



Paul G. Thibodeau

February 14, 1955 - June 13, 2019

FITCHBURG: Paul G. Thibodeau, 64, of Fitchburg died Thursday, June 13, 2019 at University of Massachusetts- Memorial Hospital, Worcester.

He leaves his wife of 43 years, Rosemary (DiBenedetto) Thibodeau; two sons, Lt. Colonel Stephen P. Thibodeau and his wife, Pamela, U.S. Army stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska and Detective Jeffrey M. Thibodeau of the Lunenburg Police Dept. and his wife, Melissa, of Mason, NH; five grandchildren, his “shining star” Alyssa, his “marvelous moon” Tyler, his “sunshine” Sadie, his “sparkling snowcloud” Blake and his “starfish light” Stella. He also leaves two sisters, Pamela Emma of Leominster and Suzanne Rodgers of Lunenburg; his brother-in-law Paul DiBenedetto and his wife, Nancy; his sister-in-law Paula McLane and her husband, Michael; his sister-in-law Louise DiBenedetto; his sister-in-law Janet Leger and her husband Jim. He was predeceased by his sister Stephanie Thibodeau of Fitchburg.

Paul was born in Fitchburg, February 14, 1955, the son of Paul H. and Dorothy (Gonyea) Thibodeau and was a lifelong Fitchburg resident. He was a 1973 graduate of St. Bernard’s Central Catholic High School and continued his education at Northeastern University in Boston where he received a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice.

Paul spent his career in Criminal Justice beginning in Concord as part time police officer. He became a full time patrolman in Shirley and later rose through the ranks as a sergeant and, in 1987, was appointed to the position of Chief of the Shirley Police Department, a position he held until his retirement

in 2009.

He was a member of the Ayer/Shirley Rotary Club, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association and, in 1990, was recognized by Northeastern University as one of the University's Most Distinguished Alumni.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11 AM Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at St. Anthony's Church, 14 Phoenix Street, Shirley. Burial will be private. There are no calling hours.

The Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Rd., Ayer is assisting the family with arrangements. Please see www.andersonfuneral.com for additional information or to leave an on line condolence.

Memorial contributions may be made to Ayer/Shirley Rotary Club, P.O. Box 239, Ayer, MA 01432.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JUN 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Anthony's Church
14 Phoenix Street
Shirley, MA 01464

Tribute Wall

JS

“ To Rosemary, Stephen and Jeff my condolences from my family to yours he was an awesome guy .I would often run it into at Hannaford's doing some shopping.My your hearts carry his love always

Jeff Stacy - June 18, 2019 at 02:18 PM



“ Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Paul G. Thibodeau.



June 17, 2019 at 09:57 PM

AD

“ So sorry to hear of Pauls' recent passing. He and I went to Northeastern and both worked at Concord PD at the same time. We both had successful careers as Chiefs, he in Shirley and myself in Pepperell. We'd often talk about our experiences and concerns as Chiefs and I admired his compassion and professionalism. He was a good friend and has left us far too early. Alan Davis, Retired, Pepperell PD

Alan Davis - June 17, 2019 at 09:27 PM

EB

“ Rosemary, I'm so sorry for your loss of Paul. It's sad to lose a loving husband, best friend and soulmate. My condolences go out to your son's and their families for their loss of a loving father and grandfather. My prayers go out to you all for peace and love in this time of grief. I pray that you surround yourselves with people who love you and allow each and everyone of them to lift you up when your sadness is upon you. May your heart begin to heal with the love of God.

*Thinking of you and your family.
Eileen and the Bianchin Family*

Eileen m Bianchin - June 17, 2019 at 08:36 PM

RK

“ Jeff and Family , so sad to hear the sad news of your Fathers passing, thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this very difficult time, Off Ronny Knoll Lancaster P.D.

Ron Knoll - June 17, 2019 at 08:01 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Paul G. Thibodeau.



June 17, 2019 at 06:30 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Paul G. Thibodeau.*



June 17, 2019 at 12:04 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Paul G. Thibodeau.*



June 17, 2019 at 09:38 AM



“ *Paul ~ Chief ~ Friend*
You will always be The Chief to me. It was such a pleasure working with you for 22 years as your assistant and most importantly for being a friend to me & my family for 32. You were the best boss anyone could have had. A good boss will provide his workers with the autonomy necessary to create their own ideal working conditions; that was Chief Thibodeau. You will be so missed, my friend. Heaven has truly gained an awesome angel. RIP Chief.

