



## LeRoy "Lee" R. Baines

March 28, 1944 - August 16, 2023

Hampton - LeRoy (Lee) R. Baines, 79, of Hampton, New Hampshire, passed away on Wednesday, August 16th at home surrounded by his family.

He was born in Manchester, New Hampshire on March 28, 1944, to the late LeRoy W. and Hazel (Holt) Baines. Lee was raised and educated in Manchester. He attended Kimball Union Academy and went on to earn his bachelor's and later his Master's Degree from the University of New Hampshire. He moved to Massena, New York with his wife and children in 1967 where he resided for over 50 years.

Lee was passionate about teaching and during his 32-year career at Massena Central High School he touched many lives. He developed the Journalism class, Creative Writing curriculum, and Tech Prep Program, which was recognized as the first of its kind in New York State. For many years, he also served as the English Department Chairperson. Lee also coached track, basketball, and was a Student Faculty Advisor. In subsequent years, his passion for teaching grew to include stage directing numerous musicals and helping to create a legacy of exceptional productions. After retiring from Massena Central, he became a faculty member at Potsdam State University where he continued to teach in the Graduate English Program for several years.

Lee was an avid golfer and past president of the Massena Country Club. He was also a long-time member of the Elks. He enjoyed reading, traveling, and watching his beloved Boston Red Sox and Bruins.

Of all his accomplishments, Lee was most proud of his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Mary (King) Baines. In addition, Lee is survived by his children, Patricia Baines-Arndt and her husband Michael of Merrimac, MA; Michael Baines and his wife Diane of Massena, NY; Christine Carlino and her husband Michael of Canton, MA. He is also survived by his sister Judith Pennock. His pride and joy are his eight grandchildren, Renelle, Amber, Cullen, Mackenzie, Madison, Max, Lily, and Sam as well as five great-grandchildren, Sophia, Nash, Max, Ben, and Scarlett. He attended countless numbers of their sporting events, and his grandchildren knew that although he was often a passionate and vocal supporter in the stands, he was always their number one fan!

A celebration of life will be held at a later date to be announced.

Those who touch our lives, stay in our hearts forever.

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ So sorry for the loss of a great person and special teacher. He was a guiding light for many. Our sympathy and thoughts are with you all.



Marsha and Bill Sienkiewicz - October 20, 2023 at 08:51 AM

MS

“ Mary I am so sorry to hear of Lee’s passing. I’m one of the guys who he played golf with in Florida. I love playing with Lee and we had so much fun. I will never forget him and the smile he always had. In loving memory from Marty Reasoner

Marty Reasoner Sr. - September 24, 2023 at 09:58 PM

KB

“ To bainsey, and patty, im sorry for loss, your dad always listened, he was kind and a great teacher. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Karen boscoe

karen boscoe - September 15, 2023 at 03:47 PM

MD

“ Mr. Baines was the best teacher I ever had and I'm thankful that I was able to tell him this on many occasions before his passing. He had a way of bringing out the best in his students while making us "work" for the answers that he knew were inside us all along. I have a feeling he's somewhere in heaven reading "shit lit" as he called it in his retirement years. Condolences to the family that he loved so much. He will be SO missed! Michelle Doorey (Bushaw)

Michelle Doorey - September 14, 2023 at 08:51 AM

EB

“ Dear Mary and family, I will always remember our Durham/UNH days, as well as our visits in Massena when visiting Tom's family. I lost Tom a year ago in July and understand your pain. I hope that your wonderful memories help you during this difficult time. I am still living in Durham. Thoughts and prayers are with you. Gail Barstow

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**Ellyn Gail Barstow** - August 28, 2023 at 09:14 AM

LM

“ I was part of MCHS's Tech Prep program in the late 90s. My parents credit that program with getting me through high school. I have fond memories of my time in that program. Mr. Baines and his personality were no small part of those memories. I'm grateful for Mr. Baines' work at MCHS.

