



## Edward F. Szela

March 13, 1936 - January 9, 2018

Edward F. Szela, 81, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at Baystate Medical Center, with his loving family at his side. Born March 13, 1936, son of the late Franciszek and Bronislawa (Bernat) Szela, he was raised in Thompsonville, CT, and has resided in Longmeadow for the past forty-five years. A graduate of Enfield High School, Ed continued his education at the former Hampden College of Pharmacy, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy. He retired after a forty-five year career as a pharmacist at Baystate Medical Center. A communicant of St. Mary's Church, Ed was also an avid sports fan, especially for New England teams, and greatly enjoyed gardening. He and his wife Jeanne were dedicated polka music enthusiasts, supporting various festivals and polka bands. In 1999, Ed was elected a director of the International Polka Association (IPA) and was actively involved in fundraising for the organization. In 2012, he was honored by the IPA with the Joe Jozwiak Award. In 2010, Ed was presented with the Citizen of the Year Award by the Ludlow Polish American Citizens Club, where he served as a board member and dance committee chairman. Ed is survived by his beloved wife of fifty-two years, Jeanne C. (Kurczap) Szela; loving daughters, Sue Szela and husband Rob Czech of West Springfield, and Sandy Congdon and husband Brad of Reading; cherished grandchildren, Sophia Mary and Chase Edward Congdon; and several cousins and dear friends. Funeral services for Ed will be held Saturday at 8:15AM from Kozikowski Funeral Home, 565 Front St., Chicopee, followed by a Mass of

Christian Burial at 10AM in St. Mary's Church, 519 Longmeadow St., Longmeadow. Burial will follow in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Chicopee. Calling hours are Friday from 4-7PM.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Stanislaus Cemetery

800 Montgomery St.  
Chicopee, MA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 12. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kozikowski Funeral Home  
565 Front Street  
Chicopee, MA 01013  
(413) 592-9256  
kozikowskifh@gmail.com

## Service

JAN 13. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Church  
519 Longmeadow St.  
Longmeadow, MA

# Tribute Wall

LK

“ So sorry to hear of Ed's passing. He would always make a point of greeting us when we came to a polka dance at the PACC in Ludlow. He was always warm and welcoming. A great guy and big polka promoter in the western Mass. area. He will be greatly missed in the polka community.

*Laura and Lenny Kokoski*

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**Laura Kokoski** - January 11, 2018 at 04:43 PM

HV

“ Sorry to hear about Ed I am sure he will be missed by all...Carol and Hank Vaillancourt

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**Henry vaillancourt** - January 11, 2018 at 10:23 AM

BJ

“ Our deepest sympathy to your family. We will greatly miss the many fun times with Ed. Sharing in your sorrow with love and friend ship.

*Barry & Dianne*

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**Barry Juhasz** - January 11, 2018 at 12:50 AM