



Lawrence F. Retelle Sr.

JAN 24, 1931 - MAR 31, 2026



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John Breen Memorial
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
AND CREMATION SERVICES

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 10



Lawrence F. Retelle Sr.

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Lawrence “Larry” F. Retelle passed away peacefully at the High Pointe House surrounded by his loving family. He joined his wife, “Dee” Marie (Levesque), his grandson Little Tony, and other loving family members in heaven. Larry is survived by his 9 children, 11 grandchildren, and 9 great grandchildren.

Larry was born on January 24, 1931, in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He was the son of the late Lawrence Retelle and Clara (Huard). Larry grew up in North Lawrence with his two sisters, Theresa and Lydia. He attended Saint Ann’s grammar school. He joined the US Army before graduating from high school and was stationed in Germany post WW2. In his later years, Larry enjoyed sharing many of his army stories. After his honorable discharge from the army, he married Dee on June 6th, 1952; they raised their 9 children in North Lawrence. Their marriage lasted over 72 years until Dee’s passing 2025.

Larry worked as a welder at Craig Systems for 10 years and then went on to become a Lawrence firefighter for 33 years, the Oldest Firefighter in Lawrence. He was the ladder tillerman for many of those years, swinging the back of the firetruck around corners. In addition to his full-time jobs, Larry always worked a few part-time jobs to support his family. He was a proud lifelong learner which motivated him to obtain his GED when he was 45 years old. Also, Larry was a self-taught “do it yourself” home repairman. Growing up during the depression he learned to be frugal and was always looking for a bargain.

Larry and Dee and their nine children began camping in the New Hampshire mountains in the 1960s. This was the beginning of the Retelle journeys. Eventually the grandchildren joined the adventures, so they upgraded to trailers and longer trips. Additionally, Larry and Dee traveled across the country to California, Florida and many other states. They eventually traveled around the world, including Japan, China, Germany, Austria, Scotland, Iceland, Italy, Panama, and Antigua. Their adventurous spirit lives on in their children.



Obituary

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Larry was very proud of his children. He would often share his children's successes with anyone who would listen! He also added his stories about his grandchildren. Larry was a hardworking and generous father who loved his family deeply. He would devote many hours to assist his children with their home projects. Larry loved family get-togethers and truly knew how to have a good time often stating, "a good time was had by all." He was a true Patriot fan and spent many Sundays at one of his children's homes enjoying the games, some good food and a cold beer.

Larry moved to Marguerite House in Lawrence last August. It was his home where he spent several wonderful months. The family would like to thank the staff at Marguerite House for welcoming, respecting, and caring for him. In particular, thanks to Stacey and Jackie. Larry spent his last days at High Pointe House in Haverhill, MA. We thank the staff for their care and attention.

A deep void has been left that will be impossible to fill. Thankfully the relationships and experiences we have all shared with him will keep him with us forever. Dad would say, "Not bad for an old buck." We love you, Dad.

Larry is predeceased by his wife Dolores, his grandson Anthony, his two sisters Theresa and Lydia. Larry is survived by his 9 children Patrice Kobrenski and her husband John (Methuen, MA) Daniel Retelle (North Andover, MA), Alan Retelle (Londonderry, NH) Audrey Retelle and her husband Nick Kletti (Haverhill, MA), Ellen Retelle and her partner Judith Rosenberg (Avon, CT), Denise Retelle and her partner Brian Crosby (Seabrook, NH), Lawrence Retelle Jr. and his wife Patricia (Seabrook, NH), Justine Coperine and her husband Tom (Haverhill), and Joanne Dumais and her husband Gerry (Dracut). Larry is survived by his grandchildren: Patrick, Elizabeth, AJ, Jeffrey, Matthew, Olivia, Kristina, Adrienne, Nicole, and Andrew and his great-grandchildren: Claire, Gwenyth, Benjamin, Julianna, Hadley, Nora, Cooper, Vivienne, and Cienna. As well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are invited to call on Monday, April 6th, 2026 from 10:00 to 12:00 at the Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc., 122 Amesbury Street, Lawrence, MA. His service will be held at 12:00 pm in the funeral home and burial will follow at 1:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Andover, MA. For online condolences and other information please visit us at <https://www.breenfuneralhome.com>.



