



William F. Baggett Sr.

August 11, 1923 - November 10, 2018

William F. Baggett, 95, lovingly known as "Papa Baggett" by many, passed away peacefully on Saturday November 10, 2018 at Salem Haven Nursing Home in Salem, NH.

William was born and raised in Lawrence, MA, the son of Lawrence Fire Chief Joseph Baggett and Matilda (Leblanc) Baggett. Upon graduating from Lawrence High School, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corp in 1941, working his way up the ranks to Technical Sergeant. During his enlistment, he flew non-combat fighter planes, and would often speak of landing on aircraft carriers and practicing high-wind landing maneuvers without crashing. He was also a Weapons and Munitions Instructor, teaching upwards of 600 soldiers at a time while standing on lunchroom tables in the mess hall.

Upon his Honorable Discharge, Bill returned home to Lawrence to help his father and younger siblings after their mother passed away in 1943. Shortly after returning home, he met his wife, Elizabeth "Betty" McLaughlin while working construction with his friend Jack Hammond in Rye, NH. As he told the story, he and Jack walked in for lunch at Carberry's on Route 1 in Rye, while Betty was working behind the counter, and he knew immediately that he loved her. They married on January 6, 1951 and went on to have nine children. Papa was well known for his fierce dedication to his family, his stubbornly strong work ethic, and his great sense of humor, instilling all these qualities into each of his children.

Papa worked for the General Baking Company (1946-1957) before going to work as a liquor salesman for the Merrimack Valley Distributing Company (1957-1975) and United Liquors (1975-1980), before retiring early to care for his ailing wife Betty, who passed away in December 1988.

Papa was pre-deceased by his parents Joseph and Matilda, his siblings Rita, Jimmy, Peggy and Frank, his wife Betty (1988), daughter Kathy-Sue (1962) and son Billy Jr. (1990).

Papa is survived and will forever be missed by his children: Joe of Salem, NH, Pat and his

wife Ellen (Foley) of Atkinson, NH, Mike of Lawrence, MA, Mary-Ellen and her husband Larry Dunn of Salem, NH, Lawrence Firefighter, Tom and his girlfriend Lisa Donovan of South Lawrence, MA, Sheila and her husband Rick Fortin of South Lawrence, MA and Lisa of Dracut, MA. Additionally, he is survived by his 11 grandchildren: Jen, Jill, Joe Jr, Kim, Billy III, Tim, John, Kayla, Brad, Greg, and Trevor; and his many great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, each of whom held a very special place in his heart.

The Baggett family would like to extend a warm and very heartfelt thank you to the wonderful staff at Salem Haven who cared for Papa with love and compassion over the past year. Their support for our family, especially during Papa's last days, was deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

Family and friends are respectfully invited to Papa's services at the John Breen Memorial Funeral Home 122 Amesbury St Lawrence, MA. Calling hours will be held Wednesday November 14, 2018 from 4-7 PM. His funeral mass will be held Thursday November 15, 2018 at 10 AM at Our Lady of Good Counsel, St Augustine's Chapel 128 Ames St Lawrence, MA. Papa will be laid to rest with Military Honors in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Lawrence, MA immediately following his mass. For more information or to send an online condolence please visit our website at www.breenfuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St Jude Children's Research Hospital or to a charity of one's choice.

Events

NOV **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

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John Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc. - Lawrence
122 Amesbury St., Lawrence, MA, US, 01841

NOV **Funeral Mass** 10:00AM

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Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Saint Augustine's Chapel
128 Ames Street, Lawrence, MA, US

Comments



“ May Papa be at peace and your memories sustain you all through this sad time. Heartfelt sympathy from Janet McCarthy.

Janet McCarthy - November 14, 2018 at 01:04 PM



“ Dear Pat, Ellen and all those who knew and loved "Papa". Please know that I'm so, so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you...

Brenda Tringali

Brenda Tringali - November 14, 2018 at 09:14 AM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of William F. Baggett Sr..



November 13, 2018 at 04:54 PM



“ I remember Bill from St. Augustine's with great respect as always devoted to his faith and to his family. Be assured of my prayers and remembrances for him and for all the Baggetts. Fr Bill

Fr. Bill Waters, OSA - November 13, 2018 at 04:42 AM



“ What a lovely (and fitting) tribute to a lovely man. Every time I saw my Uncle Billy he made me smile. He had such wit. He was a good man. He was a good brother to my Dad. He will be missed. Sending all my cousins love and prayers for strength.

Barb Sweeney - November 12, 2018 at 06:29 PM



“ To all my Tower Hill Baggett cousins,

I'm so sorry to learn of your father's death.

I'll always smile when I think of Uncle Billy's irrepressible sense of humor and his many acts of kindness to the Szostak Family years ago. I'll never forget my visit with him at Mary Ellen's house on a summer morning in 2017, when I learned more details of his service during Word War II. He was a carrier-based Marine pilot who flew patrols off the coast of California. Had his brother Frank not mentioned that note in his history of the Baggett Family in Lawrence, I never would have known. Uncle Billy was not one to draw attention to himself. May he rest in peace.

Michael Szostak
Bristol, Rhode Island

Michael Szostak - November 12, 2018 at 01:32 PM