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**Luke Middleton** - August 27, 2023 at 07:01 AM

AN

“ Hi. My name is Andrea Nezezon. I graduated In 1972 from Massena Central High School. I was fortunate to have Mr Baines as my English teacher for 2 years. I was a fat kid when there weren't fat kids. So I had a hard time, especially with stand in front of the class book reports. I would freeze up, my face would turn red, and my lip and eye would twitch. I hated it. I loved to read so that wasn't a problem. On one book report day Mr. Baines asked me to stay after class. He asked me if I read the book. I said yes. He said tell me about it. So we sat there and I told about the book. I got an A on that report. He helped me so many times. He became a trusted friend. Thanks to Mr. Baines. You were the Best teacher I ever had. He was a cheerleader to many students. We achieved because he cheered us on. I adored him. Many condolences to his family. I'm sorry beyond measure. Ralph Waldo Emerson described Mr. Baines success in the teaching field.  
To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and  
the affection of children; To leave the world a bit better; To know even  
One life has breathed easier because you have lived.  
This is to have succeeded.

*Andrea Nezezon( Nezzzy)*

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**Andrea nezezon** - August 26, 2023 at 04:18 PM

MA

“ Mary

*My prayers are with you and the family.*

*Maureen Arndt*

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**Maureen Arndt** - August 24, 2023 at 08:41 PM

HG

“ I graduated 1972 MHS with very fond memories of MR. Baines as I journeyed through life. I often thought of him and the fun we had in his class. He surely will be missed. My condolences to the entire family. Heather Molnar Goldie

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**Heather Goldie** - August 24, 2023 at 09:08 AM

PJ

“ To the Baines Family,  
I am very sorry to hear about the passing of Lee. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.  
Peter Jukoski

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**Peter Jukoski** - August 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM

JC

“ Sorry to hear of his passing. Mr. Baines was my English teacher for senior year. He would push us to do good work, but he would also listen to our concerns and ideas. I recall when I got my senior paper back, the mark was 99%. I asked why, and he said, "No paper is ever perfect." :)

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**Jordan Curtis** - August 23, 2023 at 10:35 AM

PM

“ Lee Baines was a great influence on his Massena Central students, including my three sons. He also began the high school newspaper, *Student World*, which linked to *The Massena Observer* when I was the editor. That connection began journalism careers for several local students. He also worked with me , Kendall Straight, Ron Reid and Bill Keener to create the first-ever Tech Prep program in NYS, which brought success to hundreds of students.

He was creative, passionate and smart - the world will miss his intensity. ❤️

Pat McKeown,  
Former Editor of *The Massena Observer*

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Pat McKeown - August 22, 2023 at 01:10 PM

CF

“ Dear Mary and family - I was so sorry to hear of Lee's passing. He was such a great guy and always with a smile and a kind word. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Cathy and Richard Faucher

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cathy faucher - August 21, 2023 at 08:16 PM

FM

“ Mary and family,  
My thoughts and sympathy are with you at this difficult time. I know that Lee suffered these last several months, but he was blessed to have you at his side to support and encourage him. We trust now that he rests in the peace of the Lord. I want you to know that my prayers are with you.

Fr. Ron Mass

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Fr. Ron Mass - August 21, 2023 at 08:01 PM

JD

“ To the Baines Family,  
I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. Baines. Keeping all of  
you in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.  
Jackie (LaVigne) Derouchie

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**Jackie Derouchie** - August 21, 2023 at 07:48 PM

SM

So sorry Mary and Family for your loss of a wonderful person. Our  
thoughts and prayers are with you all. 🙏❤️

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**Sue and Ed Mackey** - August 21, 2023 at 09:48 PM

LG

“ Dear Mary and family,  
I was saddened to read of Mr. Baines passing, he was too young.  
He was one of my absolute favorite teachers, which were few,  
during my years at MCHS.  
Even though he came and dragged me out of the lunchline for trying  
to skip his class once.....couldn't help it, I was starving.....😁.  
Thoroughly enjoyed seeing him working in the kitchen at the Elks  
Club at the last class reunion I attended. We laughed over those  
High School days.  
You and family are in my thoughts and prayers.  
Sincerely,  
Lee Ann Graham