Events

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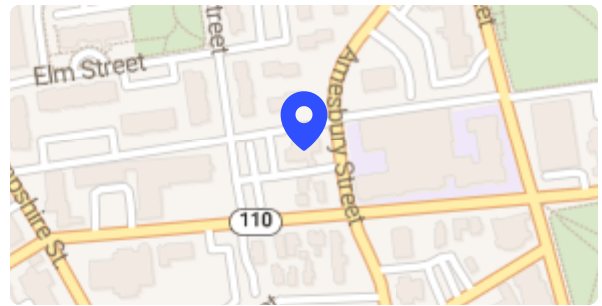
Wake

Monday, April 6, 2026

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

John Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc. - Lawrence

122 Amesbury St., Lawrence MA 01841



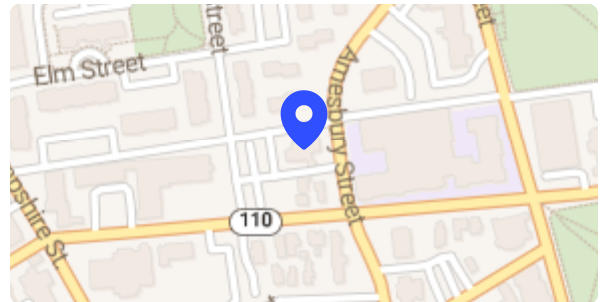
Funeral Service

Monday, April 6, 2026

12:00 PM ET

John Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc. - Lawrence

122 Amesbury St., Lawrence MA 01841



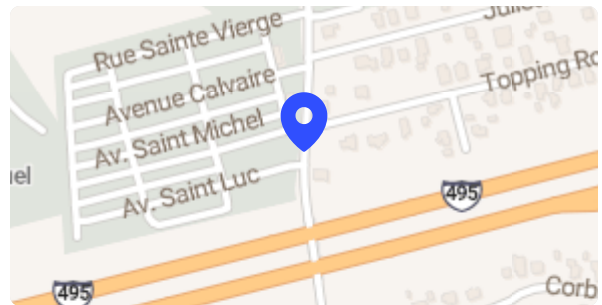
Burial

Monday, April 6, 2026

1:00 PM ET

Sacred Heart Cemetery

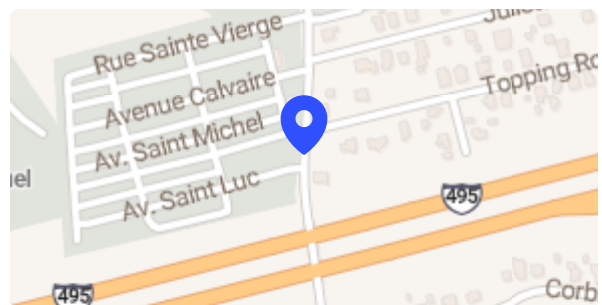
76 Corbett Street, Andover MA 01810



Cemetery Details

Sacred Heart Cemetery

76 Corbett Street, Andover MA 01810





Tribute Wall

Lawrence F. Retelle Sr.

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DR

Denise Rush posted:

My friendship with Mr. Retelle's oldest daughter, Patrice, goes way- back. When we were teens in the late '60s/early '70s, it was Mr. Retelle, the quintessential Dad, who would drive us home from dances at "The Voke" school. On hot summer days, we had the delight of being driven home from "The Cove" in W. Methuen in the coolest of cars back then, his big white station wagon with the little rear-facing "wayback" seat. From the front driver's seat, over the roar of the motor and the noise of the road, he'd loudly ask if we were all ok back there. Fast forward to now: After attending your family's final farewell and listening to their many heartwarming stories and tributes about you, in my opinion, I'd say that the kids are all right, and the road up ahead for you looks like a smooth drive. You don't need to look way-back and ask any longer. From the looks of your very large and beautiful family, you've done a stellar job, and they all will be way-more than okay. R.I.P. Mr. Retelle.- Denise Rush

April 13 at 1:42 PM

C

Colleen Dolan posted:

Larry and Dee were my neighbors for over 30 years. They were the best folks! So sorry to have lost them. Colleen Dolan

April 8 at 1:00 PM

BM

Barbara M. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Lawrence.



