellis

Peter Antonellis - August 22, 2022 at 09:34 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Anderson Funeral Homes - August 22, 2022 at 05:22 PM

HL

So sorry to hear about this. My mother always loved him. Our deepest sympathy. Holly Gemme Lira and Antonio Lira

Holly Gemme Lira - August 23, 2022 at 04:57 PM

RH

Mark was a great college roommate who made my four years at Holy Cross very rewarding. I regret having lost touch with Mark. So sorry for your loss Annette. Bob Hewitt

Robert Hewitt - August 24, 2022 at 10:09 AM