



Mr. Stephen M. Botto Jr.

March 4, 1975 - July 19, 2020

Stephen M. Botto, Jr.

Loving Husband, Father, Son, Brother

Beloved Teacher and Coach

LOWELL----Stephen M. Botto, Jr., 45, passed away on Sunday evening, July 19, 2020 at his home, surrounded by his family, after a courageous battle with cancer. Steve's wife, Melissa (Burns) Botto, with whom he recently celebrated 18 years of marriage with, his son Matthew, and his daughter Abigail, were his biggest fans and were his greatest source of joy. Steve was born in Lowell on March 4, 1975 to Stephen M. Botto, Sr. and Colleen (Langan) Botto. He was the eldest son of their four children. Steve was a natural caregiver and loved his parents and siblings, older sister, Keri (Boucher), younger brother Michael, and younger sister, Kristine (Drust) with all he had. He never ceased to make his family proud with his kindness and his sense of humor could always be counted on. Steve grew up in Lowell and attended St. Louis Elementary School and was a graduate of Lowell High School's Class of 1993. Lowell High School is also where he met Melissa in his Sophomore year. His athletic ability and focus made Steve a standout and he was a three year starter as a second baseman for LHS. After graduation, Steve went onto UMASS Lowell where he played second base for the River Hawks and was Team Captain for

two years. Steve's leadership ability and hard work made him a beloved and respected teammate and player. In 1998 Steve began his career at Greater Lowell Technical High School where his lifelong theme of dedication made him a reputable member of the faculty as well as a favorite among the students he taught. Soon after being hired, Steve became the assistant coach of the GLTHS Baseball Team and he held that position for many years. He then transitioned to coaching the Freshman Baseball Team at Lowell High School. He led both of these teams to many victories. However, as parents and players would agree, what mattered most to Steve was not the outcome but that the game was played with each athlete's whole heart and soul. Steve began to coach baseball at Shedd Park once Matthew was old enough to play. Steve became an invaluable member of the Shedd Park Organization. His dedication to the youth he coached is obvious in the love and respect they had for him and is evident in their love and respect for the game. As with all things Steve did, he gave 100% to the organization and joined the Shedd Park Board and most recently became the Director of Player Development. Steve was so proud to coach his son and teammates on the Shedd Park Travel Team, and they so were looking forward to their August trip to Cooperstown which was unfortunately cancelled. Throughout Steve's years of teaching and coaching he touched and impacted an immeasurable amount of young lives. His encouraging words, "nice rip", his presence on first base, his humorous approach, his threats of "burpees" or pushups if the dugout wasn't clean are a few of the countless memories each of the players he instructed will never forget when they take the field. Above all else, what made Steve happiest was being with his family. Annual trips to Seabrook Beach were a favorite for him and his family, as were attending concerts, family cookouts, and Christmastime. Steve and Melissa loved taking family trips during February vacation. He looked forward to taking Matthew and Abby to games and parades and relished every minute of watching his children run, play and swim. Steve's presence will be greatly missed by his family, his community, his students, his players and his fellow coaches.

In addition to his wife, children, parents, and sisters, Steve is survived by his brothers-in-law, Kevin Boucher, and Don Drust, mother-in-law Roberta Burns, sister-in-law Jennifer (Burns) Martin and her husband David, brother-in-law, Christopher Burns and his wife Dale; nieces and nephews, Jacob Boucher, David Martin Jr., Emily Martin, Lily Boucher, Joshua Boucher, Michael Botto, Brewer Drust, Christopher Burns, Benjamin Burns, Oakley Drust, and Zachary Burns. Steve leaves behind many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends, including his closest friend and cousin, Tom Langan. Steve was the brother of the late Michael Botto who passed away in 2017. He was the son-in-law of the late William Burns and the grandson of the late Stephen and Mary Botto and the late John Sr. and Dolly Langan.