Ann Whiting - June 17, 2019 at 09:29 AM

BN

“ So sorry to hear the news of Paul's passing. My parents and Paul's parents were inseparable for many, many years. I recall spending so much time at the Thibodeau house that Paul was like another brother to me. When we were young we were constantly together playing baseball, or football or spending time at Coolidge Park. I remember when he fell in love with Rosemary and it was clear he had found his soulmate. He got to spend 43 wonderful years with her and that is beautiful! Paul was my friend from the first grade through graduation from high school. I lost touch with Paul when I moved to the west coast but always recalled the great friendship and all the fun we together over the years.

I was sorry to hear of his passing but happy to know he had such a beautiful and loving family.

My condolences

Bill Norman

Bill Norman - June 16, 2019 at 03:08 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Paul G. Thibodeau.*



June 16, 2019 at 02:47 PM

TF

“ *The Demers Family purchased the Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers for the family of Paul G. Thibodeau.*



The Demers Family - June 16, 2019 at 09:21 AM

RS

“ *Paul was a really good guy...*

Rachel Sizer - June 16, 2019 at 08:16 AM

BG

“ *To the Thibodeau family; Paul was a greatly respected law enforcement official, and an excellent Chief. I am certain that you were all very proud of him. Not just because of his professional achievements but the wonderful person he was. I hope your good memories of him provide you with solace in this time of need. ~ Bobby Gardner, Ayer*

Bobby Gardner - June 15, 2019 at 03:06 PM

DP

“ Dear Rosemary, Jeff & Steve;

In 1987, just after he was promoted to Chief, Paul hired me as a patrolman. I knew right away, I was working with a professional Chief that demanded nothing but the best from his officers. Chief Thibodeau, certainly cared for his officers, he had an open door policy, but more so he was a real working Chief, he patrolled right along next to us and was an advocate of the walking beat. I could see first hand how the citizens respected him, but more over he loved being their Chief. He had a particular way of communicating to his officers. If you were addressed by a nickname he gave you, it was a good day, however if you got a let's go for a ride, it was like "Oh boy what did I do?" He came to visit me in the Hospital in 2002, I was so happy to see him, but obviously I couldn't speak, due to the breathing tube. I had a bad week with backing into the new Patrolman's car with the new Sergeants car, he told me to get well quickly, because when you get out of here your going to driver training. The part of having to retire early bothered me more knowing that I wasn't going to be a part of his trusted staff anymore. He was the best Chief a Cop could have. Rest well Chief, you've certainly earned it.

God Bless You All

Dale Prentiss - June 15, 2019 at 01:04 PM

PK

“ *Paul was a Chiefs Chief...he had integrity, kindness and he was an incredible man. Prayers go to his wife and sons. Rest In Peace dear gentleman...you will be missed by so many.*

Pat Krauchune - June 14, 2019 at 07:12 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Paul G. Thibodeau.*



June 14, 2019 at 06:00 PM

BK

“ Dear Rose and Family:

In 1985, Paul became my sergeant and, soon thereafter, my chief at the Shirley P.D. He was the most well-rounded leader, as he was firmly grounded in common sense. As chief, he kept the rank-and-file insulated from the strife so often associated with small town politics, generated both from within the police department and from without. Unfortunately, this meant that Paul absorbed the stress associated with such grief, alone. But, that's what excellent leaders do for their troops. It allows the rank-and-file to do their jobs to the very best of their respective abilities.

Early on in my life, I learned that there were leaders that you would follow unquestioningly down the barrel of a cannon, while there were others that you wouldn't follow into the water at the beach. Paul was of the former breed! His intellect and grand sense of humor helped keep him sane in an often insane line of work and, in the end, this helped us all to perform well. What a wonderful person he was!

Although I have not seen Paul for some time, I know that I will miss him forever. May God keep and hold you all close during this most terrible time.

Respectfully and Fondly,

*Brian and Kate Knuuttila
New Smyrna Beach, FL.*

Brian and Kate Knuuttila - June 14, 2019 at 05:48 PM

KK

“ We will miss you Paul. Take care Rose, Steven and Jeffrey.

Keith Keady - June 14, 2019 at 02:17 PM