



Mr. Ralph J. Rotondo

November 23, 1932 - January 7, 2021

Ralph J. Rotondo Jr, 88, of Lee, passed away peacefully at Berkshire Medical Center on January 7th.

Ralph was born on November 23, 1932 in Lee, MA at his family home. Born to the late Raffaele and Sadie Guercio Rotondo, he attended schools in Lee.

Ralph worked as a paper maker for Kimberly Clark, retiring at age 55 after 38 years of service. Although Ralph retired from the mill, he continued to work as a Farrier, one of his many passions. Ralph had several hundred clients working as a Farrier, where he built strong, lasting friendships.

Ralph worked for several farms before building his own. He raised various farm animals and teams of Belgian Draft Horses. He drove his horses in many parades including driving the H.B. May Steam Engine for the Lee Fire Department, for which he was an honorary member. He was a long time member of the Farm Bureau and a founding member of the Colonial Carriage and Driving Society. He drove his team in many Tub Parades in Lenox, and many people to their proms, weddings, and even a funeral. He drove wagon rides in the Norman Rockwell Christmas on Main Street in Stockbridge, Bartlett's Orchard, Undermountain Farm and also sleigh rides and plowing events at Hancock Shaker Village. Ralph also drove his horse and wagon onto the stage for a play at Jacob's Pillow. He and his team gained such notoriety he was hired to do a photo shoot for the Bridal Edition of Town and Country Magazine at Wheatleigh, in Lenox. The bright, big smile on his face while driving his horses displayed his joy.

Ralph was a devoted father, kind, honest, hard working and generous man. He was proud of his horses, his work, and most of all his family. He enjoyed the simple things in life, being outside driving his tractor in the hayfield or on his farm. Ralph had a love for all animals and always had a dog by his side. On October 15th, Ralph and his love, Jeannette Besaw-Rotondo celebrated sixty-five years of marriage.

Besides his wife at home, he is survived by his five daughters; Kathryn LaGrant (Donald Haywood) of Otis, Marie Rotondo (Don Cingrani) of Redding, CA., Linda Pascoe (Glenn Pascoe) of Australia, Elaine Lovato of Pittsfield, and Donna Rotondo of Becket. Eleven grandchildren; Melissa, Joshua, and Jonathan LaGrant, Matthew and Eric Tyer, Shannon, Luke, and Zack Plaquet, Justin Lovato and Lindsey Lovato Sekowski, Joe Rotondo, and their families. Eighteen great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents, Ralph is predeceased by his great-grandchildren; Kyleen Burrell and Ella Rose LaGrant, his sisters; Amelia Parker and Josephine Tarmey and his son-in-law, Fred LaGrant.

There will be a memorial service held at a later date to be determined at the convenience of his family. Memorial donations in Ralph's memory may be made to BMC Lymphedema Clinic or The Berkshire Humane Society in care of the Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240.

Tribute Wall



“ Roche Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Ralph J. Rotondo



Roche Funeral Home - February 22, 2021 at 10:12 AM



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Roche Funeral Home - February 22, 2021 at 10:12 AM



“ Dear Rotondo Family...So sorry to hear of your loss. Please accept our condolences. Thinking of you all. Jane and Marcia Slaminsky

Marcia Slaminsky - January 18, 2021 at 09:46 AM

DS

“ ralph was a great guy he was always there if you needed help he was my mentor and taught me how to run a paper machine .i have a lot of memories of our camping trips with ralph and jeannette and there 5 daughters and judy and me and our 3 sons .ralph will be missed by all but i am sure god will find a place in heaven for,, ralph to take care of his horses. jeannette and family time will heal the hurt you feel now and you will have the great memories of past times. love don shorey

donald shorey - January 13, 2021 at 11:54 AM

KN

“ Donna and family - my deepest sympathy to you all on the loss of your dad. Although I did not know your parents well, I will never forget the part they played in my father's funeral, where your dad and his team drove the H.B. May Steam Engine as part of his funeral procession. Your parents were so kind to us that day, and I will never forget that.
Holding you all in my heart.

Kathy Naventi-Brown

Kathy Naventi-Brown - January 12, 2021 at 10:05 AM

PG

“ To The Rotondo Family,
Please accept our deepest prayers and sympathy.

Patrick & Marie Gormalley - January 12, 2021 at 07:14 AM

PA

Patrick and Marie

Patrick - January 12, 2021 at 07:15 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Ralph J. Rotondo.*



January 11, 2021 at 08:33 PM



“ *Dear Jeannette and Family;*

We so sorry to hear of Ralph's passing. He was a wonderful man and we are so glad to have had him as a friend. Always had a smile, a good word, an interesting story, and that gleam in his eyes when he smiled at you. We are remembering all the wonderful dinners at Joanne's and John's to celebrate his Birthday and the casual get dinners too. May the years of wonderful memories help you all through this difficult time. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Love, Pat and Mary Taylor
Vero Beach, FL*

Mary E Taylor - January 11, 2021 at 08:20 PM



“ *Kathy LaGrant, Ralph and Jeannette’s first born daughter, is my BEST FRIEND, since 1981. Kathy brought me to meet her folks at their Lee home and STABLES. I was totally unprepared for the brand new, SHINY BLACK PATTEN LEATHER custom made matching TACK for 2 humongous MORGAN HORSES. The newly arrived, INDIANA AMISH HANDMADE ENSEMBLES were displayed on large wooden saw horses....almost devouring the entire living room.*

The Rotondo household usually had daughters, son in laws, grandchildren, more grandchildren, and then great grandchildren at the house....for special occasions or just to see and say hi to Ralph and Jeannette...to declare LOVE, to demonstrate LOVE, to share LOVE.

I always enjoyed visiting with the Rotondo crew....at their home, at Kathys, or at various family households gatherings.

The mutual love and deeply appreciated presence of Ralph and Jeannette in shared lives is a treasure I honor knowing them and all THOSE who came from them!

*Touching lives
Leaving their mark*

Love Monica

Monica Bond - January 11, 2021 at 04:40 PM

LP

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Linda Pascoe - January 10, 2021 at 04:27 PM