



## Mr. Raymond Arthur Shepardson

October 28, 1942 - August 25, 2022

Raymond Arthur Shepardson, 79, of Housatonic, died on Thursday, August 25, 2022 at his home.

Born in Pittsfield October 28, 1942, the son of goodly parents Hugh W. and Sylvia M. Vincent Shepardson, he attended Lenox schools and was a 1960 graduate of Lenox High School. He earned his associates degree from Berkshire Community College in 1962, his BA degree from North Adams State College in 1964, and later earned his Master's degree in Education from North Adams State and a Masters in Counseling from Brigham Young University. Ray was employed for 42 years at Monument Mountain Regional High School, first as a teacher and for the last 15 years of his career in the Guidance Department. During his tenure there he started the River Project, "People in their Environment", which eventually became one of the more popular classes at the school.

Ray enjoyed hunting and fishing throughout his life and was always concerned with protecting the environment.

He and his wife, Sheila E. Sleight Shepardson, were married on December 12, 1981.

Besides his wife, Ray is also survived by 3 sons; Tobin (Lisa) Shepardson, Corey (Nicole) Ernst of Utah, Darren Ernst of Oregon; three daughters, Erica (Michael) Abel of Washington, Alison (Ted) Cruz of Utah, and Rachel Shepardson of Massachusetts; and 21 grandchildren. Besides his parents he was also predeceased by his brothers; David, Hugh, and Robert Shepardson.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, September 2, 2022 at 6:00pm at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints, 470 East New Lenox Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201. An hour of visitation will precede the service beginning at 5:00pm. In lieu of flowers, donations in Raymond's memory may be made to either Hospice Care of the Berkshires or Berkshire Humane Society, both in care of the Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240.

# Cemetery Details

## The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints

470 East New Lenox Road  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 2. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints  
470 East New Lenox Road  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

## Memorial Service

SEP 2. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints  
470 East New Lenox Road  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

# Tribute Wall

CH

“ *A gentle, wise, thoughtful, wonderful and sometimes mischievous friend and colleague during our careers teaching at Monument and our years helping Mae Brown. Rich and precious memories of our time together. I will miss him. Our condolences to all.*  
*Chuck and Mary Hamilton*  
*Great Barrington*

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**Chuck Hamilton** - September 02, 2022 at 09:13 AM

MS

“ *I was fortunate to have worked with Ray at Searles. He was a great man and a friend to all. His practical jokes always made the school day so enjoyable. Ray was such a caring man who will be missed!*  
*Rest in peace Ray! Mary Shook*

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**Mary Shook** - August 31, 2022 at 11:05 PM

LS

“ *Dear Sheila. I am Evan's mom and he introduced on one of my trips to the Berkshires. I just wanted you to know how lovingly Evan and Liz talked of the two of you and how grateful he was for your friendship. Each time I would see him he would update me on things and always with love in his eyes. May Heavenly Father bless you at this time.*  
*Linda Smith*  
*Simi Valley, CA*

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**Linda A Smith** - August 31, 2022 at 03:22 AM

ES

“ My life was enriched by Ray Shepardson. I know few others who were as selfless as Ray. He was someone who always cared. He was also someone who could fill darkness with light. He could make anyone laugh.

*I'm certain that much of his "work" over the past decade or so was as a terrestrial angel. Despite his physical maladies, he wasn't happy unless he was helping someone else out.*

*I feel privileged to have been able to call him a friend.*

*Evan Smith*

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**Evan Smith** - August 30, 2022 at 11:07 PM


KW

“ I was fortunate enough to be coached by Shep in softball. I truly remember little of the actual softball. But I remember his good nature, how much he liked a joke, his ability to herd a bunch of teenagers and make it fun. A kind man, generous of spirit. We are all better to have known him.

*Kathy White*

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**kathy white** - August 30, 2022 at 09:35 PM

 Gregg  
Lane

“ I have fond memories of “Shep” from my years at MMRHS. He was a master of story telling. His stories about Reuter the pig would result in belly laughter. I was fortunate to have had him as an influence in my life as a teenager. I was fortunate to be able to reconnect with him as an adult when I coached both Corey and Darren. He was truly one of the good ones. To his family and friends I hope that your sense of loss is cushioned by good memories and simple reflections. Be well and take care of one another.

Gregg Lane MMRHS 78

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**Gregg Lane** - August 30, 2022 at 06:40 PM

LS

“ I don't think the world will understand the extent of this loss until so many things are left undone now that he's not here to do them! Ray quietly served the whole community more than anyone I know. He was like Robinhood making the rounds collecting bounty to give those both in need and not. He brightened the world every day. I called him my best friend and he truly was a friend to so many. We bonded most on our sense of humor and pranking. His strife only fueled him more to work harder and serve more robustly. I will miss the ramps and fish that showed up on my doorstep without fail every spring. Ray was truly a man that taught people to fish both literally and figuratively. God bless the Shepardson family for this tremendous loss but may we all be better people because of Ray!

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**Liz Smith** - August 30, 2022 at 12:59 PM

RM

“ Ray was a friend to most people he met. He cared about everyone and was a light in his friend's lives. He will always be my hero and someone I would strive to be like.

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**Robin Marshall** - August 30, 2022 at 12:04 PM

CP

“ *May Ray's memory be a blessing to his family. I have my own fond memories of him as my history teacher in high school. His energy and knowledge were a gift to his students.*

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**Cynthia Pease** - August 30, 2022 at 09:25 AM

RC

“ *Thank you for your time, understanding and all that you taught me.*

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**Robert Coons** - August 30, 2022 at 08:43 AM

ZT

“ *Ray was a giver. He constantly gave of himself, his time, his knowledge, and his love. He will be dearly missed and never forgotten.*

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**Zachary Tolbert** - August 30, 2022 at 08:26 AM

MY

“ *Thank you, Ray, for all you gave us. Rest in peace.*



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**Marianne Young** - August 30, 2022 at 08:14 AM