



Gerald D. "Jerry" O'Connor

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Lima

Gerald D. "Jerry" O'Connor, 85, of Ocala, Fla., formerly of Lima, died at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 11, 2009, at his residence.

He was born June 24, 1924, in Lima to Michael and Mary Laeuffer O'Connor, who preceded him in death. On Nov. 27, 1952, he married Pauline H. Pusker, who survives.

Mr. O'Connor was a 1942 graduate of Cleveland East High School and received his bachelor's degree in 1949 from Ohio University, Athens, majoring in journalism and marketing. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity while at O.U. He took some postgraduate courses at the University of Detroit. On April 11, 1971, he founded Range Kleen Manufacturing Inc., which he owned and operated until his retirement in 2003. He then served as founder and president emeritus of the company. He was a Navy veteran of World War II, serving as a yeoman 2nd class aboard the USS Boreas in the Pacific Theater. He received the American Campaign Medal, the Asia/Pacific Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

He was a member of Our Lady of the Springs Catholic Church, Ocala, Fla. He was a charter member of the Serra Club, Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks Lodge 54 and the Shawnee Country Club, all in Lima, and the Golden Hills Turf & Golf Club and Golden Ocala, both in Ocala, Fla. He was a member of the GOP, which he referred to as "the only organization for a true patriot." All who knew him knew that he never met a stranger from popes to paupers. He loved life and all those in it. All of his friends knew and loved his jokes and his slight exaggeration, such as: "As a special adviser to Gen. MacArthur, I won the war in the Pacific almost single-handedly."

Survivors also include four children, Shawna O'Connor, of Long Beach, Calif., Deborah O'Connor, of Lima, Mary (Tim) Shaver, of Columbus, and Patrick (Kelly) O'Connor, of Lima; and five grandchildren, Dane, Kelly and Kacy Querry and Kaitlyn and Jackson O'Connor.

He was preceded in death by six brothers, William, James, Joseph, Thomas, Michael and Robert O'Connor.

Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Gerard Catholic Church. Father Ray Collins will officiate. Burial will be in Gethsemani Cemetery, with military rites.

Friends may call from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday and 2 to 8 p.m. Friday at Chiles-Laman Funeral Homes, Shawnee Chapel.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Serra Club.

Condolences may be expressed at www.chiles-lamanfh.com.



IN MEMORY OF GERALD D. O'CONNOR

On behalf of the members of the Senate of the 128th General Assembly of Ohio, we extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Gerald D. O'Connor on the sorrowful occasion of his death.

Jerry O'Connor left an indelible impression on the people whose lives he touched, and he will be remembered as a spirited individual who contributed immeasurably to the world around him. A decorated U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, he was the founder, owner, operator, and president emeritus of Range Kleen Manufacturing, Inc., and a member of such noteworthy organizations as Our Lady of the Springs Catholic Church, the Serra Club, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge 54, the Shawnee Country Club, the Golden Hills Turf and Golf Club, and Golden Ocala. His concern for improving the quality of life in our society was clearly evident in his personal sacrifices of time and energy to his family, friends, and community, and his absence will be keenly felt.

A loving husband to his wife, Pauline, a devoted father to his four children, Shawna, Deborah, Mary, and Patrick, and the proud grandfather of five grandchildren, Dane, Kelly, Kacy, Kaitlyn, and Jackson, Jerry O'Connor always used his talents to the benefit of others, and the laurels of his life stand as a tribute not only to him but also to those he left behind. Although the void his death has created can never be filled, the legacy of care and commitment he established will surely live on. It is certain that the world is a richer place for his having been in it, and he will be sorely missed.

Thus, with deepest sympathy, we mourn the loss and salute the memory of a truly unique individual, Gerald D. O'Connor.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Harris".

Senator Bill Harris
President of the Ohio Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Grendell".

Senator Timothy Grendell
18th Senatorial District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Faber".

Senator Keith Faber
Majority Floor Leader