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**Lee Graham** - August 21, 2023 at 07:16 PM

DB

“ While so many people consider Mr. Baines their favorite teacher, I became a professional writer because of his influence. Two things he said stand out and set me on my path. I recall the day that he said, "if you want to be a good writer, don't write...read." The single best advice I have ever received. And when a guidance counselor told me that I couldn't make a living as a writer and I should become an engineer, Lee Baines said the exact opposite. I thank him for his counsel and caring. I think of him every time I read or see "The Lord of the Rings"...one of the books he offered as an alternative to "Crime and Punishment" and "The Brothers Karamazov"...thank goodness. Now it's a series of movies. Then it was an undiscovered literary gem that he wanted us to experience. Peace to his family.

-Duane Bombard

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**Duane Bombard** - August 21, 2023 at 07:10 PM

BM

“ *Mary and Family,*  
Please accept our condolences. Lee was certainly in our era of teachers at Massena. Those were the days when teaching was fun. We worked hard and managed to have a good time too. He left his mark on hundreds of students. His professional expertise will be long remembered.

*Barbara and Carter Montross*

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**Barbara Montross** - August 21, 2023 at 06:35 PM

M(

“ To Mr Baines’ Family- I too am so sad to hear of his passing. The world lost a great teacher. My best memory of him was when we were reading Shakespeare and when he was reading the 3 witches passage, I sneezed 3 times in time with his reading Boil boil toil and trouble. He asked me to do it again. I of course declined and was so embarrassed. He was a favorite teacher of mine.

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**Madi M Ashley (Dunn)** - August 21, 2023 at 05:54 PM

AD

“ To the family of Mr. Baines, I cannot express how sad I am hear of his passing. He was such a huge influence on me, and my desire to write. Before I had him as a teacher, I just thought that maybe I was an ok writer. He gave me the confidence to believe that I was just better than ok. I do still write, but it is mostly for myself or my family. I was also lucky enough to be in the cast ensemble of 'Brigadoon', that he was in as well. 'Though it may be very true what the lad here has said...' It gave me the opportunity to get to know him outside of the class room as well, which is a time I will always remember. Thank you, Mr. Baines, for being such a wonderful teacher, mentor, and friend!

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**Angela DiTullio-Guimond** - August 21, 2023 at 04:59 PM

NT

“ Thinking of the Baines family today... Bainsy and Patti, a big part of my memories with my little brother and sister. Leroy always had a smile, was funny, a lighthearted spirit! He was a part of my high school memories, later running into him at Potsdam. Thinking of you all today, with love, Neeny Tyo

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**Neeny Tyo** - August 21, 2023 at 04:11 PM

TS

“ I am so saddened to hear of Mr. Baines’ passing. He had a significant influence on me in High School. He was my favorite teacher and an even better director. I will always remember many things about him, but I wanted to share a few of my favorites. I went to Baines’s office crying and distraught about an interaction I had just had. He marched right down to the library and stood up for me with another teacher who was being unreasonable. He told her off, and it felt like he "saved" me. More often than not, he would call me on my BS and put me back on a good path. He helped me hone my talent as an actress and often kept me on track in that aspect. He was passionate about his students and those he cared about and quick to show it. He could make you laugh all day long in class and practice and often told it like it was, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I often think of Baines and his sense of humor fondly. I am sending my love to his family, who I know are missing him a ton because I missed him after I left Massena HS.

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**Tia Brown (formerly Sheets)** - August 21, 2023 at 03:38 PM

CS

Lee was a young just getting started teacher when I entered high school. So young my two daughters had him also. They were very involved in the drama club and Baines and musical director Chip Lamson guided them and helped develop their love for the stage. He was a very large influence in a lot of students life. My condolences to his loved ones.

