

Jerry Gaffney

December 28, 2018

GAFFNEY, William Gerald (Jerry), of Cape May passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home on Friday, December 28, 2018. Born in Camden, Jerry was raised in Collingswood, NJ. Jerry enlisted in the Army in 1955 and served two years of active military service. He was stationed at Fort Dix, Washington, D.C., and Fort Polk, Louisiana. After completion of active duty, Jerry served an additional six years in the Army Reserve. Jerry married Mary Ann (Stokes) in 1956 and they lived in Medford Lakes where Jerry enjoyed 8 years on town council. Jerry worked as an insurance underwriter, but his love was local politics. In 1981, he became a resident of Cape May and became a fixture in local politics in Cape May serving 16 years on town council, four of those years as Mayor of Cape May. Jerry was also a volunteer at the Center for Community Arts, spending 10 years as a volunteer disc jockey on WCFA Radio. In addition, he worked as a tour guide at the WWII Tower for the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts in Cape May, climbing four flights of steps each work day to give visitors a taste of history. A man of great faith, he was a devoted and active member of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Cape May where he was a Eucharistic Minister for over 30 years. During his time as Cape May Mayor, Jerry officiated at the marriages of 360 couples and generously donated the proceeds. In the last few years, he began writing a book on his experiences officiating weddings. While Jerry was a man of the community and helped many people and organizations in the towns where he lived, his greatest trait was his dedication to his family. He was a wonderful husband and father, spending time and giving attention to his family. He loved playing golf or setting up his train set with his children and grandchildren, spending time with his grandchildren's activities, sitting on the porch for cocktails discussing politics and spending late afternoons on the beach with Mary Ann. He was predeceased in 2017 by Mary Ann, his beloved wife of 61 years. Jerry is dearly missed by his loving family which includes his five children, Mary Pat Myers (and Guy Portewig), Katie (and Joe) Silvernail, Ann (and Frank) Zilinek, Teri (and Donny) Arndt and Jerry (and Debby) Gaffney; seven grandchildren, Derek, Joshua, Hunter, David, Kristina, Abigail and Benjamin; his sisters and brothers-in-law, especially, Kathy and Brendan Brogan, Pat and John Stokes, as well as nieces and nephews. Jerry's Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday (January 5th) at 11am in Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, 525 Washington St., Cape May

where friends will be received by the family from 9:30am until 10:50am. Interment will take place privately in Cold Spring Cemetery, Lower Twp. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested through "In Memory Of" for convenience and acknowledgment purposes to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, online at <http://www.inmemof.org/jerry-gaffney> or checks can be made to "In Memory Of" PO Box 5472, Charlottesville, VA 22905. (Spilker Funeral Home, Cape May) info and condolences: spilkerfuneralhome.com

Events

JAN **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:50AM

5

Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
525 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ, US

JAN **Service** 11:00AM

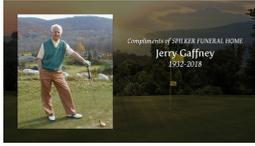
5

Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
525 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ, US

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Spilker Funeral Home - January 04, 2019 at 05:51 PM



“ Our heartfelt condolences to the family of Jerry Gaffney. We will always fondly remember him and his friendship, including the time we spent working on the Beach Theater renovation. He will be sincerely missed. All our prayers, Harley & Denise

Denise and Harley Shuler - January 01, 2019 at 02:47 PM



“ I am sending my deepest sympathy on the loss of Gerry to his family, especially Mary Pat and Teri. He was a wonderful man who served Cape May in so many ways.
Love, Marie Rice

Marie Rice - December 31, 2018 at 08:53 PM



“ Lisa Schubert lit a candle in memory of Jerry Gaffney



Lisa Schubert - December 31, 2018 at 02:33 PM



“ Don, Terrie & Ben - Very sorry for your loss.

Lisa Schubert - December 31, 2018 at 02:34 PM



“ Mary Pat,

We are so sorry for your loss. Please know we are thinking of you at this most difficult time.
Ken Low and Sharon Flanagan

Sharon Flanagan - January 02, 2019 at 07:54 PM



“ Jerry will be sorely missed. He was a kind and loving brother-in-law...lots of fun too!

pat and john stokes - January 02, 2019 at 09:35 PM



“ Belatedly submitted; Medford Lakes owes much to Gerry even tho he took his personality and talents to Cape May! Sorry to hear of his death Jim and Kris Vogdes

james Vogdes - January 10, 2019 at 04:03 PM