

# Robert E. LeSiege

July 14th, 1932 - January 20th, 2018

"Robert “Bob” Ernest LeSiege, 85, of South Hadley, beloved family man and master builder, whose legacy included constructing the last wooden roller coaster at Riverside Park and the South Hadley town common gazebo, died on January 20, 2018 at the Elaine Center of Hadley following a lengthy illness.Bob is survived by his cherished wife of 62 years, Joan (Fournier) LeSiege of South Hadley, his four children and their spouses David (Dawn) LeSiege of Brimfield, Karen (Peter) Schoenberger of Hadley, Lori (Don) Hafner of Holyoke, and Glen (Jennica) LeSiege of Somersworth, New Hampshire, and his six grandchildren, Todd LeSiege, Eric LeSiege, William Schoenberger, Ava Hafner, Garrett LeSiege, and Hannah LeSiege. He also leaves siblings Shirley Yahn, Earl LeSiege, and Carol Burdo. Bob is preceded in death by his parents Ernest and Irene (Goudreau) LeSiege and brothers Donald LeSiege and Raymond LeSiege. Born in Holyoke, Massachusetts on Bastille Day, July 14, 1932, Bob was proud of his family's French-Canadian heritage. He attended Holyoke public schools and was a veteran of the U.S. Army, where he served in combat as a radio operator during the Korean conflict. After returning from Korea, he lived in Florida and trained as a carpenter. He returned to Massachusetts where he met his lifelong sweetheart, Joan Fournier. They married on Thanksgiving Day in 1955. Bob worked hard physically yet found time for taking Joan dancing at Mountain Park, driving their '57 Chevy, playing with his kids in the backyard swimming pool, grooming and mowing the lawn, and hosting large family gatherings on holidays and special occasions. Bob was a member of the Chicopee Knights of Columbus and a parishonner of Saint Theresa of Lisieux Parish South Hadley. He enjoyed playing pitch, deep-sea fishing, and occasional trips to the casinos, where a signature jig he danced upon returning home meant success at the slot machines.Bob raised his family in the South Hadley home he built in 1964. His career as a union carpenter included many important commercial construction projects. He loved to point out work he had done in public places such as Bradley Airport, Baystate Medical Center, Ingleside Mall, and countless local banks, stores, office buildings, and factories. In 1983 at the peak of his career he led the building crew for the Cyclone roller coaster at Riverside Park. He was proud of his work on the project and enjoyed the many test rides he took as it neared completion. Bob was always generous with his time and skills, and in his retirement was honored to be one of the lead carpenters for the South Hadley town common gazebo. Bob will be missed as a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. The family expresses their appreciation to caretakers from O’Connell Care at Home, the Elaine Center at Hadley and Hospice of the Fisher Home. A Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Theresa of Lisieux Church. A calling hour will precede the Mass from 9:30 a.m -10:30 a.m. at the Beers & Story South Hadley Funeral Home. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center, 627 Cottage Street, Springfield, MA 01104 or to the Hospice of the Fisher Home, 1165 N. Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01002. For more information please visit www.beersandstory.com"