



## Victor Jean Berard

February 8, 2019

Victor Jean Berard passed away Friday, February 8, 2019. He was born on July 18, 1952 in New Britain, CT. He graduated from Suffield Academy and Central Connecticut University where he studied Physical Education. He later entered the Air Force. He was stationed in Abilene, TX where he became an esteemed heavyweight boxer. In 1980, he started working at the Hartford Courant making nightly newspaper deliveries. He continued even after becoming a full-time teacher in Springfield, MA in the fields of Math, Technology and Special Education. Always coming or going, somehow he managed to fit in time for his love of literature, singing, dancing and making people laugh. Our gentle giant's booming voice could be heard for miles, usually calling to his pet goats, side coaching his grandson's basketball games or correcting one's poor form on the discgolf course. He loved pick-up trucks and projects that entailed loading them up. He spoke in riddles. He could be found gazing at a sea of trees contemplating the many shades of green. Not one to announce his departures, he left us swiftly and silently. His father, Jean Paul Berard, predeceased him. He leaves behind his mother, Marion Berard of West Hartford, CT, his partner, Freda Brown of Southwick, MA, his daughters, Felicia and Theresa Berard, his grandchildren, Wislandi, Rehmanna and Marcelino Deleon of Springfield, MA, his siblings, Suzanne Berard-Rodriguez and husband Mario of Bristol, CT, Sally Berard-Devine of Vineyard Haven, MA, Denise Berard Hall and husband Tom of West Hartford, CT and Steven Berard and wife Trisha of Seattle, WA, and many nieces, nephews, friends, coworkers, students and lives touched by his life. Visitation will be at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave. West Hartford Wednesday, February 13th 4-8 p.m. Services will be held at St. Peter Claver Church, 47 Pleasant Street, West Hartford CT 06107 Thursday, February 14th, 10 a.m. Private burial will be at the convince of Victor's family. In lieu of flowers, gifts in Victor's name may be made to the Springfield Rescue Mission, 10 Mill Street, P.O. Box 9045, Springfield, MA, 01102-9045. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com).

# Events

---

**FEB** **Calling Hours** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

**13**

---

Molloy Funeral Home

906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT, US, 06119

**FEB** **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

**14**

---

St. Peter Claver Church

47 Pleasant St, West Hartford, CT, US

# Comments

---



“ I took a wood shop class with Mr.Berard at IMS. The guys in that class would always mess with me taking away my stuff, breaking my things, pulling my hair, being disrespectful etc. Mr.Berard always stood up for me regardless of how significant the consequence was for the other students. He would always take pride in my work and would often use my work to grade others. I don't remember much of that shop class, but I only remember some of it at all because of him. He will be so missed and I wish I had the chance to tell him how 10 years later he impacted me that much that his memory is still cherished.



**Amber** - February 14 at 09:42 AM

---



“ I grew up with Victor in Windsor Locks. He was a teammate on my senior little league team for 3 years. Unique guy--very funny and kind. Always enjoyed being with him and will miss him. My condolences to the family.

Phil Devlin  
Higganum, CT

**PHILIP RICHARD DEVLIN** - February 14 at 07:25 AM

---



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**PHILIP RICHARD DEVLIN** - February 14 at 06:26 AM

---



“ To All The Berards.  
Saddened by Vic's passing.The good news is he is now with his father and my brother,Bob,in the best place.I can here Vic's voice and his laughter reminiscing while Jean Paul and Bob are having their afternoon coffee and donut.

Vic enjoyed life.As a son,brother,father,grandfather and friend-Vic was fun to be around.

He loved his family.He loved his work and would give you the shirt off his back to a friend.I will always remember his cannon-balls into the Mountain Commons pool.

Vic's life was truly a celebration and I am glad I was glad I got to know him.

Bill Hunter

Plantsville

Bill Hunter - February 13 at 05:52 PM

---



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I worked with Vic at Illing. I loved his sense of humor, his tender heart, and he could always make me laugh. He had such respect for the nurses and was one of the kindest people I knew. I will miss him. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Diane Strano (Nurse at Illing Middle School)

Diane Strano - February 13 at 01:28 PM

---



“ Shu Komiyama purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Victor Jean Berard.



Shu Komiyama - February 13 at 02:59 AM

---



“ Dearest Vic was the perfect mentor to my science bowl teams at Illing Middle School. He had a gentle demeanor that helped many of our students prepare hydrogen fuel celled cars, solar powered cars, and worked with me for many years in our attempt to win the Middle School Science Bowl held at University of Connecticut year after year.

His assistance and kind chaperoning of the many teams from Illing Middle School were always great fun when we worked together.

Always fun and kind; I will miss his positive energy as the teens worked cooperatively towards a common goal.

A lovely man. My heartfelt sympathies to his family. Ginny Schneider



“ Vic and I were colleagues at Illing Middle School, where we shared a morning duty. He had a great sense of humor and always had an interesting story to tell. Most importantly, Vic had a kind word for his students.

My prayers are with your family at this sad time.

Sue Buonanno

Sue Buonanno - February 12 at 03:18 PM

---



“ My favorite memory of Vic at Illing was one time when we had the entire school out on the field. line dancing. Some of the kids didn't want to do it, but there was Vic -- up on the hill, leading the way, doing kicks in his heavy black work shoes.

Always funny but always caring, especially with the special ed kids.

May his spirit always be with you.

Debbie Streeter

Debbie Streeter - February 12 at 12:46 PM

---



“ Victor was my childhood hero. While sitting for us when our parents went out he would let us box with him. He'd say c'mon Dougie hit me harder. I am so thankful I got to see him this past June.

Doug Grisevich - February 12 at 11:10 AM

---



“ Even though we were only teaching colleagues for a short time, it was a pleasure to know Victor. He would always ask how my son "Little Victor" was doing and it brightened my day. Thank you for your service in the military and community. The family should have my deepest condolences.