FUNERAL NOTICE

BOTTO—In Lowell, July 19, 2020, at his home, Stephen M. Botto, Jr., the beloved husband of Melissa (Burns) Botto. Family and friends may call at the FAY McCABE FUNERAL HOME, 105 MOORE ST. LOWELL on FRIDAY from 3 until 7 PM. To ensure the health and safety of all, social distancing measures will be in place and masks will be required. Due to current restrictions, Steve's FUNERAL MASS on SATURDAY MORNING will be PRIVATE, however, all are welcome to attend his COMMITTAL PRAYERS AT THE GRAVESITE (Sec. 8, center) AT ST. MARY'S CEMETERY, 90 River Rd. in TEWKSBURY at approximately 12:15 PM.

As an expression of sympathy, in lieu of flowers, donations in Steve's memory may be made to the Stephen M. Botto, Jr. Children's College Fund, c/o any Lowell Five Bank Branch.

ARRANGEMENTS BY THE
FAY McCABE FUNERAL DIRECTORS
978-459-9222 www.faymccabe.com

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Cemetery

90 River Road
North Tewksbury, MA 01876
(978) 851-2248
<http://www.stmarycemetery.com/>

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JUL **24**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Fay McCabe Funeral Home
105 Moore Street
Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 459-9222
sean@faymccabe.com
<https://www.faymccabe.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Stephen M. Botto Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 03:09 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss Melissa. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. - Nic*

Nic Valentino - July 26, 2020 at 03:09 PM



“ *Our sincere condolences on the passing of your beloved Stephen. May God grant him eternal rest. You are all in our prayers. Love, Karen and Jack Green*

Karen Green - July 25, 2020 at 10:15 AM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Steve's passing. He was always a cheerful and upbeat colleague at Gltech. He was such a hero to so many of the students he coached in baseball. My deepest condolences to his family.*

Carol Fine

Carol Fine - July 25, 2020 at 12:18 AM

KC

“ Kelly Dugas Coveney lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Botto Jr.



Kelly Dugas Coveney - July 24, 2020 at 08:25 PM

LB

“ My sincere condolences to the entire Botto family. My husband Jim and I are thinking of the entire family. Linda & Jim Borodawka

Linda Borodawka - July 24, 2020 at 07:54 PM

SP

“ Dear Botto Family, I am so sorry for your unbelievable loss. It is evident by the amazing tributes that Steve will live on in so many hearts.

Melissa, you have shown incredible strength throughout Steve's long and courageous battle. Please know that your Kronos family will surround you and your family with love and support.

Love and prayers, Susan Paugh

Susan Paugh - July 24, 2020 at 06:21 PM

HS

“ My deepest sympathy Melissa to you, your children and the entire Botto family my thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Love, Helen

Helen Santerre - July 24, 2020 at 10:15 AM

WI

“ You will be missed! So many memories. Fun time at the beach, stopping at your parents house unexpected! Your Dad telling you to go in the other room, and Kristine would question him which no one else did. You were a lot like your Dad! Watching you discipline your kids. You were stern but in a kind way. They will have great memories! RIP Steven.

winnie - July 23, 2020 at 09:41 PM

KZ

“ Dear Melissa, Matthew, and Abby, I am so sorry for your loss. Extending my deepest sympathies to you, the entire Botto family and the Lowell community who Steve had such a profound impact on. Love and prayers, Kylene

Kylene Zenk - July 23, 2020 at 08:06 PM

AE

“ Mr. Botto was a memorable teacher for me, as a quiet student I did not have many people to talk to in High School, but Mr. Botto was able to help me step out of my comfort zone in gym and complete the adventure courses. His small words of encouragement meant so much to me and I still think back to that class with good memories that would not exist if he had not been there. I am so sorry for this loss. Its heartbreaking to hear when such a wonderful person is taken from this world. My deepest condolences to Mr. Botto's family, friends and students.

Amber E. - July 23, 2020 at 04:38 PM

BC

“ The Bottos have been our neighbors for 30+years...Steve will be missed and my condolences to the family and you will be in our prayers....

