



Gerald Dean Stone

APR 19, 1921 - FEB 29, 2012



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Gerald Dean Stone

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Gerald Dean Stone, a WWII Veteran and professional engineer, passed away on February 29, 2012. He lived at Greenpoint Senior Living in Liverpool, NY. He was born on April 19, 1921 to Hazel Mae and Ezra Dillon Stone in Canton, PA. Dad grew up on a farm and graduated in 1939 from Canton High School. He attended Williamsport Technical School to become a licensed radio operator.

In 1942, Dad joined the Navy and served throughout WWII as an airplane radio operator. He was stationed first in Miami, flying to the Caribbean and South America. Later, the Navy transferred him to Norfolk, VA and Patuxent River, MD, where he flew to North Africa, Iceland and England.

Gerry flew into Paris on V-E Day and he liked to reminisce about the crowds on the street in Paris being so delirious that he had to climb on top of a car to escape the throngs and was stranded there for two hours.

Near the end of the War in the Pacific, the Navy ordered him to the Pacific coast of Russia where a refueling base was being established, but his crew never made it. They arrived in Guam on the day that the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. They were ordered to turn around and head home. Gerry was discharged from the Navy just before Christmas 1945.

Subsequently he served in the Merchant Marines on a research vessel. Afterwards he worked for American Airlines as a radio operator at ground stations in both Bridgeport and Albany. After the war, Dad attended Capital Radio Engineering Institute in Washington, DC and worked at the Naval Research Laboratory.

Gerry married Sara Jane Fleming in 1948 and they started a family together. He began a career with General Electric in Cincinnati and transferred to Louisville, KY and then to Syracuse, NY. He worked for a year on a ballistic missile early warning system in Thule, Greenland and for a year in Port of Spain, Trinidad at a radio station monitoring missiles.



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He returned to Syracuse for a short time before going to Daytona Beach, FL. to work with the burgeoning space program. He worked on the communication systems for the Gemini and Apollo programs. Although he never graduated from college, Gerry became a certified professional engineer when he passed the Florida Professional Engineering exam. When the space program slowed, GE transferred him back to Syracuse. Dad retired from GE after a 20 year career and returned to Florida.

He worked for Daytona Beach Community College and later for the Florida Department of Transportation in Tallahassee. Among the projects he helped design were numerous State roadside rest stops and Florida Welcome Centers.

In his later years, he moved to Liverpool, NY to be near his daughter, Deena. Dad loved spending his days at Liverpool Public Library reading and sometimes falling asleep in his favorite chair there. Gifts in his memory may be made to the Liverpool Public Library at 310 Tulip Street, Liverpool NY 13088. His love for learning never stopped. He spent his time at home reading the New York Times, his technical books and keeping up with politics. Even into his last days he enjoyed sending insightful emails to his family and friends about public policy, economics and how the world had changed in his nearly 91 years. His grandchildren came to know him very well through the frequent email exchanges about politics and philosophy.

Gerry is survived by three daughters, Deena (Peter) Procopio, Sandy (Steve) Silver and Adrienne Marquart; five grandchildren, David (Kristina) Silver, Ethan Silver, Derek Marquart, Adam Silver and Rachel Marquart; also a sister, Dolores Stone. Dad loved his family very much and was so proud of his five grandchildren.

Family and friends are welcome to attend a calling hour on Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm with a Memorial Service immediately following at 3:00 pm at the THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME, 3401 Vickery Rd. (corner of Buckley Rd.) North Syracuse, NY. Burial will be in Ogdensburg, PA.




