



Mr. William T. Lahart Jr.

December 10, 1929 - January 15, 2016

LENOX – William T. “Duke” Lahart, Jr., passed away on Friday, January 15, 2016 at Albany Medical Center after living life to the fullest for 86 years.

Duke was born in Pittsfield on December 10, 1929, the son of William T. Lahart, Sr. and Mary Constance Peters. His greatest sense of pride came from being a lifelong resident of Lenox, a town he loved so much. Duke was beloved for his generous and fun-loving spirit.

He was a 1948 graduate of Lenox High School, where he was a two-sport star. Duke played varsity baseball and basketball for six years at Lenox High. He was an All-Berkshire First Team basketball player but baseball was his favorite sport.

For four consecutive years, Duke was selected as a First Team member of the All-Berkshire and All-Western Massachusetts teams. He finished in the top three for batting average in the Berkshire County League four years in a row.

His Lenox High baseball team won the South Berkshire Championship three times and was crowned Berkshire County Champions in 1947. In 1948 and 1949, his Brass Rail team won the Pittsfield Junior City League title and finished in the top five of the All-American Baseball National Tournament in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

On September 1, 1950, Duke signed a professional baseball contract with the Philadelphia A's and was assigned to the club's minor league team in Kewanee, Illinois, before an injury ended his professional career.

The Berkshire Eagle wrote about Duke at the time that he was "one of the greatest boys to ever come off the Lenox diamond." In 2006, he was inducted into the UNICO Berkshire County Baseball Hall of Fame.

Duke married Rosemary Monterosso on September 4, 1954 at St. Ann's Church in Lenox. They raised their seven children on Plunkett Street. Duke loved watching all of his children play sports, particularly basketball, at Lenox High School.

Duke was a licensed electrician. He began working for his father's electrical contracting business, William T. Lahart & Son, Inc., in 1948. He then owned the business himself until 1993.

Duke was a "fixture" at Tanglewood where he and his father did the electrical contracting work from the Festival's inception. Duke's three sons also worked closely with him at Tanglewood until his retirement.

He served on the Lenox Savings Bank Board of Directors and was a volunteer firefighter for the Lenox Fire Department.

Duke was an avid fan of the New York Yankees and the Boston Celtics. Winter trips to Florida, particularly by train, made him so happy. He also truly enjoyed spending time with his 18 grandchildren who loved their "Pop" so much.

A communicant of St. Ann's Church, he frequently volunteered his time to help

the parish. He also was a Fourth Degree member of the Knight's of Columbus.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Rosemary Lahart of Lenox, his children and their spouses: William E. Lahart and Judith Lahart of Franklin, Massachusetts, Robert T. Lahart and Tammy Lahart of Lenox, Nancy (Lahart) Heydinger and Thomas Heydinger of Vernon, Vermont, Sharon (Lahart) Popeo and William Popeo of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, Colleen (Lahart) Porth and Rick Porth of West Hartford, Connecticut, Cathleen (Lahart) Kinne and Kevin Kinne of Great Barrington, his sister Joan (Lahart) Mahoney of Lenox and his 18 beloved grandchildren – Billy, Kelly, John, Adam, Bom Bee, Katy, Caroline, Tommy, Mary, Billy, Drew, Michael, Monica, Maria, John, Bobby, Allison and Lauren.

He was predeceased by his son, Don Peters Lahart, who died on August 8, 1998 and his sisters Peggy (Lahart) Casey and Connie (Lahart) Clifford.

FUNERAL NOTICE: A Liturgy of Christian Burial for William T. "Duke" Lahart, Jr. will be celebrated Wednesday, January 20, 2016, at 10 a.m. at St. Ann's Church. Burial will follow in St. Ann's cemetery.

Calling hours will be held TODAY, Tuesday, January 19th from 4-7 pm at ROCHE FUNERAL HOME in Lenox. Donations in his memory may be made to Lenox Volunteer Fire Department in care of Roche Funeral Home. The family invites friends to share their memories of Duke on rochefuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall

JL

“ So very sorry for your loss. Thinking of your family.

