



Robert E. O'Connell

June 15, 1934 - September 15, 2020

Hampton – Robert E. “Okie” O’Connell, 86, of Hampton, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 15, 2020. Robert was born in Northampton, MA on June 15, 1934, a son of the late Francis and Beatrice (Parent) O’Connell.

Robert was raised in Northampton, MA and went on to earn his Bachelor’s Degree from UMass Amherst. He then earned his Master’s Degree from Westfield State College and taught English in Connecticut before taking a position at Newburyport High School in Newburyport, MA. He taught English at Newburyport High for over 30 years and retired from teaching full-time in 1993. He loved teaching and continued teaching part-time at Hesser College and at the former New Hampshire Community Technical College in Stratham.

Perhaps Okie was best known for his refereeing soccer, basketball and lacrosse at all levels throughout the state. He was inducted into the New Hampshire Sports Hall of Fame in 2003 for his many contributions to athletics.

He is survived by his sons, James O’Connell of Plaistow, Jon O’Connell of Campton and Joel O’Connell of Plymouth, his daughter, Vera O’Connell of Newtonville, MA and his brother, Richard O’Connell of Mashpee, MA.

In addition to his parents, Robert was predeceased by his brothers, Frank,

James and John and his sister, Beatrice Bartell.

A Memorial Prayer Service will be held at 11 AM on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 in the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home – Crematory, 811 Lafayette Rd., Hampton. Masks are required and social distancing must be maintained. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society (<https://www.cancer.org/involved/donate.html>) P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123

Previous Events

Prayer Service

SEP **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory

811 Lafayette Road ·

Hampton, NH 03842

(603) 926-6500

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<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert E. O'Connell*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *It was always a pleasure to talk with Okie whether on the phone or when he stopped by EHS. He'd always hand me a piece of gum. And if I wasn't in the office, I would find a piece of gum on my desk and sometimes a note from Okie! You knew it was a good day anytime Okie showed up to officiate. Just a wonderful man that had an impact on so many lives! ~ Kristen Morissette, Exeter High School*

Kristen Hodsdon Morissette - September 23, 2020 at 11:15 AM



“ *One of the finest and one of the most intelligent guys I've ever known. He introduced me to lacrosse officiating. I'm never going to forget Okie and I'm proud to have been his colleague and friend.*
Ray Grady

Ray Grady - September 23, 2020 at 10:32 AM

MM

“ Whenever Bob and I were together vacationing, visiting places local and distant, or simply driving the New Hampshire coast many, many times, he would often speak about his youth in North Hampton, Massachusetts, his work at the Veteran's Hospital, his time in the army and his teaching experiences. I was always enthralled by his honesty and vulnerability. We once took a story telling course through Leslie University and he captivated that audience just as easily as he held my attention. That was the Bob I knew. I often sat in on his classes and was a better teacher for it. Whenever we parted company over the years he'd tell me: "Mike, be a good boy." Those words meant a lot to me and still do. It was a standard of behavior I had to follow. I hear those words today. I will hear them forever.

Myron Moss - September 22, 2020 at 07:11 PM

MD

“ I have so many happy memories of getting together with Bob over the years. I am glad that I had the opportunity to visit him at Cornerstone recently. Although I won't be with you for his funeral, I send my love to his family and friends.

Maureen Daley

Maureen Daley - September 22, 2020 at 06:49 PM

RP

“ A wonderful cousin. Bob's mom and mine were sisters. I lived in Vermont, however almost every summer I spent a week with Bob's family in Northampton. Bob was a year older and always played the big brother. His great heart and deep voice will be missed. As will the rest of the family. Now it's just Rick and I. God bless you Rick and stay with me.

Bob and Marian Pitcher

Robert Pitcher - September 22, 2020 at 03:21 PM

RF

“ Richard O'Connell Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert E. O'Connell.



Richard O'Connell Family - September 22, 2020 at 11:22 AM



“ The Newmarket Strikers will forevermore be endeared to the summer days on the soccer field with Bob being one of our officials. He was a class act and kept the game clean, without taking the physical and fun out of it. He knew most of us by name as well as a lot of the other Seacoast NH team players, and was at times having a running conversation with many of us during play to keep the mood light. I got to know him after in my educational days off the field and he was a great person to run into and strike up a conversation with. He will be missed and RIP my friend.

Larry Averill - Newmarket Strikers

Larry Averill - September 21, 2020 at 07:15 PM

JS

I met him as a Newmarket Striker, and ran into him a couple of times at Stratham Tech. A very kind man, and a wonderful educator. My condolences to family, and so many friends.

Jeff Sewall - September 21, 2020 at 07:27 PM

CO

“What a delightful person Uncle Bob was. As a kid, I thought he was a gentle giant - he was so funny, friendly and enthusiastic about everything. As an adult, I continued to feel the same way. But I also had great admiration for how he wanted to continue learning, teaching and staying active through refereeing. Visits with Bob were always something to look forward to, although they were invariably too short and too infrequent. Thank you Bob for your sense of humor and your gentleness. You were a light of kindness and generosity and you will be missed.



Ciara O'Connell - September 21, 2020 at 01:44 PM

DO

“Bob will be sadly missed. He made it his job to stay in touch over the years and I looked forward to his frequent calls. He loved to talk about his family and books he was reading at the time. He also spoke about how wonderful his friends were to him and How grateful he was. I will miss our chats but feel fortunate that he took the time to spread a little light across my path in life.

Deirdre O'Connell

deirdre o'Connell - September 21, 2020 at 01:34 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert E. O'Connell.



September 21, 2020 at 01:02 PM



“ Okie was one of a kind. When I started officiating college lacrosse he was a great mentor. Always kept his cool, never too high or low. He had a great sense of humor. One of the true "good guys".
Bob Maguire

Bob Maguire - September 21, 2020 at 12:31 PM



“ Okie was an amazing person and multiple sports official of the highest caliber. God bless him and the family. Off he goes to where no one will question his call, he never made a bad call, that's what he told me!

Tom Schulte - September 21, 2020 at 07:16 AM



“ As a friend of Vera's since childhood, I spent a lot of time in the O'Connell home. Her dad was a wonderful man and my thoughts and prayers go out to Vera and the O'Connell family.

Kathy Westgate - September 19, 2020 at 07:12 AM

LN

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time. I remember your dad and all of you as part of our family as well.*

Lynn Bosinger Naylor and family



Lynn Bosinger Naylor - September 16, 2020 at 06:10 PM



Here's to you Okie! You will be sadly missed by many!!!

Matt Shaw - September 26, 2020 at 08:46 PM