Bart Catalano - July 23, 2020 at 10:06 AM

 Nicole
Mertineit

“ *Melissa, Matthew, and Abby - I'm so sorry for your loss. It's clear from the remembrances that Steve was an inspiration to many And touched so many lives. All my love to you, Nicole*

Nicole Mertineit - July 23, 2020 at 08:49 AM

JG

“ *To the Botto Family, You are such a good family and Steve was Truly what everyone depicted him as....He was humble, kind and just a true Gentleman. I loved to make him laugh. I know he is looking down and wanting all of you to know he is Safe and and Smiling. Love to you all,*

Jamie J Gitschier - July 23, 2020 at 08:28 AM

KH

“ *Melissa, Matthew & Abby - Our hearts are with you. With love, Kristine, Jeff, Tommy & Ally*

Kristine Hunt - July 22, 2020 at 07:18 PM

BG

“ *mr Steve botto was a great and a very nice man as well as a great instructor and coach he will be very deeply missed R.I.P. I know you have been struggling with this cancer for the past nine years you are in a better place with out struggling thru this bad cancer ill miss you*

ben gauthier - July 22, 2020 at 04:45 PM

KR

“ *Melissa, Matthew, and Abby: Sending you our thoughts, our sympathies, our love, and our strength to help you get through this. So very sorry for your loss.
Love: Kristen, Ashley, Shane, and Leah*

Kristen - July 22, 2020 at 02:14 PM

DP

“ *Steve was a warrior. My deepest condolences to the Botto family. Saw him most mornings at the gym and he always stay positive. A true fighter! A Lowell baseball brother forever.*

Don Perigny

Don Perigny - July 22, 2020 at 02:08 PM

SH

“ *My deepest condolences to the Botto family. Steve was a great physical education instructor. Every day he put a smile on the students faces and would push them to do better. He will never be forgotten.*

sandra homem - July 22, 2020 at 12:59 PM

TE

“ *Melissa, I'm so sorry for your loss. You, your children, and extended family are in my thoughts. It's obvious from the tributes that Steve will have a lasting impact on many, many people
Gentle hugs.*

Terri Edkins

Terri Edkins - July 22, 2020 at 11:14 AM

MH

“ *My deepest sympathy to both the Botto and Burns families. May Steve’s legacy of love and giving bring you solace at this sad time.*

Marge Hanson

Marge Hanson - July 22, 2020 at 09:53 AM



“ *Steve, you taught me so much. Every year at Mt Pleasant we would talk about teaching, coaching and HS/youth sports. You cared about everyone and knew all the names of everyone's family. You and I were dinosaurs still reading the real newspaper (Herald, Tribune and Sun because we didn't want to miss anything in local sports) and we certainly took our share of getting made fun of from the boys for buying a newspaper. I will miss those great conversations and for me, they were learning moments. You gave all of us "Phys Ed" teachers a good name. You were a role model for all of us.*

Rest easy Steve.

Scott O

Scott Ouellet - July 22, 2020 at 09:30 AM

KI

“ *I had Mr. Botto and I remember one day him just not showing up anymore. We were all confused and worried as to what was going on. When he came back he had told us his cancer came back. I cried and cried, he pulled me aside and said everything was going to be okay. He gave me a hug and it was just like I knew he was going to be okay. Mr. Botto is an amazing person, strong, smart and so caring to everyone around him. Rest in the sweetest of peace, you're truly loved. Condolences to his wife, kids and family.*

Kierra - July 22, 2020 at 09:21 AM

EM

“ Mr. Botto, where do I begin with you. Sophomore year we couldn't stand each other. You would roll your eyes when you knew it was the period Ashley & I would be coming. (That's if we would ever show up at all.) You were constantly on our asses, writing us up, detention. To say the least we didn't get along. But then senior year, I had you as my teacher again. & This year was my year to fight to walk the stage or get kicked out. & Idk maybe by this time we grew an understanding with each other. Or maybe it was the fact they pulled me away from all my friends. But you helped me, you pushed me, you coached me to become better. I remember even going back after graduating to pay a visit to everyone I missed & you were actually on that list. Rest in peace Mr. Botto, it's been years now but I'll never forget our time shared together. You went from the teacher I despised the most. Too one who will always be remembered. Praying for his family.

