



South Cemetery, Boxborough, MA

I know for certain . . .  
that we never lose the people we love, even to death.  
They continue to participate in every act,  
thought and decision we make.  
Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories.  
We find comfort in knowing that our lives have  
been enriched by having shared their love.  
— Leo Buscaglia

United States Military Honors  
This ceremony honors Sonny's service

Lord God, Almighty Father, creator of humankind and author of peace,  
as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess,  
we ask you to bless the members of our armed forces.  
Give them courage, hope and strength. May they ever experience  
your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing.  
Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light.

The Playing of Taps

The Presentation of the American Flag to Sonny's Family

A Prayer of Commendation

And now we offer and commend Sonny to the Everlasting One.

Robert, we say to you in the midst of our sorrow and loss  
that we are grateful that you lived your life among us.  
We are grateful for your quiet gentleness and for your firm  
resolve to live life and to die on your own terms.

We take joy and relief in knowing that your journey has ended.

We ask you now for forgiveness for any of the ways we may have hurt you  
in this life -- and we forgive you for any of the ways you may have hurt us.  
We release you now into the Everlasting Arms. May your passage be swift.

Blessing

And now, please bow your heads & pray for God's Blessing

May you go from this place knowing that Sonny,  
the person you love is now at peace.

May you trust that the One who sustains us all, will hold you  
and keep you during the darkest of days.

And may you reenter your lives, infused with the desire

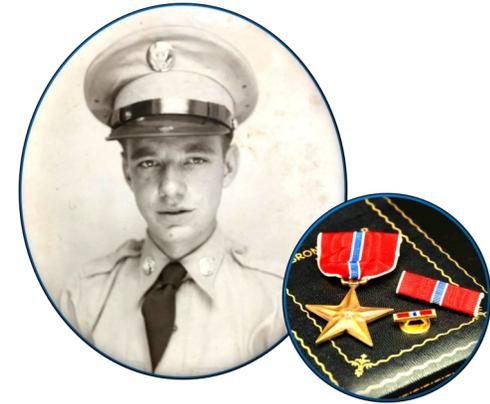


Rev. Nicholas C. Ciccone, Jr., Ph. D.

Chaplain

Ascend Hospice of Massachusetts

[www.ascendhospice.com](http://www.ascendhospice.com)



Robert R. Priest, Sr.

February 4, 1932 ~ December 17, 2020



O God, it is your love that has called us into being and  
given us this wonderful gift that we call life.  
It is your love that inspires us and strengthens us  
all along our own pathways of life.

Be especially present with us here today as we focus our  
attention, prayers, and our love upon the life of Sonny.

Speak to us through our faith in Your Love,  
Your love for us, and Your continuing love for him.

Help us to hear Your Word, and to feel Your presence with us now,  
so that all who have come might not go away feeling empty inside.

Touch the members of this family, and this gathering of friends,  
in this, their time of loss and need.

December 23, 2020

11:00 am





Robert R. Priest, Sr.  
 "Sonny"  
 February 4, 1932 ~ December 17, 2020  
 Boxborough | Age 88

Sonny was the son of the late Robert and Grace Priest of Boxboro.

He was the brother of the late William and Charles Priest.

He leaves his former wife Phyllis Priest of Boxboro, his son Charles Priest Sr., his wife June, and his grandson Charles (CJ) Priest Jr.

He was the grandfather of Karla McCool, a Master Sgt. in the U.S. Air Force, her husband Wes, also in the U.S. Air Force, their children Trezden, Ronan and Ryder.

He was also the grandfather of Tiffany Hudson, her husband Jeff and their children, Finley, Emily, Silas and Jax.

Sonny was the father of the late Robert Jr., and Karl Priest.

Sonny attended schools in Boxboro and Acton. He left high school to join the U.S. Army, where he was in the 24th Division.

He served in the Korean Conflict where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.



Second Letter of Paul to Timothy  
 2 Timothy 4:6-8

My life is coming to an end, and it is now time for me to be poured out as a sacrifice to God.

I have fought the good fight.

I have completed the race.

I have kept the faith.

The prize that shows I have God's approval is now waiting for me.

The Lord, who is a fair judge, will give me that prize on that day.

He will give it not only to me but also to everyone who is eagerly waiting for him to come again.

Family Reflections and Memories

Prayer for Sonny

The death of someone we love and care about is like the death of part of us.

No one else will ever call out from within us quite the same responses, the same feelings or actions or ideas. Their death is an ending of one part of a story. Lord, as we look back over Sonny's life, we ask what we have received, what we can appropriate and continue on in our own lives and what must be laid to rest.

Our love for him reminds us that our sharing in one another's lives bring both support and pain. Our being parted from him reminds us of our own mortality, but that your love is enduring.

Our love for Sonny draws us together, and gives us a new appreciation of one another, and of the beauty and fragility of relationships, which mirror your grace and goodness to us.

Lord, time's tide may wash his footprints from the shore, but not our love for him nor the influence of his life upon our own, nor the ways in which they will ever be a sign for us of those things which really matter - which are eternal.



The Masonic Funeral Ritual

is the most important act of compassion and service that a Masonic Lodge can perform for a Freemason and his family.

Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest fraternity.

It is comprised of adult men (18+) of good character from every country, religion, race, age, income, education, and opinion, who believe in a Supreme Being. Its body of knowledge and system of ethics is based on the belief that each man has a responsibility to improve himself while being devoted to his family, faith, country, and fraternity.

Freemasonry (often simplified to "Masonry") enhances and strengthens the character of the individual man by providing opportunities for fellowship, charity, education, and leadership based on the three ancient Masonic tenets: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. The Massachusetts Grand Lodge is a crowning legacy of this