**Bio for Michael A. Serafino**

Michael A. Serafino was born and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts—the oldest of six children. He was a 1973 graduate of Cathedral High School and a 1977 graduate of Western New England University, where he met his wife of 42 years, Patricia. They raised their three children—Melody, Noelle, and Brandon—in Feeding Hills, MA and at their second home in Vermont. Michael has a grandson, Rowan, whom he totally adored. Sadly, Michael passed away in October 2021, leaving a huge legacy and a great loss for many.

In the late ‘70s, Michael was a music reviewer for the Springfield Republican newspaper. Then he started his career in sales at New England Telephone. He then became an investment manager for 40 years with the past 12 years spent as a senior vice president and portfolio manager at Raymond James in Springfield, MA. He loved his work and could not imagine retiring. He had also served as an adjunct faculty member at STCC teaching investments.

His passion was music, and he was a fine musician, even putting out a CD with all the proceeds going to charity. For decades, Michael was involved in philanthropy, serving on the boards of United Way, Behavioral Health Network (BHN), and Western New England University (WNE). He served as chairman of the board at both WNE and the MacDuffie School. Michael believed in giving back to his community with his time, money, and expertise. So many looked to him as a mentor and advisor. In life, his family was the most important to him. He was a beloved and adored husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, and coworker. In every way, he was a bright, shining light that went out way too soon.

**Statement of Award Acceptance From the Family**

As his wife and family, we are deeply honored and overwhelmed to accept this very special Hero Award for Michael A. Serafino. He would be so happy knowing that his legacy of giving will live on. Not only did Michael want Springfield to prosper, but he also gave back to Western Mass in general; Wilmington, VT; Hampton, NH; and New York City. He believed the old adage and stated it often, “Do not just talk the talk, walk the walk.” Immediately after graduating from Western New England University, he and a friend made a pledge to work hard, be successful at a young age and make good money—not for themselves but to help those in need. He fulfilled this pledge throughout his life. Always very involved in fundraising for many organizations, Michael believed it was important for businesses and individuals to give back to their community. He worked hard to encourage others to do the same. Local was most important to him; he always bought from small, local businesses not big box stores or online. For all of his charitable work, Michael was extremely humble. Not even his family realized all that he did until after he had passed.

This low-key, yet hardworking man touched hundreds of lives in a myriad of ways. A great listener and communicator, Michael helped so many people with their personal and professional challenges. Michael had three tenets that he constantly repeated: “Overprepare,” “Being on time means being early,” and “Measure twice, cut once.”

As dedicated as this gem of a man was to his career and charity work, his dedication to his wife, children, and grandchild knew no bounds. He almost never missed any of their events, delighting in all of their successes. Michael was loving, spirited, funny, positive, smart, giving, kind, prayerful, and gracious. He just lit up a room. Very talented as well, Michael was a top musician who loved to share this talent with others. A wonderful writer, he used this gift to express his viewpoints and to help others. For relaxation, Michael loved playing his guitars and harmonica, listening to all types of music, gardening with his wife, working out and walking, playing Quiddler, and reading, especially American history. Michael spent lots of wonderful days at his second home of 33 years in Vermont. It gave him peace of mind. For the last 13 years, he also enjoyed spending time by the ocean at Hampton Beach, NH. He lived 86 years in his 66, doing everything he wanted. He loved his life! Several people believe that Michael was an angel on earth. Again, so many thanks for honoring him with this amazing award.

From, Patricia Serafino and Family