Events

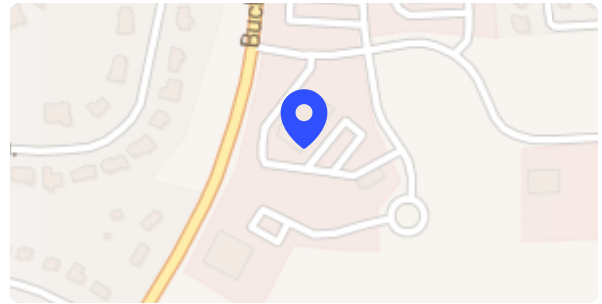
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Visitation

 **Saturday**, April 14, 2012


 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET


 **Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home**
3401 Vickery Rd, Syracuse NY 13212

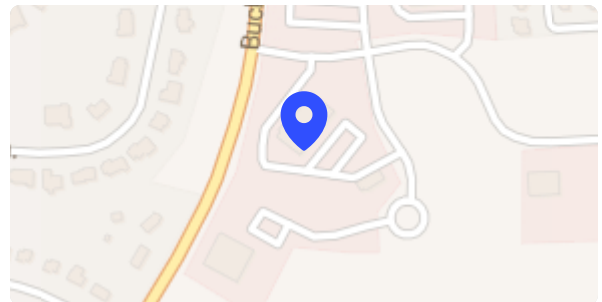


Service

 **Saturday**, April 14, 2012

 3:00 PM ET

 **Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home**
3401 Vickery Rd, Syracuse NY 13212





Tribute Wall

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Deb Sullivan lit a candle in honor of Gerald .



April 15 at 4:17 AM



Deb Sullivan posted:

Every friday I looked forward to seeing Jerry come through my line at Wegmans. He always put a smile on my face. He truly was a kind gentleman. He is very missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to your family. Deb Sullivan

April 15 at 4:15 AM



Deena Procopio April 20 at 3:08 AM

Thank you so much for these kind thoughts. You are so sweet to share them. I miss him, too. Dad enjoyed so much his Friday mornings at Wegmans. Deena Procopio



Amanda Metzler posted:

Mr. Stone was such a kind person. He always made me laugh with his stories while I visited him. He will be truly missed. Thoughts and prayers to your family. Love, Amanda

April 3 at 10:09 AM



Deena Procopio April 4 at 10:06 AM

Thank you, Amanda. This is so sweet of you to write. Dad thought you were smart and beautiful and a fantastic young lady. He was so happy when you got the teaching job!!!!



Tina L Carey lit a candle in honor of Gerald .



March 14 at 2:58 PM



Deena Stoneprocopio March 15 at 12:33 PM

Thank you, Tina. He loved you!



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DM

Dorothy Morgan posted:

On behalf of the Liverpool Public Library as well as me personally I want to extend our deepest sympathy in the loss of your dad. I was blessed to have had the opportunity to meet and speak to him. His presence will surely be missed by staff, as well as members of the public that sat in the reading room with him. He had a favorite chair he would sit on and after I was told of his loss I went over and sat in that very same chair. I felt his presence for that moment and thanked him for coming to our library. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. He won't be forgotten. Dorothy Morgan, Liverpool Public Library, Business and Personnel Administrator

March 13 at 3:15 PM

DS

Deena Stoneprocopio March 15 at 12:31 PM

Thank you for your kind words. I feel blessed to have had him for my father. Deena

LA

Le Moyne College, Office Of Alumni posted:

Deena and Peter, Please accept the sympathy of Le Moyne College on the occasion of the death of your father. Be assured of our prayers for him, for you and for your family.

March 12 at 6:10 AM

DS

Deena Stoneprocopio March 15 at 12:32 PM

Thank you for your kind words. Deena Stone Procopio

DG

Dr. Beverly Mcurtry Grissom posted:

Deena, Sandy, and Adrienne, Please accept my most sincere sympathy in the loss of your dad. I remember Gerry as an avid reader. He would talk with me about words and their usage. One of my very favorite gifts in my life is the Thesaurus he gave me decades ago. I still have it and won't part with it. It was such a thoughtful gesture. When I was President at North Florida Community College, he made a surprise visit to me. I looked up from a pile of paperwork and he was standing in my doorway. He didn't stay long, but he wanted to stop and say hello to me and congratulate me on my selection as President. It was lovely to see him and so kind of him to stop to say hello. He always impressed me as a gentle soul. Please know that I am thinking of you all at this very sad time. Beverly Grissom

March 11 at 8:45 AM

DP

Deena Stone Procopio March 11 at 1:16 PM

Thank you very much for these very kind words. I liked reading about his visit to you. Deena



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gerald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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