Janne Marasco LoFaro - March 16, 2016 at 07:52 PM

BS

“ To the Lahart family. My sincere condolences to all of you on the passing of Duke. I am in FL for the winter or I would have attended the services and talked with each of you. I first met Duke at a parent teacher conference in 1969 while teaching fifth grade at Lenox Elementary School. I immediately liked this man. He always had a smile and kind word. I have to admit when he came in each year, we spent more time talking sports than the academic successes of his children. I left Lenox in 1975 and only occasionally saw Duke over the years. When our paths did cross, it was usually at a sporting event. I last visited with him two years ago at a baseball game where his grandson was playing. His gentle nature and smile had not changed. We marveled at how quickly the years have passed and shared memories from years ago. Duke was very proud of his family and loved the town of Lenox. I will always have fond memories of Duke. Again, my sympathies to Rosemary and all the Lahart children.j

Bernie Shaw - January 23, 2016 at 12:53 PM

BK

“ What a loss. Such a great smile that was always there every time we saw Duke as we were growing up in Lenox. He was always there to lend a hand and help in any way he could. I always looked forward to seeing the Lahart family every time I came home on leave. Lots of great memories, rest in peace Duke.

Bernie Koscielniak - January 20, 2016 at 05:08 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. William T. Lahart Jr..*



January 19, 2016 at 06:42 PM



“ *My heartfelt condolences to the entire Lahart family, and thinking of you Cathy and Colleen. Hold on to all those happy memories, they provide such comfort.*
With love, Joan (Kirchner) Powers

Joan (Kirchner) Powers - January 19, 2016 at 05:34 PM



“ *I was very fortunate to spend four or five years getting to know The Duke. We had so much fun discussing basketball and the special place that Manhattanville was, and is today. He must have said to me "this place is unbelievable" a million times and he meant every word! The Duke had all the best qualities of the Best Generation that are so needed today. Strong work ethic & family values, common decency and integrity above all else. All of this and more is why I loved the man. He touched many, many lives with his basic human qualities! He will be missed for sure but rest assured his legacy lives on through all those he touched, especially his sons, daughters, grandchildren and friends who were blessed with so many years of his laughter! God Bless Duke!*

Danny Thomas - January 19, 2016 at 02:48 PM

JN

“ I moved to Lenox from far-away Stockbridge in '82 and I'm sure that I am among the countless "new-comers" who felt immediately welcomed as a neighbor by Duke.
He is a true Gentleman of the Lenox Old Guard.
Great photographic reminder of the smile he always greeted me with.
Our sincere condolences to all Duke's family and friends.
Joe & Dana Nejaime

Joe Nejaime - January 19, 2016 at 02:43 PM

JD

“ I first met Duke watching a baseball game for his grandson, Tommy Heydinger at BUHS.
Obviously he was a true baseball fanatic.
What a wonderful family he leaves. I pray the memories will live on in all of you. Much sympathy to you all. Rosemary I am thinking of you. Love and sympathy, Jackie Dix - Brattleboro Vermont - Dental Health



Jackie Dix - January 19, 2016 at 01:02 PM

MN

“ What a beautiful man and a wonderful family. Nabih is out of town. Please accept our sympathy.
Marilyn and Nabih Nejaime

Marilyn Nejaime - January 19, 2016 at 11:48 AM

MS

“ Dear Kathleen, Kevin and family,

We were so sorry to read about your Dad and Grandfather. It was always a pleasure to see and talk with him at various basketball and baseball games. My Dad always enjoyed talking with him too. I know when he visited my dad at the nursing home, my dad would talk about it for days. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.
Mary and Kevin Shook

mary shook - January 19, 2016 at 11:03 AM

PG

“ Dear Lahart Family,

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with you at this time.

Patrick and Marie Gormalley - January 19, 2016 at 07:54 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mr. William T. Lahart Jr..



January 18, 2016 at 07:25 PM

LH

“ Liz (Williams) Harrison/Montana purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mr. William T. Lahart Jr..



Liz (Williams) Harrison/Montana - January 18, 2016 at 07:10 PM

LH

“ So many memories of Duke at Manhattanville basketball games and at Tanglewood. Rest in peace, and love to the family.

Liz (Williams) Harrison
Montana



Liz Williams Harrison - January 18, 2016 at 06:12 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Duke



Roche Funeral Home - January 18, 2016 at 11:10 AM

JK

I met duke and on a baseball diamond unfortunately I was pitching and he was on base and he would drive you crazy maY GOD REST HIS SOUL AND BE GOOD TO HIM
JOE KAY

JOE KAY - January 19, 2016 at 05:42 PM