April 7 at 8:03 AM

CS

Cathy Salchert posted:

I had the pleasure of meeting your Dad at the funeral reception for your mom last year. Such a gracious person and so present in the conversation to welcome me on a very difficult day. Ellen has shared so much of his journey since then with her posts of your beautiful family. He was surrounded by love every day. So sorry I can't be there today, but your Dad, Mom and all of you are in my prayers. Rest in peace and joy, Larry.

April 6 at 10:16 AM



Tribute Wall

Lawrence F. Retelle Sr.

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Linda Barile shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.



April 6 at 8:58 AM



Lawrence Retelle shared 6 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



My father lived a long and meaningful life, passing away at the remarkable age of 95. He was, above all else, a hardworking man who dedicated his life to providing for his family. As a firefighter and a welder, he faced demanding work with quiet determination, instilling in us the values of perseverance, responsibility, and pride in honest labor. Together with my mother, he raised nine children and somehow made sure that each of us knew we were supported, protected, and loved. Some of my fondest memories are of the time he carved out for family despite how hard he worked. He planned camping trips to the White Mountains—adventures that felt larger than life to us as kids—as well as simple but joyful day trips to Bear Brook and Pawtuckaway state parks. Those trips weren't extravagant, but they were rich in togetherness and laughter, creating memories that have lasted a lifetime. It wasn't until I had a family of my own that I truly came to appreciate the depth of my parents' sacrifices. I gained a clearer understanding of how much effort, patience, and selflessness it took for my dad, alongside my mom, to give us a strong foundation and the opportunity to succeed. Their lessons didn't always come in words, but in example—showing up every day, doing the work, and always putting family first. In these last few years, we grew even closer as I worked with him to prepare his house for sale and move into his assisted living apartment at the Marguerite House. The staff there grew to love him, even though he was always determined to do things his own way. We celebrated his 95th birthday there, with the highlight being the grandkids and great-grandkids gathered around, listening as he played his harmonica. My dad leaves behind far more than memories—he leaves a legacy of resilience, love, and devotion to family. We are who we are because of him, and we will carry his lessons with us always. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten. Larry Retelle jr.

April 1 at 4:45 PM



Colleen Dolan sent a virtual gift in honor of Lawrence.



Larry and Dee and Family were my neighbors for 30 plus years. They were such wonderful folks! Dee loved to take her walks around the neighborhood and Larry was always puttering around the yard working on a project. I was so fortunate to have known them. The best neighbors and people. They also raised a terrific family. They will be missed. So sorry for your loss. Colleen Dolan

April 3 at 9:45 PM



Tribute Wall

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Ann Lacroix Roy lit a candle in honor of Lawrence.

My deepest condolences & heartfelt prayers go out to all of you . I'm sorry for your loss of your dad.I'm glad I got to meet him several times with Alan. May your memories with your dad help ease your pain. Ann Roy

April 3 at 9:20 PM



Anonymous sent a Fiery Lily and Rose to the Retelle family.

April 3 at 2:17 PM



Bill Middlemiss posted:

I had the pleasure of working with Larry at Engine 7 for many years, lots of laughs and stories. May he rest easy, so sorry for your loss.Bill Middlemiss

April 2 at 5:02 PM



Linda Barile posted:

Larry was a man after my own heart- we both loved sweets for breakfast and any other time of the day. He also always got a kick out of the mischievous and hunting behavior of the Golden Retriever dogs. Larry was full of life and had a contagious laugh. We will miss him calling us the colonels. Love, Linda Barile and Fran Arrowsmith

April 2 at 3:02 PM



Kristina Coperine posted:

Rest in peace, Gramps. Thank you for being a wonderful grandfather and friend.

April 1 at 6:59 PM



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Justine Coperine posted:

My Dad was accepting of hisSpecial grandchildren Nicole and Andrew and loved his granddaughter Kristina 's many visits.

April 1 at 4:45 PM



Joanne Dumais April 5 at 7:30 PM





Media

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Linda Barile shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 6 at 8:58 AM





Media

Lawrence F. Retelle Sr.

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Lawrence Retelle shared 6 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 4 at 12:20 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Lawrence by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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