



Mr. Alfred F. "Fred" Lafave

April 5, 1937 - September 4, 2024

Teacher, mentor and Coach Alfred F. "Fred" Lafave Jr., 87, a long-time resident of Lenox, passed away comfortably, surrounded by family on Wednesday September 4, 2024 at his home in Norfolk MA where he resided since 2018.

Born April 5, 1937, the son of Alfred F. Lafave Sr. and Thelma (Estes) Lafave, he was a 1955 graduate of Williamstown High School, where he was captain of the baseball and basketball teams. He was the first schoolboy in Berkshire County to score 1,000 points.

He earned his teaching degree from North Adams State Teachers College (now MCLA) in 1960. That same year, he married his high school prom date, the former Helen J. Green at St. Patrick's Church in Williamstown. Shortly after their marriage, Fred and Helen moved to Lenox, where he taught for 36 years in the Lenox Public Schools – a school system he admired for its small size and school spirit. Because he was an only child, he always wanted a big family, and so he was a happy father of seven children.

In his 46 years [1962-2008] of coaching basketball at Lenox High school, Coach amassed over 600 wins and 25 championships, including 2 State titles with the boys in 1974 and the girls in 1992 (the only coach in Massachusetts to coach both boys and girls to state titles). For 8 years, he coached the boys and girls teams simultaneously. He was inducted into the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1999. He also coached baseball for 17 years, with a Western Mass title in both basketball and baseball in 1971.

More than the titles, he welcomed the opportunity to impart life lessons on the court and in the classroom. He will be remembered for emphasizing the fundamentals, which he taught at his summer basketball camp, and for his many sayings. Coach's family is so grateful that he was able to attend the naming of the basketball court at LMMHS in his honor last winter and receive the outpouring of appreciation from the community.

To support such a large family, he worked landscaping jobs for cottages on the Stockbridge Bowl and painted at LMMHS in the summer months. In his spare time (what little there was of it) he loved to take his kids fishing on Windsor Pond, bask in the sun on his favorite lounge chair, putter around in his own garden, or watch 'Lake Placid' with a bowl of buttered popcorn.

In addition to Helen, his devoted wife of 64 years, he is survived by his children Alfred F. Lafave III (Shirley) of Lenox, Lisa Lowey (Keith) of Medway, MA, Amy Lafave of Lenox Dale, Laurie Lafave of Bellingham, MA, Jeffrey Lafave (Nicole) of Charlottesville, VA, Nicole Patella (Anthony) of Lenox, and Cherie Grover (Donald) of Franklin, MA. He was a loving "Papa" to his 13 grandchildren: Joseph Lowey (Lauren), Josh Lafave (Nicole), Katelyn Borchers (Callum), Becca Barone (Patrick), Morgan Pfizenmaier (Craig), Alexa Lowey, Bailey Patella, Luke Patella, Sophie Patella, Violet Grover, Brenna Lafave, Abram Grover, Donovan Lafave, and 14 great-grandchildren. A Service of Remembrance will be held at St. Ann's Church in Lenox on Saturday, September 14 at 11:00 am, with a reception to follow. Burial will be private. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Lenox Youth Basketball Association in care of the Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main St. Lenox, MA 01240.

To share memories and stories please visit rochefuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

St. Ann's Cemetery

1 Ore Bed Road
Lenox, MA 01240

Previous Events

Service

SEP **14.** 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

St. Ann's Church
134 Main Street
Lenox, MA 01240

Tribute Wall

DR

“ *Debbie & Don Rawson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred F. "Fred" Lafave*



Debbie & Don Rawson - September 18, 2024 at 10:06 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Alfred F. "Fred" Lafave.*



September 16, 2024 at 01:59 PM

LL

“ *Love Mandy, Rich, Nathalie, Melanie & Luc purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Alfred F. "Fred" Lafave.*



Love Mandy, Rich, Nathalie, Melanie & Luc - September 14, 2024 at 10:44 AM

LL

“ *Love Mandy, Rich, Nathalie, Melanie & Luc planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Alfred F. "Fred" Lafave.*

Love Mandy, Rich, Nathalie, Melanie & Luc - September 14, 2024 at 10:44 AM

JO

“ Visiting with Helen and Fred in Lenox was always a delight, what amazing family get togethers with the Lafave and O'Hare clans, big family energy! Our sympathy and love to all of you, especially Aunt Helen, from the family of Joe and Patty.

Joe O'Hare - September 13, 2024 at 12:26 PM

JF

“ My parents, Scottie and Joy Farrelly, thought the world of Fred. Fred was their go to person at the Cliffwood Inn in Lenox. They always spoke so highly of him and all his work meant so much to them. I know they are warmly greeting each other, once again, in heaven. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Lafave family.

Jennifer Farrelly - September 12, 2024 at 01:20 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Alfred F. "Fred" Lafave.



September 10, 2024 at 06:09 PM

MV

“ Dear Helen and Family,
I am so very sorry for your loss. Fred was such a wonderful man, and a well respected and loved member of his community. Please accept my sincere condolences and deepest sympathy for your loss of your dear husband, father, and grandfather.

Marion Vanasse - September 10, 2024 at 01:34 PM

BK

“ Dear Helen and family,
We are so very sorry for your loss. My son,
Christopher, had such respect for Mr. Lafave,
having had him for science. He was truly one
in a million. We were so fortunate to have him
in our lives. This world needs more like him.

May beautiful memories sustain you in the coming days. And know
how much everyone he touched will also miss him. May God's
graces reign down on you all, giving you peace and comfort. RIP.
Fred.

Sincerely,
Becky & Christopher Knox



Becky Knox - September 10, 2024 at 10:16 AM



“ Fred was a well loved teacher. He heped so many that he will be
missed by many.

Pete Martin - September 10, 2024 at 07:10 AM