



Gerald Christopher Conley

May 25, 1954 - August 29, 2024

Gerald Christopher Conley, a beloved father, husband, brother, and friend, passed away peacefully on August 29, 2024, in Dallas, Texas, at the age of 70, surrounded by his wife and children.

Gerald was born on May 25, 1954 and grew up in Milton, Massachusetts. Even after more than 40 years in Dallas, his love for Boston and its sports teams never wavered. He lived a life filled with passion, humor, and love. Known for his infectious sense of humor, quick wit, playful pranks, sharp intellect, and love of storytelling, he brought so much joy to those around him. His enthusiasm for life extended to his favorite places—especially the water, whether it was the ocean, White Rock Lake, or Lake Cypress Springs. He also cherished spending time with his family in Copper Mountain, Colorado.

He proudly graduated from Milton Academy in 1972, earned his BA in Anthropology from Duke University in 1976, and received his JD from Emory University in 1981.

Gerald was a talented and respected litigator with a remarkable career spanning more than 30 years in business and tort litigation. He developed particular expertise in intellectual property, media, securities, and fiduciary issues, covering a broad spectrum from copyright and trademark litigation to defending First Amendment rights for broadcasters, publishers, and

entertainers. His talent and dedication earned him several Texas Super Lawyer awards. He generously shared his expertise as a frequent speaker and adjunct professor.

Gerald is survived by his beloved wife Becky; his five children: Brendan and his wife Julie, Amy Bohnert and her husband Micah, Nick and his wife Courtney, Matthew, and Grace; as well as his stepdaughter Alex Horne and her husband Mike. He was the proud grandfather of five: Declan, Reagan, Annie, Jack, and Camille. He also leaves behind his older brother John and his wife Paula, as well as his younger sister Marianne and her husband Barrett. Gerald was preceded in death by his parents John and Ruth Conley.

We will honor his memory with a Celebration of Life Mass on September 27 at 10:30 AM at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Dallas, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, we would like donations to be made in Gerald's name to:

Pastoral Reflections Institute at PO Box 181313, Dallas, TX 75218.

Or:

Donate to Pastoral Reflections Institute
pastoralreflectionsinstitute.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP **27**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
6306 Kenwood Ave
Dallas, TX 75214

Tribute Wall

“ Oh my gosh, I have so many wonderful memories of Gerald from our college days. We were roommates together and were rarely apart from one another. We first met at Wamnamaker Hall which was the freshmen dorm at Duke. We quickly become friends and were the foosball terror of our dorm. Foosball was by far the most important activity at our dorm. Studying was far down the list. I played offense and Gerald played defense. This matched our personalities perfectly. I was the flamboyant showman (i.e. cocky fool) and Gerald was the rock who rarely allowed a score. We won the annual championship.

Then there was the time we engaged in the "potato wars". We would buy small red bliss potatoes and chuck them out of his 3rd floor window at our victime below, who obliged by throwing them back at us. One day, when we were at the supermarket, the friendly checkout lady was kindly telling us all the ways to cook red bliss potatoes. Gerald had a habit of gently stepping on my foot in ridiculous situations like this, in order to get me to laugh. And we somehow managed to get into many ridiculous situations.

One of them was at Otis Air Force Base down near Cape Cod in Massachusetts. Gerald's high school friend's father was a retired Air Force Colonel who ran the base for two weeks per year. Me, Gerald, and his buddy decided to visit the base while his friend's father was in charge. They were having some sort of official inspection of the entire base and everyone was kind of tense. So, of course, we decided to examine a top-secret jet fighter that was sitting out on a runway. Before we knew it, we were surrounded by a team of soldiers pointing M-16s at us and placing us under "military arrest". Oops. Fortunately, the friend's dad got us off the hook, but there were a few dicey moments before we were released.

Gerald and I used to repeatedly call Larry Glick at WBZ radio in Boston, and spin out the most ludicrous tales, which for some reason Larry would air on his show, until finally he would get tired of us and "shoot" us over the air.

I could go on and on. Gerald was one of my closest friends. He got me into trouble at times, but he got me OUT of trouble way more times! His calmness, his incredibly funny dry sense of humor, and his kind, caring advice I will always cherish. He taught me how to be less selfish and more caring about others. I miss him dearly.

Glen Dawson - April 13, 2025 at 12:16 PM

GD

“Gerald was, and will always remain, one of the most influential people in my life. We shared so many good times together at Duke! He was my best friend and roommate. There were so many times when he would caution me about some idiotic thing that I was about to do, but I always did it anyway. What was amazing, though, is that he never said "I told you so". He never judged. His sense of humor was incredible. We committed more pranks together than I can count. His sense of humor was dry but incredibly funny. He also introduced me to John and Paula, who also had a very positive influence on me at a time when I desperately needed it. Gerald and I were born just a few weeks apart in 1954. He will always be with me. Thanks, Gerald, for sharing your life with me at Duke and teaching me so many positive human qualities. I will miss you. Love, Glen

Glen Dawson - December 22, 2024 at 08:48 PM

RM

“Gerald and I were at the same law firm for a few years a long time ago though we didn't work side by side. We played on the same law league teams in football and softball. Gerald was always the ring leader, the spark, the animator that made those teams, those games so fun. He handed out nicknames and included everyone in the merriment. I've spoken of him often and remember him fondly. Russell "Stretch" Marks

russell marks - November 15, 2024 at 08:45 AM

JM

“ I cannot count the number of stories I have told that began, “Conley and I had this idea ...” We met at Milton Academy at the beginning of the 7th grade school year and had a couple of interests in common: playing hockey, flying airplanes, manipulating coins and playing cards with sleight-of-hand (he taught me the French Drop, a move that causes a quarter to vanish), and others.

