



Theodore "Teddy" Celatka Jr.

October 16, 1942 - December 26, 2024

Theodore "Teddy" Celatka Jr., 82, of Hatfield, MA, entered into eternal rest on Thursday, December 26, 2024. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and cherished member of his community, Teddy's life was a testament to faith, service, and joy.

Teddy was born in Northampton on October 16, 1942, to the late Theodore Celatka Sr. and Edith (Papple) Celatka. He is survived by his beloved wife Mary Celatka, with whom he shared 60 wonderful years of marriage. Together, they built a family filled with love and laughter. Besides his wife he is survived by sons Brian and his wife Robin of Nashville and Bob and his wife Kathy of Ft Myers. He was the proud grandfather of Justin, Jack, and Jonathan and his wife Emma, and great-grandson, Hudson. He is also survived by his brother William Celatka and wife Kris of Goshen, brother-in-law Richie Braman and his wife Dianna of Whatley, brother-in-law David Braman of Goshen, brother-in-law Donald Braman and his wife Brenda of Whatley, brother-in-law Leonard Braman and his wife Lisa of Ozark, as well as many other loved nieces, nephews, and friends.

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Teddy proudly served his state and country while stationed at Barnes Air National Guard Base. After his military service, he dedicated over 30 years to supporting fellow veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Leeds, MA, as a member of both the Police and Fire Departments.

Teddy's commitment to service extended deeply into his beloved hometown of

Hatfield. For decades he served the town as a member of the Fire Department and as the Ambulance Service Manager, providing care and reassurance to countless residents. His devotion to his faith was also evident through his ministry as a Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of Grace Church in Hatfield. True to character, Teddy brought smiles to children's faces for many years by dressing as the Easter Bunny after Easter services.

Teddy was also a long-standing member of the American Legion and an avid lover of polka music. Known for his warmth, joyful spirit, and gift of storytelling, he never met a stranger and cherished every opportunity to share a tale or a laugh.

The family would like to offer a special thank you to the staff at Linda Manor Extended Care, Leeds, MA, for the compassion and care they provided him for many years. Teddy's life was one of love, generosity, and faith, and he will be deeply missed by all who were blessed to know him.

Calling Hours will be Thursday, January 2, 2025, FROM 4-6 PM at the DROZDAL FUNERAL HOME, 120 DAMON RD., NORTHAMPTON. Funeral will be Friday, January 3, 2025, at 9 AM from the Drozdal Funeral Home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Grace Church, Hatfield. Burial will be Friday May 23, 2025, at 10 AM in Calvary Cemetery, Hatfield. In lieu of flowers, as Teddy would want, the family kindly requests, donations be made to Our Lady of Grace Church.

For more information, or to leave the family a personal condolence, please visit DrozdalFuneralHome.com.

Previous Events

Calling Hour

JAN 2. 4:00 PM (ET)

Drozdal Funeral Home
120 Damon Rd.
Northampton, MA 01060
drozdalfh@aol.com
<http://Drozdalfuneralhome.com>

Calling Hours

JAN 2. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Drozdal Funeral Home
120 Damon Rd.
Northampton, MA 01060
drozdalfh@aol.com
<http://Drozdalfuneralhome.com>

Funeral

JAN 3. 9:00 AM (ET)

Drozdal Funeral Home
120 Damon Rd.
Northampton, MA 01060
drozdalfh@aol.com
<http://Drozdalfuneralhome.com>

Funeral

JAN 3. 9:00 AM (ET)

Drozdal Funeral Home
120 Damon Rd.
Northampton, MA 01060
drozdalfh@aol.com
<http://Drozdalfuneralhome.com>

Church

JAN 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Grace
11 School St.
Hatfield, MA 01038

Burial

MAY 23. 10:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Cemetery
Bridge St.
Hatfield, MA 01038

Tribute Wall

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“ Dear Mary, I was so sorry to read of Ted's passing. I regret I was unable to attend his services. May all your memories bring you comfort. Fran(Mott) Thibault

Frances Thibault - January 04, 2025 at 12:56 PM

PS

“ Mary and family....we are so sorry to hear of your loss. Teddy was a great guy! Mike really enjoyed working with him on the Hatfield Fire Department and Hatfield Ambulance Crew for many years. He always had an infectious smile on his face. We also remember you both at the infamous American Legion polka festivals that were so much fun! We know he will be greatly missed by many. Sending hugs and condolences. Patty and Mike Stoddard

Patricia Stoddard - December 30, 2024 at 09:35 PM