



Roland J. Coutu, age 58, of Warwick, RI passed away suddenly at home on July 29. He was the beloved husband of Patricia (Gentile) Coutu to whom he had been married for 26 years. He was born in West Warwick, RI a son of Gertrude Coutu and the late Clarence Coutu.

Besides his wife, he leaves his two adored children, Katherine and Nicholas, whom he considered his greatest gifts on earth. He also leaves his mother, Gertrude, three sisters, Diane and Deborah Coutu of Natick, MA, Denise Wells (Lloyd) of Rochester, MN; three brothers, Michael (Joanne) of Rye Beach, NH, Paul (Cheryl) of Seekonk, MA and Carl (Mary) Coutu of West Warwick, RI. He also leaves behind many loved nieces and nephews, friends and professional associates.

Mr. Coutu was a member of the West Warwick Police Department for over 23 years, most recently a Major and SWAT Team Commander. He served as the Lead Investigator for the West Warwick Police Department in the 2003 Station Nightclub Fire that claimed 100 lives and was assigned to the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office as a Special Investigator. He considered himself very fortunate to have pursued his passion for law enforcement and prided himself as a mentor, providing guidance to other officers and to those seeking employment. He joined the police department at a later age than most, following earlier careers in the financial industry and with Coutu Lumber Company, a former RI family business. He held roles in many professional services organizations throughout his career.

Mr. Coutu gained undergraduate degrees from Boston University in Business Management and Roger Williams University in Administration of Justice. He attained a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Roger Williams University. Mr. Coutu also obtained a number of professional certifications during his lengthy service.

Mr. Coutu lived a wonderful, albeit short life and was most happy when hosting family and friends at his home. He was an avid New England Patriots fan, was technologically savvy and enjoyed trouble-shooting computer problems. Other passions included grilling, making sauce and meatballs with his daughter, keeping up on the latest car and truck features with his son, and strolling the shoreline at Narragansett with his wife.

His funeral will take place on Friday, August 4 at 9:30 a.m. from the Potvin-Quinn Funeral Home, 45 Curson Street, West Warwick, followed by a mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. at St. Gregory the Great Church, 360 Cowesett Road, Warwick. Visiting hours will be Thursday, August 3 from 4pm to 8pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.