Gregory Morsbach

Gregory Morsbach - February 12 at 10:55 AM

---



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Victor Jean Berard.



February 12 at 08:55 AM

---



“ Thank you so much for everything!!! He was an amazing man and teacher. He made learning fun and helped me through many tough days i am truly sorry for your loss

**Jessie DeRosa** - February 12 at 02:22 AM

---



“ He was an amazing tech teacher! Had some great laugh with him in middle school. I will always treasure my favorite memory of jamming out to Alicia Keyes in his class. I'm so sorry for your loss.



**lexi** - February 11 at 10:23 PM

---



“ Sending all of the Berards my deepest condolences- so saddened to hear about Vic's passing. Sending love, Lynn (Kaplan Kulzak)

**lynn kulzak** - February 11 at 09:24 PM

---



“ We are so very sorry for your loss.  
Vic was a great guy with a kind heart and gentle ways. We had the pleasure of working with him at Duggan and he truly brought a fun time to the Duggan family get togethers.  
We will always remember the memories of times spent together.  
Lisa Cupillo  
Liz Pappas

**lisa** - February 11 at 09:23 PM

---



“ Vic,

Your spirit will always walk with us through the halls and your amazing "wood shop" at IMS.

A colleague at IMS

**Cathy Kapa** - February 11 at 09:18 PM

---



“ To the family of this great man,

Just wanted to say that although I was sad to hear the news, I was also brought to smile as I remembered a lot of good memories with Mr. Berard who taught me back in Illing middle school 2010-11'

God bless Mr. Berard  
Thank You.

**Caleb Nketiah** - February 11 at 09:03 PM

---



“ Such a nice man. Always enjoyed going to the pool with our grandchildren when Vic was there. He always made it fun. So sorry for your loss. Fondly remembered. Lois Kirk and family.

**Lois Kirk** - February 11 at 05:44 PM

---



“ Our memories of Victor are few but magical. He was able to enter a room and bring a smile to each face. He was funny, interesting, and such a kind soul. Our deepest sympathies to you all. He is with our Lord and his father and will continue to watch over all of us.

Julie and Rick Hall

**julie Hall** - February 11 at 03:46 PM

---



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Victor Jean Berard.



February 11 at 03:08 PM

---



“ My dad and Victor's dad were best friends in high school, and college. They worked together for many years in the West Hartford school system. I have so many great memories of the Berard family and Victor was one of my hero's as a young boy. I went to some of his football games and wrestling matches at Suffield and he always made it a point to talk to me and encourage me in my sports. Last May we all had a chance to visit with my mom on Mothers Day and I was not at all surprised to see that Vic was as gregarious, thoughtful, funny and LOUD as I remembered him. He had an impact on my life and I know many, many others. RIP Vic you were a giant of a man in many ways!

Much Love,

Gregg Grisevich and Family

Gregg Grisevich - February 11 at 03:03 PM

---



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Victor Jean Berard.



February 11 at 11:49 AM

---



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Victor Jean Berard.





“ Terry Mullen & Daughters purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Victor Jean Berard.



**Terry Mullen & Daughters** - February 11 at 11:02 AM

---



“ Ann, Sandy and Mark Baran purchased the Love's Tapestry for the family of Victor Jean Berard.



**Ann, Sandy and Mark Baran** - February 11 at 09:54 AM

---



“ To: The Berard Family

Vic was indeed a Gentle Giant. I worked with him several years at Duggan. We were all proud members of the Duggan family like Vic.

He always excelled in helping others in and out of work anyway that he could.

He was always the life of the party at numerous Duggan activities and outside events including my wedding. We shared many laughs together over the years.

I know he will be missed by many as he had a heart of gold and touched so many lives.

May the memory of this wonderful man help in the days ahead.

With Sympathy-  
Jay Dunningan

**Jay Dunningan** - February 11 at 09:45 AM

---



“ To the Berard Family, our deepest condolences Freda , Felicia and family, we always had a good time with Victor, he was always full of laughter and joking around. We will miss him working on his many projects outside his home and caring for his two goats. He truly was THE GENTLE GIANT, RIP Victor, may you enjoy your new home and the rewards of all Jesus love.!!!

Love, Guy and Gert

**guy and gert cote** - February 11 at 08:58 AM

---



“ I will always remember the good time we had together. He loved being with family, his girls , his grandchildren, his mom. He met all my kids and grandkids. He loved seeing them and talking with them. He helped me finishes projects that I started. He loved drinking His Coke Cola and had a good supply. When I told my kids about Victor passing , they too were really surprise. They all loved him and like him very much. I would continue to see Victor 2 - 3 times a week at work. It was always brief because he had to unload and I had to do the warehouse. Before he lived on the farm with his goats. He had a big house in Springfield where we hung out every weekend. We had great time together. I even took him home to Buffalo , New York to meet my family. Took him To Niagara Falls. We laugh, joke ate, always having a good time. Victor will surely be miss. He will always have a special place in my heart. Now, he can check up on my Daughter Karina who passed away in March 2018. I'm so glad I had the chance to know Vic and the good time we share. Love you Vic.  
Karin Reed

**Karin** - February 11 at 03:00 AM

---



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Victor Jean Berard.



February 10 at 09:39 PM

---



“ Nancy Theroux lit a candle in memory of Victor Jean Berard



**Nancy Theroux** - February 10 at 09:34 PM

---



“ I had the privilege of working with you son, brother, father and grandfather at Duggan Middle School  
He was kind beyond words, and will be deeply missed by all who proudly call ourselves “The Duggan Family”  
With Love,  
Mary J. Hough

**Mary J. Hough** - February 10 at 06:34 PM