But it was something else that drew us together. We were restless and curious, especially about things where danger might lurk. By the 8th grade we had become very tight friends. Our favorite thing was going into Boston and walking among the hippies that lived on Boston Common in sleeping bags and pup tents. Or we’d wander around the Combat Zone, feeling the atmosphere of the adult-entertainment district. If sports were cancelled, for 60 cents (the round-trip subway fare) we could watch our city do its thing. We really felt that Boston belonged to us and we belonged to Boston.

Still in the 8th grade, Conley and I had this idea. We’d spend a weekend flying to cities around the country on a Mohawk Airlines \$25-dollar promotion (paid for with Confirmation money). And there we were, two 14-year-olds on their own in downtown Detroit on a Saturday morning. We went into the Rexall Drug Store, sat at the counter, and ordered coconut cake and chocolate milk, feeling like “Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous”.

In the 10th grade, Conley and I had this idea. We’d go on vacation to the Virgin Islands. The Cinnamon Bay Campground, St. John, rented large tents for \$27 per week. If we brought Paul Fitzgerald that would be only \$9 each. It was August, fares to the Caribbean were cheap with a one-night stopover in Puerto Rico. And there we were, three 16-year-olds in a hotel casino in Old San Juan. You had to be 21, but when I showed my driver’s license (I’d had it for two weeks) the doorman let us in.

Dear Gerald – I’ve been reviewing my life a lot lately and thinking about our friendship, one of the closest I’ve ever had. It really wasn’t

“we” who arranged these adventures; it was you. The planning and the ideas were yours. You were so generous you let me think we figured it all out together. Thank you for your friendship. - James Mahoney

James Mahoney - September 27, 2024 at 09:03 AM

LS

“ There really aren't adequate words to convey what a joy it was to work with and be mentored by Gerald. He always took representing his clients seriously without taking himself too seriously. We had so many laughs, even in the midst of case-chaos. My years at AK would not have been the same without him. Love and sympathy to his family.

Linda Stahl - September 26, 2024 at 05:20 PM

TF

“ The Foley Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Gerald Christopher Conley.



The Foley Family - September 26, 2024 at 08:53 AM

KV

“ Katie Vining (“Coach V”) purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Gerald Christopher Conley.



Katie Vining (“Coach V”) - September 23, 2024 at 11:32 PM

RS

“ Renee, Jacob, and Savannah purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Gerald Christopher Conley.



Renee, Jacob, and Savannah - September 23, 2024 at 08:22 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerald Christopher Conley.



September 23, 2024 at 04:52 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gerald Christopher Conley.



September 21, 2024 at 05:46 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gerald Christopher Conley.



September 19, 2024 at 10:54 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Gerald Christopher Conley.*



September 19, 2024 at 10:46 PM



“ *Gerald was such a bright light! All the family memories of playing football in the street with all the kids! What a joy he was to be around! What a precious soul. Never will he be forgotten!*

Windy Oliver - September 18, 2024 at 10:51 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear this news. Gerald was one of my dearest friends back in the late 60's and throughout the 70's. Of course we all move in life and I only visited him a few times after he earned his JD and moved to Dallas. My deepest sympathies to his family and friends. I have very fond memories of him. Conley sez "Hey, Introne call me a taxi." Introne sez "Okay, you're a taxi!" Hearing this really blows.*

Douglas Introne - September 17, 2024 at 08:51 AM



“ *I met Gerald in 1985 and spent the next 39 years trying to be as likeable, funny, and as good of a person and attorney as him. Like countless others, I came up short. There will never be another Gerald.*

Love you brother and rest in peace ❤️.

Robert Weathersby - September 15, 2024 at 04:12 PM

SP

I was Gerald's secretary when he was a bouncing baby lawyer. He was a delightful boss, eager to learn and willing to be guided, both as a lawyer and as a boss. I have just learned of his passing, and I grieve.

Shana Lint Pare - March 08 at 12:46 AM

LB

“ *Lorri & David Bohnert purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gerald Christopher Conley.*



Lorri & David Bohnert - September 12, 2024 at 08:21 PM

TG

“ *It was an honor to practice law with Gerald for almost 20 years and together on so many cases. He was a teacher, colleague, and friend, and I'm blessed with many memories. His charming storytelling will be carried on through those of us to whom he imparted so much. Much love and sympathy to Becky, Brendan, Amy, Nick, Alex, Matthew, and Grace. We all are missing him with y'all.*

Tonya Gray - September 11, 2024 at 08:37 PM