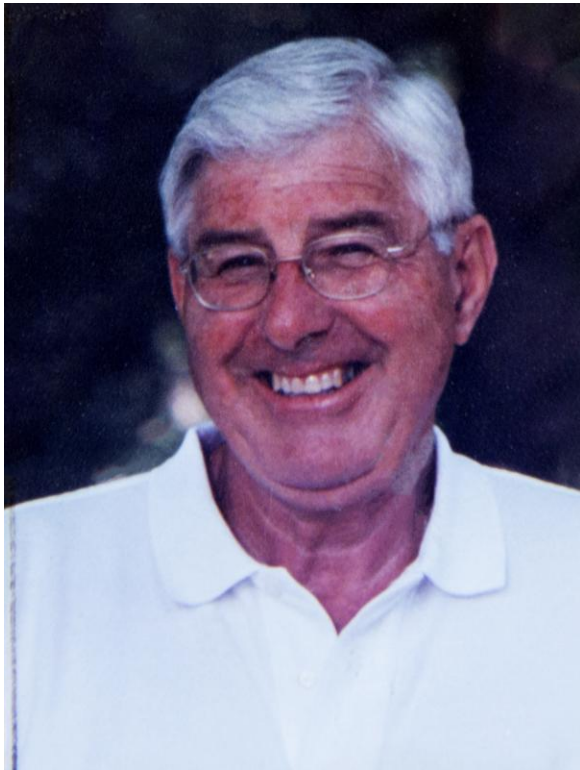


# Edward J. Bonini Memorial Endowment



Edward Joseph Bonini was born in the Congamond Lakes section of Southwick, MA. Three days after his birth, the Great Berkshire Ice House burned to the ground taking with it two houses, one of which was the Bonini's family home. Edward, his mother and sister were thought to have perished in the fire, but were later found at his aunt's home in Springfield, MA.

Ed grew up in Southwick and attended schools there through eighth grade. For high school he attended Westfield High where he was a standout basketball and baseball player, earning a varsity letter in baseball all four years.

Following graduation, Ed was signed by the Boston Braves in 1953 as a second baseman, but prior to reporting to training camp he was drafted into the Army where he served in Germany with the First Infantry Division 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

Ed married his high school sweetheart, Phyllis Danley, and the couple celebrated 61 years of a loving marriage, traveling much of the world together. He worked as a Technical Consultant in Loss Prevention at Liberty Mutual for 30 years, and enjoyed his time there immensely. He was also a member of the American Society of Safety Engineers.

Ed had an extraordinary love of family and sports. He was a huge supporter of youth sports in Westfield. He served as a coach in the Westfield Babe Ruth League, as well as a coach and member of the Westfield Little League Board of Directors. Ed was a steadfast presence at all of his son's and grandchildren's games, no matter what day of the week or where they played.

He also had a great passion for the Boston Red Sox. He thoroughly enjoyed attending Red Sox Spring Training and getting autographs from Red Sox players for family and friends. During Christmas time, Ed loved volunteering and ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle charity. Ed had a wonderful sense of humor and was known and loved for the way he made everyone laugh! He was a loyal friend, and dedicated husband and father. When he passed away in July 2018, the phrase used most often to describe Ed and the way he lived his life was, "a true gentleman."

Even though Ed never attended college, it gave him a great sense of accomplishment that he was able to put all three of his children through college. His son John, as well as his granddaughter Paige Sullivan, benefitted directly from CSF Westfield scholarships. Ed would be extraordinarily proud that a scholarship bearing his name would help provide a worthy recipient with the opportunity to pursue a college education.

Written by: John Bonini  
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