



David "Coach" O'Connor

November 8, 1937 - June 15, 2018

Exeter - David "Coach" O'Connor, 80, of Exeter, died June 15, 2018 at Hyder House after a lengthy and inspirational battle with cancer. Knowing that his days in this life were limited, he was granted the gift of time to spend a final winter in Bradenton, FL, to officiate at the wedding of his granddaughter, and to spend quality time with family and his many friends.

David was proud of his six years of service in the US Coast Guard. An active member of the United Church of Christ in North Hampton, he served multiple terms on Church Council, sang in the choir, participated in the Men's Breakfast group, and facilitated the most recent renovation of the sanctuary. He also served in the Hampton Rotary (President-Elect), Lion's Club (President), as a board member at Seacoast Credit Union, and, subsequently, at Service Credit Union, ending his service as Chairman of the Loan Committee. He was also a long-standing member of the American Legion.

Born the youngest of a large family in Salem, MA, he was involved in planning his high school class reunions for many years. An entrepreneur, he owned businesses in Marblehead, MA and Hampton, "Travel Connection", and also worked at PSNH, and as a safety engineer at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and New England Homes. He still found time to pursue his love of travel, especially to Ireland, the Boston Red Sox, NE Patriots and golf.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Joanne (Gagnon) O'Connor, daughters, Ellen (O'Connor) Cronauer and husband Greig, Lauren (Desrochers) Proto and husband Brian, and five "awesome" grandchildren: Whitney (Cronauer) Decker and husband Jason, Nathan Cronauer, and Zachary, Ethan and Keira Proto. He was predeceased by his son, David J. O'Connor.

There will be no calling hours. A celebration of life, followed by a reception with light refreshments, will be held at 1:30 PM, Saturday, June 23 2018 at the United Church of Christ, North Hampton. Burial will be private. Family flowers only. If you wish, memorial donations may be made in David's name to United Church of Christ, 295 Atlantic Avenue, North Hampton, NH 03862, Rockingham VNA & Hospice c/o Exeter Hospital (<https://www.exeterhospital.com/About-Us/Fundraising/Online-Donations>) or Hyder Family Hospice House (<http://friendsofhyderfamilyhospicehouse.org/donate>) Assistance with the arrangements was by the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, Hampton.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **23**. 1:30 PM (ET)

United Church of Christ
295 Atlantic Avenue
North Hampton, NH 03862

Tribute Wall



“ *David "Coach" O'Connor*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *I Will always love my uncle Dave and Pray he is up in Heaven*

Leo J Rowe - June 23, 2018 at 05:32 PM



“ *I will miss you Uncle Dave. Say hello to my mother and all the others in heaven for me please 🥰🥹 Elisabeth LeBrun*

Elisabeth LeBrun - June 18, 2018 at 05:43 PM



“ *I am sorry to hear of Dave's passing. I met Dave as a fellow worker in the PNS Power Plant. He was so likeable and easy-going, with a great personality. Always shared a laugh. Dave was always one to help and serve.*

We had some good times on the softball team. Dave enjoyed playing the role of "The Coach".

I'll miss you, Coach. - Mac Young

Malcolm Young - June 18, 2018 at 05:20 PM



“ *Margie Wilkinson & Bob Landry lit a candle in memory of David "Coach" O'Connor*



Margie Wilkinson & Bob Landry - June 18, 2018 at 05:17 PM

ML

Joanne, You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. We will missed David, especially at Gecko's in Bradenton. We loved to hear his stories. May he Rest In Peace.

Margie Wilkinson and Bob Landry - June 18, 2018 at 05:20 PM

LC

I will always have fond memories of working for David at the Travel Connection. He was a generous and always supportive friend. Although we hadn't seen each other in a while my husband Tom would always give me an update when David & Joanne came into the Brat! My sympathy to Joanne who he worshiped and his children who he always spoke of with great pride.

Libby Clark - June 19, 2018 at 09:03 AM

MH

Coach delivered a yellow rose to me on the morning of my wedding before he drove Tommy to the church in his beautiful, classic Mercedes. I will always remember that smile and warm hug. Sending much love to Joanne and all the family.

Mary Horigan - June 25, 2018 at 07:59 AM