Erika Misitano - July 22, 2020 at 08:34 AM

DA

“ Mr. Botto where do i begin!? You were an awesome gym teacher , coach father and mentor you will be forever missed by everyone . I will never forget the day you snuck to our graduation to make sure Edward graduated AND YOU SURE DID <3 always believed in your students .

THEY WILL NEVER FIND ANOTHER LIKE YOU THE GOAT <3

Dawnelle - July 22, 2020 at 07:25 AM

DA

“ So heartbroken I had Mr. Botto as a Gym teacher in my sophomore year at Greater Lowell. He was always such a polite, upbeat person. He always pushed Students to reach their full potential including myself. Prayers to his wife Melissa and his two children. Also Prayers to his Greater Lowell Family from Teachers, Staff, and Current/ Former Students. Thanks for all the memories and Rest in peace. 🙏

-Daniel St. Cyr

Daniel - July 21, 2020 at 11:08 PM

MF

“ Melissa, Abby and Matthew, we are very sorry for your loss.

My son was fortunate to have Steve as a coach during the Shedd park clinics. He always had encouraging words and a kind smile.

Thank you for sharing him with us. He will be missed.

The Foote Family

Maxine Foote - July 21, 2020 at 10:06 PM

LD

“ Mr. Botto.

You truly were a shining light. I wish I had had the opportunity to see you one last time. However, the memories I have of you will remain with me forever. Thank you for pushing me to be the very best at everything I pursue. May you rest in the sweetest peace and know that you were loved by so many. God bless you and your family. My prayers go out to you all.

Lianna Danas - July 21, 2020 at 10:04 PM

SS

“ Scott Sabotka lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Botto Jr.



scott sabotka - July 21, 2020 at 10:04 PM

ED

“ Our community has lost one of the nicest guys and true gentlemen. Whenever I would see you in the halls of GLTech you would brighten my day with your smile and conversation. You were always upbeat and happy; even while going through treatment you displayed such strength. Our school will not be the same without you; you positively impacted so many students' lives and were the perfect role model for them. God Bless you and your beautiful family. I will miss you. RIP Botto 4.

Eileen Dufour - July 21, 2020 at 10:00 PM

BJ

“ Knew Steve from playing baseball in the over 30 league as teammates in Nashua a few years ago. Great guy, great teammate and the best damn 2nd baseman I ever played with. I'm shocked that he's gone so soon. RIP Botto. You will definitely be missed.

Bill Jones - July 21, 2020 at 09:46 PM

JD

“ The Day family will never forget how strong you always were all these years. You would always be on a brave face and smile. Your memory will live on in our hearts. Rest in Paradise 💕💕

Jazlyn Day - July 21, 2020 at 09:45 PM

TS

“Stevie you were a great man in a world that seems to be lacking greatness. A true gentleman, and tough as nails. I am proud to call you a friend and you were a great co worker. I'll never forget when you when you went through your first bout with this insidious disease I said you look better now than you did before! You said “I know!” I thought, if anyone could beat it , it would be you....maybe your brother Mike needed you , I don't how these things work, I don't believe the Lord does things for no reason. I'm mad that you are gone too soon as are many others , but I am happy that you are no longer suffering . You were loved by many.

thomas shanley - July 21, 2020 at 09:42 PM

ED

Our community has lost one of the nicest guys and true gentlemen. Whenever I would see you in the halls of GLTech you would brighten my day with your smile and conversation. You were always upbeat and happy; even while going through treatment you displayed such strength. Our school will not be the same without you; you positively impacted so many students' lives and were the perfect role model for them. God Bless you and your beautiful family. I will miss you. RIP Botto 4.

