



Robert J. Dray Sr

March 31, 1927 - August 14, 2015

Stratham – Robert J. Dray, Sr., 88, of Stratham, died Friday, August 14, 2015 at Merrimack Valley Hospice House in Haverhill, MA.

He was born in Boston, MA on March 31, 1927 a son of the late George A. and Freda (Schmidt) Dray.

Bob was raised in Stoughton, MA and graduated from Stoughton High School with the Class of 1945 and from Boston College in 1949. He continued for another year at Boston College Law School. He was a veteran of WW II serving with the US Navy.

Mr. Dray was employed as an independent insurance broker and was a founding partner of the firm Business and Industry Insurance Company retiring at age 80 after 30 years of service. In his earlier years, he was employed by the 3M Company, New England Mutual Life Insurance Co., and served as a vice president for Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company.

He raised his family in both Taunton and Easton, MA and has resided in Stratham the past 25 years. He was a daily communicant and lector at St. Michael Parish in Exeter, member of the Knights of Columbus Council 2179 of Exeter, and served on the board of directors for New Generation in Greenland, and Seacoast Birthright in Portsmouth.

He would have shared 64 years of marriage this coming November with his wife, Elaine M. (McDonough) Dray also of Stratham.

He leaves eight loving children: Joanie Dray of Stratham, Robert Dray, Jr., MD and wife Deborah of Lascassas, TN, Mark Dray and wife Susan of Easton, MA, Carol Greise and husband Mark of Santa Ynez, CA, Mary O'Connor and husband Walter of Westwood, MA, Deborah Gardiner and husband Kelly of Duncan, SC, Martha Dray and partner Sherry Sabins of Groveland, MA, Paul Dray and wife Colleen of Napa, CA. In addition, Bob leaves seven grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, two brothers, Alfred Dray of Deerfield, MA and Edward Dray of Kauai, HI along with the families' nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister, Ruth Hunt.

Visiting hours will from 5-8 P.M. Wednesday, August 19, 2015 at the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton. A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11 A.M. Thursday, August 20, 2015 at St. Michael Parish, corner of Lincoln and Front streets, Exeter. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery, Portsmouth. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the following: New Generation, PO Box 676, Greenland, NH 03840 <http://www.newgennh.org/donate/make-a-donation-online/>; Seacoast Birthright, 323 Islington Street, Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801, <http://birthright.org/en/landingpage/lp-seacoast>. Knights of Columbus Council 2179, 9 Lincoln Street, Exeter, NH 03833 or Wounded Warrior Project, Long Term Support Trust, Attn: Steven Nardizzi , 4899 Belfort Road, Ste. 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256 <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>;

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

Rt 33, Greenland, Rd.
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 19. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Funeral Mass

AUG 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Michael Church
9 Lincoln Street
Exeter, NH 03833

Tribute Wall



“ Robert J. Dray Sr

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ Thinking of you today...just like every other day...I miss you so much Dad.

Martha Dray - May 30, 2016 at 01:50 PM



“ I miss you so much. It's unbearable at times...

Martha Dray - January 21, 2016 at 09:05 AM



“ Merry Christmas Dad. Thank you for instilling in me the meaning and the importance of Christmas. Thank you for all the best memories a child & adult could have and will cherish forever. I miss you Dad. I love you. God bless us all forever!! Thank you for my "penny from heaven!!"

Martha - December 28, 2015 at 04:02 AM



“ Martha lit a candle in memory of Robert J. Dray Sr



Martha - December 06, 2015 at 02:02 AM

MD

“ *My mind still looks for you.
My heart still looks for you.
My soul knows you are at peace.*

*I love you Dad.
I miss you so much...*



Martha Dray - November 07, 2015 at 02:02 PM

MD

“ *I miss you Dad. I wish I could hear your voice. I wish I could hug you so tight. And most of all I wish I could feel you bless my forehead. I love you so much.*

Martha Dray - September 29, 2015 at 05:14 PM

CC

“ *Dear Mrs. Dray and family, I knew Mr. Dray from St. Michael's. Sitting behind him in Mass one day I was struck by how much he looked like my Dad. I didn't know much about him then, only that he was a very nice man with a big personality. He was a joy to be around. Months later as I attended a Board meeting at Birthright, I was honored to meet Bob Dray, Board Member and Chairman. "I know you! I knew there was a reason for this old man to like you" he said to me. I will never forget the joy and enthusiasm he shared with us. Mr. Dray was a good friend to all whom he met, but especially to Birthright. I will miss him and will pray for him and your family. May his soul rest in peace.*

Connie Carreno - September 02, 2015 at 12:21 PM

MD

Thank you from his daughter. He was an awesome Dad and I miss him terribly.

Martha Dray - March 31, 2025 at 10:05 PM

SH

“ Sherry lit a candle in memory of Robert J. Dray Sr



Sherry - August 20, 2015 at 10:35 AM

SH

“ I wanted to share a couple of memories of Dad Dray. One of my earlier memories of Dad Dray is when he was helping Martha and I move. Martha had to leave for a bit. I was in awe how he put new wires on her pictures, how he labeled the audio video cords and many other things. These acts of kindness and love for his daughter bewildered me. Martha was grown, moved out and he still helped his daughter, called her and helped when she was in need. Dad's like that are one in a million. His action filled me joy and sadness for this was the first time I met a Dad like that. All that day Dad Dray and I unpacked hardly talking for I was and still very shy. And we hung the pictures on the wall and unpacked everything in half a day. He was strong, very kind, and knew how to use lots of tools. I loved asking Dad Dray questions. I was interested in ways to stay healthy and natural remedies. He subscribed to many natural health newsletters. He showed me about silver, where to get vitamins, benefits of spices and to keep Martha from eating fast food. He told me please cook because she loved eating out. I love to cook so it was a win win for me. He gave me books on natural medicine, religion, and cooking. The love of learning was innate in both of us. My formal introduction into the Church I asked Dad and Mom Dray to be my God parent's. They accepted. Dad Dray gave many great books on saints and other daily readings on the Bible. I have so many wonderful and loving memories of Dad Dray. I will treasure them all. Dad and Mom Dray are the best parents I ever had.

