

WORCESTER - A funeral Mass for Gary Stephen Brackett will be celebrated on Wednesday, June 20th, 2018 at Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester, Massachusetts. Gary passed away Thursday, June 14, after a short illness.



Gary was the beloved husband of Ellen Wasmer Brackett; the devoted father to Audra M. Brackett and Julia H. Brackett and her partner Michael P. Dix; the son of the late Peter A. Brackett and Gilda A. (Marini) Brackett-Steppe of Watertown; the brother to Loretta E. Deppe and her husband William of Lincoln, NH, Eileen D. Vizakis of Franklin, Janice M. Lancashire of Bridgton, ME, Elizabeth A. Alves of Tewksbury, Mary Jayne Brackett and her husband Joseph Kelly of Watertown, Stephen M. Brackett and his wife Katherine of Sudbury and the late Julie Anne Brackett, Marie E. Brackett, and the late Peter M. Brackett. He was also a loving uncle to his many nieces and nephews. Gary was very excited to welcome his first grandchild in July.

He also leaves his wife's family, mother-in-law Mary M. Wasmer, Barbara Wasmer, Beth Wasmer and Sandy Wilson, John and Kate Wasmer, Martin and Melanie Wasmer, Julie Wasmer and Melissa Foree, Sara and Chris Luke.

Gary, the oldest of ten children, was born on May 31st, 1948 to the late Peter and Gilda (Marini) Brackett. He graduated from Watertown High in 1966 where he was named all scholastic in football, captained the varsity basketball team, and was President of his senior class. Gary was inducted into the Watertown Hall of Fame in 1993.

Gary's outstanding accomplishments in high school led to his attending the College of the Holy Cross on a full scholarship. His time at Holy Cross was marked with both athletic and academic excellence. Gary was a member of the Purple Key Society and received the college's Presidential Service Award for his outstanding contributions to campus and community life. Gary graduated with honors in 1970 and in addition to being named to the Holy Cross all decade football team, he was drafted by the Miami Dolphins.

While at Holy Cross, Gary had doubled as an outstanding rugby player, and he continued to pursue the interest after college. He captained a team of Eastern all-stars that played an international tournament in South Africa; and he was later named to the United States Rugby Team, the first national team to represent the U.S. internationally since 1924. He played against the Australian and French national teams and, in 1977, was on the U.S. team that toured England and played the English national team. He was also President of the Boston Rugby Club, which won the 1976 New England championship, and a proud member of the Worcester rugby club for many years. Gary was inducted into the Boston Rugby Football Club Hall of Fame in 2012.

Gary graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1973. During his time at Case Western in Cleveland, Ohio he met Ellen Wasmer. The two were married on June 28th, 1980 and have enjoyed a beautiful life with their two children Julia and Audra Brackett.

Gary returned to Watertown and worked in the county court system before becoming an assistant to the Watertown legal department in 1974. When the town made the decision to hire a full-time counsel, Gary was the unanimous choice and, in 1978, he became Watertown's first Town Attorney. Ten years later he became City Solicitor for the city of Worcester, a job he held for over 8 years. Gary entered private practice in 1993 and was celebrating 25 years as a partner at Brackett & Lucas.

Gary was a beloved family man, a well-respected and talented lawyer for over 42 years and will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him and loving him.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral Mass on Wednesday, June 20th, 2018 at 11 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove St., Worcester. Calling hours will be Tuesday, June 19th, 2018 from 3 to 8 p.m. in the Athy Memorial Home, 111 Lancaster St., Worcester. Burial will be private.