



## Gerald A. McConnell

May 27, 1924 - February 19, 2017

Hampton – Gerald A. “Jerry” McConnell, 92, of Hampton, died Sunday, February 19, 2017 at the Merrimack Valley Hospice House in Haverhill, Mass surrounded by his loved ones.

He was born in Altoona, PA May 27, 1924 the fifth son of the late John and Grace (Fletcher) McConnell.

He left Altoona High School early in his senior year to enlist in the US Marine Corps on January 5, 1942 after Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Jerry participated in the landing against the Japanese Army on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, South Pacific from August 7, 1942 until December 7, 1942 before being evacuated to Brisbane and Melbourne, Australia.

He left Australia with recurring malaria via a hospital ship in September of 1943 and was transported back to Long Beach Naval Hospital in California and then on to St. Albans Naval Hospital in Long Island, NY. He was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation with bronze star for second award combat actions while on Guadalcanal.

Jerry spent ten years in the Marine Corps and was honorably discharged as a

Master Sergeant to attend Columbia University, New York City in 1952. He enlisted in the US Air Force in February of 1955 and completed his enlistment with the rank of Tech Sergeant in February of 1965.

He shared 72 years of marriage with his wife, Betty P. (Hamilton) McConnell whom he married in 1945. They moved to Hampton in 1957 where he began serving the community in many ways. He served on the Planning Board, was representative to the Rockingham County Planning Commission, vice president and life member of the Hampton Historical Society, chairman of the Bicentennial Commission of the US Constitution, member of the Hampton History Book Committee, and served as chairman on the Hampton 350th Anniversary Celebration Committee.

Jerry was also a member of the Hampton Rotary Club, and was chairman of the Guadalcanal project for nearly 10 years, he was advocate and advisor to local seniors' club on seniors / town matters, served as assistant town moderator, served on the Hampton Library Board of Trustees for 10 years, was a member of Hampton's American Legion Post 35, member of Hampton Municipal Records Committee, Solid Waste User Fee Committee, founder, organizer and Charter Chairman of Crime Line for the Hamptons from 1994-2001.

He was chairman for campaign committees for the election of Selectmen Rice, Warburton, Sullivan and Workman, chairman and organizer of the Seniors Appreciation Days weekend, Senior Volunteer Advisor for the Sherriff's Department for TRIAD/SALT Program, member of the Police Advisory Committee, Recreation Advisory Committee, Sandcastle Planning Committee, Hampton Co-chairman for Craig Benson for Governor, WHS Outreach Committee for Expansion, founded, organized and was first president of Friends of Winnacunnet Foundation, columnist for Hampton Union, Atlantic News, Seacoast Scene, Canada Free Press Internet News

Service, Sarasota Florida Internet News Service and was the author of two published books and a book of WW II experiences published on the internet.

Family members include his wife, Betty P. McConnell of Hampton, nieces and nephews.

Visiting hours will be from 1-3 PM Sunday, February 26, 2017 at the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton followed by a brief prayer service at 3 P.M.. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the NH S.P.C.A. P.O. Box 196, Stratham, NH 03885

# Cemetery Details

## Elmwood Cemetery

130 N Lowell Street  
Methuen, MA 01844

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 26. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory  
811 Lafayette Road ·  
Hampton, NH 03842  
(603) 926-6500  
info@remickgendron.com  
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

## Prayer Service

FEB 26. 3:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory  
811 Lafayette Road ·  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Gerald A. McConnell*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *This is how I got to know Jerry, in his own words...*

*<http://www.seacoastmarines.com/JerryMcConnellChapter1-3.html>*

*Kent Cooper*

**Kent Cooper** - August 30, 2017 at 06:20 PM



“ *Mrs. McConnell and family, I am so terribly sorry for your loss. Jerry was my friend, my hero, and so much more. I was greatly saddened to learn of his passing. My children already know of him and I will make sure they remember him well. May God comfort you. And Jerry: Semper Fidelis my friend.*

**Kent Cooper** - August 30, 2017 at 06:14 PM



“ *Robin Winsor lit a candle in memory of Gerald A. McConnell*



**Robin Winsor** - March 01, 2017 at 01:31 PM

BB

“ We at American Legion Post 35 in Hampton are saddened to hear of the passing of our friend and comrade, Jerry. A 31 year member of the Legion, he was revered as a Marine Corp veteran of Guadalcanal in WW II. Although slight in stature, he was a courageous Marine with a big heart, and a great sense of humor. Wise beyond his years, he was the definition of a true gentleman.