Eileen Dufour - July 21, 2020 at 09:53 PM

MC

Thank you Steve for providing an example of the type of person I can be grateful for. You are respected, loved, and made an impact in this world with your students, colleagues, family, and friends. God bless and thank you. Your friends and family are in my Prayers

Mike Chadwick - July 21, 2020 at 10:09 PM

SS

“ You were such a great person even tho I never had you for PHYS ED but I always saw you walking throw the hallways when I had phys ed with other teacher and you inspired every students and other teacher right now your in a better place and you’re an angel 🙏 and I can’t believe you’re gone rest in paradise long live mr botto

Steven Santiago - July 21, 2020 at 09:29 PM

JP

“ Thank you for making gym class bearable, for being an amazing person wether you were teacher me or not! I will never forget you and all the laughs we had. Rest in the Sweetest Peace Botto ❤️❤️
❤️

Jessica Paquette - July 21, 2020 at 09:25 PM

DM

On behalf of Marcel & Kay Brule and family we all extend our deepest Condolences to the entire Botto family. We are so sorry for your loss. May Steve R.I.P.with his brother, forever 💙💙

Diane (Brule) Valliere Dracut, Ma - July 22, 2020 at 09:10 AM

DV

“ You were a great teacher/ role model thank you for all the thing you did for the school. Thank you for being my first gym teacher I had in high school, Rest In Peace we will miss you!

Devin Viravong - July 21, 2020 at 09:24 PM

SD

“ You were a very good man always made me feel good and always makes me laugh so I hope you are proud of me right now

Stephanie Donovan - July 21, 2020 at 09:16 PM

EG

“ You were a great teacher and role model. Thank you for all you have done for our school and community. You are forever in our hearts, and I trust that beyond the veil of death you now know only peace, comfort, and healing. Rest peacefully, Sir. We miss you.
GLTHS Class of 2011



Edward Goodwin - July 21, 2020 at 09:14 PM

MB

“ If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have passed english class sophomore year and I would've got held back. Thank you for letting me skip my last 3 days of “physical education” to make up work and become a junior. Thank you for always being so understanding and pushing me to try project adventure. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers, rest easy❤️

Macayley Batherwich - July 21, 2020 at 09:12 PM

NR

“ You were my gym teacher for the past 2 years and honestly you always gave me great advice , you will be missed by many. Crazy to think you just emailed me not too long ago telling me to stay healthy and safe this summer . May you rest in the sweetest peace Mr.Botto ❤️



Nysis Reyes - July 21, 2020 at 09:07 PM

HM

“ My first year of High School was not gym with you, it was health. You wanted to do so much more with us, take us out of that classroom and bring us to the gym. You thought we'd learn better hands on. You were right about that one. i then had you as a gym teacher and it was different. I thought you were picking on me because I was your former student the year before. I would get so angry because all eyes were on me when you pointed me out. We would be doing some gym course that involved higher obstacles and you knew I wanted to do them, I was just scared. When I was on the rock climbing wall I kept telling everyone I didn't want to go any higher and you raised me up, I was so scared but you told me i'd be alright. You told me I was safe and not to look down. I then reached the next rock. You showed me you were never picking on me, but explained that you knew I was so much more to this world than what I was believing. You showed me more than you probably know. Because of you, Mr. Botto, I will always reach the next rock. Thank you, you will be missed completely 💙 - A former GLTHS student, hailey mk

Hailey Mk - July 21, 2020 at 08:59 PM

AL

Beautiful Hailey. My nephew wouldn't pick on anyone.

Ann M. Botto Langsn - July 21, 2020 at 09:29 PM



George Hovey

“ My sincere heartfelt condolences'. The response from all who knew Steve and your family reflects how much he was loved and respected.

George Hovey - July 21, 2020 at 08:20 PM

AL

“ *To our wonderful nephew you are loved and missed by us tremendously. Very sad for you to leave us so soon. You always had a big smile on your face. You were always fine. Love Aunt Ann and Uncle Ed. Xoxo 🥺*

Ann and Ed Langan_ed@yahoo.com - July 21, 2020 at 06:57 PM

SR

“ *Sean And Erin Rourke lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Botto Jr.*



Sean and Erin Rourke - July 21, 2020 at 06:03 PM