

Joseph P. Szostkiewicz, (Joe Soskovic)

Born: November 4, 1925

Died: November 26, 2015

Location: Chicopee, Massachusetts



[Barry J Farrell Funeral Home](#)

2049 Northampton Street

Holyoke, MA 01040

Tel. (413) 536-3843

Tribute & Message From The Family



CHICOPEE – Joseph Szostkiewicz, 90 passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Thursday, November 26, 2015 at Bay State Medical Center in Springfield, MA. He was predeceased by his lovely wife of 62 years, Thelma Clements on January 21, 2013. Joe was born in Holyoke, son of the late Jan and Karolina (Stybak) Szostkiewicz. He was a 1944 graduate of Holyoke High School and was later employed by US Postal Service as a letter carrier. He retired in 1988 after 33 years of service. Joe was a communicant of St. Anne Parish in Chicopee. He especially enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed, family vacations, trips to casinos and and playing bingo. Joe is survived by his daughters Karen Lee Szostkiewicz, Jo-Ann Soskovic, and Carole Jones and her husband Tom. He leaves his grandchildren, Michael Roeder, Eric Lavigne and his wife Cobie, their three children Sean, Kyra and Aiden along with Jeremy

Lavigne, and his two children Travis and Tyler, his friend Lynn and her daughter Alexis. He is survived by his brother, Charles (Charlie) Szostkiewicz and his wife Gail of South Hadley. He was predeceased by his sisters Helen Walaszek ,Natalie Tabaczynski and brother Daniel Szostkiewicz. Joe was a native of Holyoke and signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers minor league affiliates after tryouts for Branch Rickey, Leo Durocher and other coaches his junior year. He returned to high school for his senior year and led the school to the Western Massachusetts Championships in both baseball and basketball. He was chosen most valuable player in both sports. He continued his love of sports by participating in semi pro baseball teams as well as working as an umpire and referee in baseball and basketball. During World War II, Joseph served in the South Pacific in the US Navy as Seaman First Class, awarded World War II Victory, American Theatre, and Asiatic Pacific

Medals.

A sampling of the awards and honors that Joe received includes

- The Golden Boy and Man and Boy awards at the Holyoke Boy's Club.
- Life Member of the Holyoke Lodge of the Elks #902.
- Life Member of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 46.
- Life Member and Past President of the Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association.

- Past President Board #31 of the International Association of Basketball Officials

- Treasurer of Class of 1944 Holyoke High School Graduates

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the dedicated staff of The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke Massachusetts. A viewing will be held on Tuesday, December 1 from

4:00 to 7:00PM at Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home 2049 Northampton St. Holyoke, MA.

The funeral will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 8:45 AM at Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home 2049 Northampton St. Holyoke, MA followed by a 10:00AM Mass at St. Anne

Parish in Chicopee. Burial will follow at the Mater Dolorosa Cemetery, South Hadley. In

lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Soldiers' Home Recreation

Fund in Holyoke, 110 Cherry St., Holyoke MA 01040. Please reference Joe in any contributions.

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