*Jerry will be sorely missed.*

*On behalf of the over 310 officers and members of American Legion Post 35, I would like to offer Betty and the rest of their family our deepest condolences.*

*Berk Bennett  
Commander  
American Legion Post 35  
Hampton*

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**Berk Bennett** - February 22, 2017 at 05:02 PM

TG

“ *The Pease Greeters purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Gerald A. McConnell.*



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**The Pease Greeters** - February 22, 2017 at 01:32 PM

CN

“ Thank you, Jerry, for your great service to our country and the gift of patriotism you gave to each and every one of us. What a privilege to have known you and to have been your friend.

*Chris Nevins*

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**Chris Nevins** - February 22, 2017 at 08:28 AM

BB

“ I met Uncle Jerry many, many moons ago; it was always a pleasure being in his company; I will never forget the man.

*Love, Barbara Wunderlich Bunker*

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**Barbara Bunker** - February 21, 2017 at 07:23 PM

DM

“ Donna Meyer-Miller lit a candle in memory of Gerald A. McConnell



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**Donna Meyer-Miller** - February 21, 2017 at 04:39 PM

DM

“ Betty and family my thoughts and prayers are with you all. So many memories we have shared in the last 50+ years. He is up w/ Daddy and Uncle Bill along with many other friends telling stories! There will never be another that could come close to filling Jerrys shoes!! Love to all of you and please find comfort in all the wonderful times and memories you shared! XO

*Love*

*Donna Meyer-Miller*

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**Donna Meyer-Miller** - February 21, 2017 at 04:39 PM

BL

“ On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Lane Memorial Library, I'd like to submit our condolences to the family of Jerry McConnell. He sounded like quite a man who lived a very full and productive life. We can state without any reservation that the library is grateful for his stewardship and guidance. We thank him for his gift of service and the care he took to insure the library would remain available to the community for subsequent generations.

Thank you Jerry.

Bob Lamothe  
Chair Lane Memorial Library Board of Trustees

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**Bob Lamothe** - February 21, 2017 at 01:13 PM

JC

“ Jerry, your beautiful personality and smiling face will be sorely missed at the Town Clerk's Office. Sincere condolences to your family..... Jane Cypher & the staff at the Hampton Town Clerk's Office

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**Jane Cypher** - February 21, 2017 at 12:05 PM

LA

“ Lenny and Jo Anderson purchased the Pretty Ple  
ase for the family of Gerald A. McConnell.



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**Lenny and Jo Anderson** - February 21, 2017 at 09:23 AM



“ Jerry was one of the smiling faces that I Greeted with for many years. I miss seeing him in his red jacket smiling and greeting me for each flight we would shared. He always had a sweet hello. He would ask about the service pups that had moved on and praised the one I had with me.

*My best memory was the day Jerry came to the Hampton SAU Office where I work. He asked Supt. Jim Gaylord if I could join him to meet his friend Chester the "Code Talker".*

*I will never forget him asking if I would like to meet his friend Chester. I was so happy to hear his and Chester's story as we walked to the auditorium. Also to experience the young students in the auditorium realizing the history and time that these men experienced from the two different worlds. Years later Chester passed, then at a Greet Chester's Grandson came through and was Greeted at Pease.*

*I believe that Capt. Ed and Anna will be there to Greet him with all the other Greeters that are Greeting in Heaven.*

*You will be missed*

*Mary and Scott Mace*

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**Mace Mary** - February 21, 2017 at 08:31 AM

RB

“ *How blessed I am to have known him.*

*Respectfully,  
Richard A. Ballou*

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**Richard Ballou** - February 20, 2017 at 08:54 PM

BM

“ *Bob Marsolais sent a virtual gift in memory of Gerald A. McConnell*



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**Bob Marsolais** - February 20, 2017 at 08:54 PM

DB

“ *DALE BECKMAN lit a candle in memory of Gerald A. McConnell*



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**DALE BECKMAN** - February 20, 2017 at 08:05 PM

PJ

“ *i will miss him*

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**Patricia M Janulewicz** - February 20, 2017 at 06:46 PM

JS

“ *You are loved by so many, you are an Icon, rest in peace, and will Never be Forgotten, JoAnne and Fred Schottler*

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**JoAnne Schottler** - February 20, 2017 at 05:20 PM

SS

“ *Jerry you were one of a kind and your presence in Hampton will be sorely missed.*

*Skip Sullivan*

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**Skip Sullivan** - February 20, 2017 at 05:05 PM