Sherry - August 20, 2015 at 10:29 AM

BM

“ Dear Mrs. Dray and all the Dray Family ~

It was my great pleasure and privilege to share a weekend in Steubenville, OH many years ago with Bob, Bob Jr. and my dear friend Mary. We had such a special time celebrating our Faith and enjoying the fellowship of each other and the thousands of others who were attending conferences at Franciscan U. that year. I was so happy to meet Mary's Dad and brother, who she always spoke of so fondly. I know that Bob has been an inspiration to not only his family but to so many others as well. I am quite sure that he was blessed to hear the words "Well done my good and faithful servant. Enter now in the joy of the Lord." Memory Eternal!

*God Bless you all ~
Betty Marsh
Norwood, MA*

Betty Marsh - August 18, 2015 at 06:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert J. Dray Sr.



August 18, 2015 at 05:16 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Bob Dray in Pictures*



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - August 18, 2015 at 01:10 PM

MD

Two of the most kind & loving men...Father (Bob Dray) & son (Paul Dray)

Martha Dray - January 24, 2016 at 01:27 AM

PA

“ 1 file added to the album *Bob Dray in Pictures*



Paul - August 17, 2015 at 08:00 PM

MA

Missing you so bad it literally hurts...

Martha - December 06, 2015 at 01:46 AM

KG

“ Dear Mrs. Dray and Family,

I am so sorry for your loss. I knew Bob from St. Michael's and was always amazed by his cheerful and warm demeanor even as he fought against his illness. Talk about Christian joy and being Christ-like! He was a special man, and will be missed by so many. I pray that you all find strength and comfort in your faith and the love that surrounds you now and always.

With deepest sympathy,

Karey Gosselin

Karey Gosselin - August 17, 2015 at 06:24 PM

LG

“ Dear Dray Family, Bob was a dear, good man. I treasure all the times he said, "God bless you forever." Surely having him as part of my faith life was itself a huge blessing.

I have missed him every day since he had to give up lecturing and daily Mass attendance.

Now we can ask him to pray for us.

With love and sympathy,

Lucretia Ganley

Lucretia Ganley - August 17, 2015 at 10:32 AM

CM

“ *To the Dray Family-*

I am a member of St. Michael's Church and will always remember Mr. Dray as a kind, sweet, cheerful man. He always had a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye... and often a joke! Every year when I would sponsor a handcraft sale for The Sisters of the Good Shepherd he always gave me a donation for the nuns. He never wanted anything in return-- just knowing he helped someone in need was all the gratitude he needed. I will miss seeing him at church, and I will especially miss his smile which always made me smile in return.

May you rest in God's peace, Mr. Dray...

*Fondly,
Christine Mont-LaButte*

Christine Mont-LaButte - August 16, 2015 at 06:17 PM

JD

“ *It is always sad to hear of the passing of a good friend, especially when that friend was with you during our younger, formative years. We lost contact many years ago , but Bob will always be remembered as a beloved and highly respected member of the Stoughton High School Class of 1944. My condolences to the family.*

*Joe DeVito
Stoughton, MA*

Joe DeVito - August 16, 2015 at 03:13 PM

CG

“ Dear Mrs. Dray and family:
Saddened to read of Bob's passing. Many years have passed since he was across the hall at Tallmans and I had just started my practice. He gave me much good advice. I had the pleasure of having him and some of the family as patients. I always remember his sincerity and good nature.
Again, my sincere sympathy to all. He will be remembered in our prayers.

Dr. Charles Grady

charles grady - August 16, 2015 at 03:09 PM

JD

“ Dear Dray family,
I was saddened to hear of Bob's passing from my son Eric yesterday.
Bob was always kind to me long after his brother Ed and I went our separate ways with phone calls and an occasional visit.
Many years have passed since our last contact but I will always remember Bob with caring and fondness.
Elaine I send you and your family my heartfelt condolences.
Sincerely, Joanne Dray

Joanne Dray - August 16, 2015 at 09:56 AM

MD

*Hi Aunt Joanne,
This is Martha Dray, the youngest daughter. Just wanted you to know that we were thinking of you. We have very fond memories of you and I wanted you to know that. You were thought of often by Dad and all of us children. Thank you for your kind words & condolences. Bless you.
Martha Dray*

Martha Dray - August 16, 2015 at 12:34 PM

DI

Thought and prayers are with you and your family. Diane Brindle

diane - August 18, 2015 at 12:09 PM

RP

Joannie, I am so sorry for your loss, please accept my deepest condolences. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God Bless - Rita Passanisi

Rita Passanisi - August 18, 2015 at 12:29 PM

CA

Joanie, My sincere sympathies to you and your family. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Cassanna Burton

Cassanna - August 18, 2015 at 02:13 PM

IV

“*First,my thoughts and prayers go out for Bob and his family, I have met ,I think most of Bob's children at mass.(I sat behind him). Bob was sooo proud of his children. Bob was a great friend and listener with a huge heart, I'll miss him deeply and he'll be always in my prayers..sorry I can't be there in person,but I have a couple of medica issues going on. Gods peace and blessings on you all. Irene Day (St. Michael Parish).*

irene V. - August 16, 2015 at 05:57 AM