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**cheryl Sheets** - August 21, 2023 at 03:54 PM

JB

I had Mr. Baines for AP English my senior year, a year which was both good but also challenging emotionally for me in some ways. I remember an especially rough patch where I wasn't getting along particularly well with my parents, and my father, business teacher Carl Brooking, asked Mr. Baines to talk to me, knowing that I admired him and liked his class. Mr. Baines was a sympathetic ear, and that was very helpful.

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**John Brooking** - August 21, 2023 at 05:31 PM

JH

“ *Mr. Baines was an incredible English teacher who inspired me to become a better writer and a more well read person throughout my entire life. My sincere condolences to the entire family, he was a great man. - Josie (Kish) Hardy & Family*

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**Josie Hardy** - August 21, 2023 at 03:32 PM

AC

“ *Lee was the most affable and caring person I encountered through my early teaching career. I 100% wanted to quit my teaching program at SUNY Potsdam. As one of my instructors (with Linda Seramur), he guided me and supported me throughout that very tumultuous year. I am so grateful for his mentorship. I have been an ELA teacher at MCS now for 22 years. Thank you, Lee, for guiding your students and sharing your passion for this field with us. We will keep you in our hearts.*

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**April Charleson** - August 21, 2023 at 02:38 PM

BM

*So saddened to hear that Lee has passed away. He was always a person to put those around him at ease. Whether he was bartending at the OK Corral, telling a joke in the teachers' lounge, or giving common sense advice. I knew him in each of those capacities. I can still hear his contagious laughter. My condolences to his family and friends. RIP, Lee*

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**Barbara Martin** - August 21, 2023 at 03:25 PM

JJ

“ *Mary and Family, our condolences. Lee was an outstanding teacher at Massena. Got to know Mary and Lee, in Florida after retirement. The group of North Country people enjoyed many great times. I always looked forward to playing golf with Lee each winter. He will be sorely missed. Mary and Family thoughts and prayers to you all. Joe and Gail*

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**Joe Jubinville** - August 21, 2023 at 02:27 PM

DM

“ *I learned to be a creative writer from this excellent teacher! My writing skills have served me well my entire career because of his influence! The made a difference in so many people’s lives!*

*In Emerson’s words...*

*What Is Success*

*--- by Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*To laugh often and much;*

*To win the respect of intelligent people and  
the affection of children;*

*To earn the approbation of honest critics and endure  
the betrayal of false friends;*

*To appreciate beauty;*

*To find the best in others;*

*To give of one's self;*

*To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child,  
a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition;*

*To have played and laughed with enthusiasm and  
sung with exultation;*

*To know even one life has breathed easier because you  
have lived -*

*This is to have succeeded.*

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**Diane Francia- Major** - August 21, 2023 at 02:15 PM

LM

“ *Mr. Baines was my inspiration for becoming an English teacher. He had a huge impact and was an inspiration on my life during a time of need. I appreciated the time he took to listen and give advice as I prepared for my own journey in the educational world. To his family, I send my condolences. He was loved by so many. Linsey (Farnan) McCarthy*

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**Linsey McCarthy** - August 21, 2023 at 02:09 PM

SS

“ *Lee Baines was my hero in high school. Mary and family, I send my condolences. I babysat Lee's kids. Every summer when I returned to Massena I stopped in to see Lee and Mary. Lots of good memories. And for the last time, I did not soap your windows at Halloween. Prayers for all. Cindy Sullivan, BVM*

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**Sr. Cindy Sullivan** - August 21, 2023 at 01:12 PM

JS

“ *Mary and Family, We very so sorry to hear off Lee's passing. Spent many years with Lee at MCHS, all of us reaping the benefits of a wonderful faculty and so many great students. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Jeff, Martha Slack** - August 21, 2023 at 01:09 PM



“ *Mary and family, Sincerely sorry for your loss. Melissa Prescott (Lewis Green's daughter).*

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**Melissa Prescott** - August 21, 2023 at 12:00 PM