



## Mr. William J. Leahey, Jr.

August 15, 1925 - March 26, 2016

William “Chick” Leahey, Jr. 90, of East Avenue died Saturday, March 26th at the Hospice House in Auburn with his loving family at his side.

He was born in Lewiston, August 25, 1925, the son of William and Anna (Grivois) Leahey. He graduated from Lewiston High in 1943 where he was a member of the National Honor Society and captain of the school’s undefeated football team and state champion baseball team. After graduation Chick proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII, including time in the Pacific Theater. After his discharge from the service, he played in the New York Yankee baseball organization farm system for several years.

With the GI Bill as an opportunity to return to an academic path to a college degree, Chick entered Bates in the fall of 1948. Because of his affiliation with professional baseball he was ineligible to participate on varsity sports teams. He did, however, work as an assistant coach of successful Bates freshman football and baseball squads. He also played, and was playing manager, for the Auburn Asas baseball team which won championships in 1950 and 1951.

Chick graduated from Bates in 1952 with a degree in economics and went on to Columbia University to earn a master’s degree in physical education. After a brief period as a high school baseball coach and physical education instructor, he returned to Bates in 1955 as head baseball, assistant football, and freshman basketball coach. During his summers Chick directed the Poland Spring Caddy Camp and later was Head Counselor at Chewonki Camp for Boys.

For over 35 years, Chick was an exemplary coach and mentor for Bates athletes. A passionate advocate for the Bates’ philosophy of excellence in academics and in competition, he saw to it that his players honed more than just their athletic skills. Harnessing his cheerful, easy-going demeanor, he used athletics as a means to teach his players lessons they could carry through life: the value of discipline and hard work in the classroom and on the field, leadership, sportsmanship, and respect for their opinions of others.

His squads won several CBB titles, ECAC Division II and III combined championships, and appeared in multiple post-season games. In 1984, the Bobcats’ cumulative batting average and runs-per-game put them at the top of all of the nations’ Division III schools. In

addition to leading his teams to success on the field Chick was singularly instrumental in banning the use of smokeless tobacco in collegiate baseball. Chick was inducted into the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame and the Auburn Lewiston Sports Hall of Fame, and Bates honored his remarkable service by naming the baseball field after him and recently retiring his number. Bates additionally honored Chick with multiple awards including the Robert Hatch Award, the Helen Papaioanou Award for Extraordinary Service to Bates, and induction into the Bates Scholar Athlete Society.

Chick was an active member of St. Patrick's Church, serving as altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister, and vice president of the parish council.

He leaves his wife of 55 years, Ruth, and four children: Dr. Ann-Marie Leahey(Dr. David Vaughn), COL(ret) Mark Leahey (Michele), Barbara Sullivan, Captain(ret) Matthew Leahey (Melissa); seven grandchildren Megan, Kaitlyn, Anna, Erin, Luke, Maggie, and Ellie, and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his first wife Yvette Tardif, brother Wallace, and son-in law Patrick Sullivan.

Online condolences and sharing of memories may be expressed at [www.lynchbrothers.com](http://www.lynchbrothers.com)

LEAHEY died in Auburn March 26th., Mr. William J. "Chick" Leahey, Jr., age 90 years a resident of Lewiston.

A Mass of Christian Burial honoring "Chick's life will be celebrated 11:00AM SATURDAY, April 2nd at Holy Family Church. Military honors to follow at Mt. Hope Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial donations in Chick's memory may be made to either the Bates College Baseball Fund c/o College Advancement attn: Eric Foushee 2 Andrews Rd. Lewiston, ME 04240 or to the Hospice House 236 Stetson Rd., Auburn, ME 04210

Family and friends are invited to visit Friday April 1st from 2-4 & 7-9PM at the PINETTE DILLINGHAM & LYNCH FUNERAL HOME 305 Alfred Plourde Parkway, Lewiston, 784-4023

# Events

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**APR**   **Visitation**                      02:00PM - 04:00PM

**1**

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Pinette Dillingham & Lynch Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
305 Alfred Plourde Parkway PO Box 181, Lewiston, ME, US, 04240

**APR**   **Visitation**                      07:00PM - 09:00PM

**1**

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Pinette Dillingham & Lynch Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
305 Alfred Plourde Parkway PO Box 181, Lewiston, ME, US, 04240

**APR**   **Service**                      11:00AM - 12:00PM

**2**

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Holy Family Church  
615 Sabattus Street, Lewiston, ME, US, 04240

# Comments

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“What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.” ~ Saint Augustine

The world is a better place because so many young lives were touched by Mr. Leahey.

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your families during this time of great sadness and loss.

Love, Tammy (Cook) Foskey

**Tammy Foskey** - April 01 at 07:57 AM

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“Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Mr. William J. Leahey, Jr..



March 31 at 01:00 PM

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“Chick was a wonderful baseball coach and warm human being. I loved playing for him and my 4 years at Bates under his tutelage were four of the happiest years of my life.

I contacted him a couple years ago, out of the blue, and was warmed by the fact that he remembered me after more than 40 years.

Bob ( Whale ) Walenski '68

**bob walenski** - March 31 at 12:41 PM

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“Ruth and family, on behalf of Claire and I, Christina and Steven, our deepest sympathies on your loss. Claire worked at Bates for many years, knew Chick and admired him.

Peter & Claire Lavallee

**Peter & Claire Lavallee** - March 31 at 05:40 AM

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“ Chick was a gentleman, avid competitor, inspirational teammate, and an excellent role model for all who were fortunate to come into contact with him. Don Irish, ex-teammate Auburn Asas.

**Donald Irish** - March 30 at 08:38 AM

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“ I love Chick. I met him in 1978 when I joined him on Web Harrison's football staff. My dad passed away in 1976 and Chick became a great friend and mentor and filled the void left by my dad. I miss him.  
Dana (Coach Mul)

**Dana Mulholland** - March 30 at 08:37 AM

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“ To Ruth and your entire family, Please accept our deepest condolences on the passing of Chick. He had such a positive impact on me personally from the day I met him as a Freshman football player in 1961, until the last time I saw him on campus this past Fall. I have never met anyone who was a more warm and caring person. We were blessed to have had Chick in our lives.  
Jim & Elsa Callahan

**Jim Callahan** - March 29 at 12:54 PM

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“ I had the pleasure to meet chick at the caddy camp reunion at Poland spring. Chick was a gentleman, shared his memories of caddy camp. My deepest sympathies to Ruth and family.

**Linda Goodwin** - March 29 at 10:06 AM

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attn: Eric Foushee 2 Andrews Rd. Lewiston, ME 04240 or to the Hospice House 236 Stetson Rd., Auburn, ME 04210

**Jim** - March 29 at 01:05 AM

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“ 4 files added to the album Bates Baseball



Jim Lynch - March 29 at 12:46 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. William J. Leahey, Jr..



March 28 at 09:07 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. William J. Leahey, Jr..



March 28 at 06:18 PM