



# Michael Harold Birdsell

FEB 20, 1941 - JUL 15, 2024



Scan to Visit

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 9



# Michael Harold Birdsell

FEB 20, 1941 - JUL 15, 2024

**M**ichael Harold Birdsell died peacefully in his sleep on July 15, 2024 in Milford, Delaware, of complications from blood cancer. He was 83.

He was born at Griffin Hospital in Derby, Connecticut, on February 20, 1941. Michael was the oldest son of Elbert Birdsell and Josephine Dadurka. He was particularly close to his paternal grandmother Florence (“Flossie”) throughout his formative years. He is preceded in death by his parents and his younger sister Arlene.

“Mike” – as he was known to the wide circle of friends who cherished his stoic presence and wry sense of humor – was a model of integrity in every way. He maintained his wit and warmth through his final chapter with, in his own words, “absolutely no regrets.”

Mike began his military career in 1959 at Parris Island, South Carolina, where he grew from a carefree teen into a responsible young man. During his venerable career, he was stationed in North Carolina, California, Japan, Vietnam, Maryland, Morocco, Korea, and Hawaii. He retired in 2009 with 24 years of dedicated service to the Marine Corps, followed by 26 years spent at the National Security Agency as a cryptologist and later as aid to the Director of Foreign Communications. He was highly decorated, having achieved the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant, the highest enlisted rank attainable in the Marine Corps. His leadership and wisdom will continue to be realized by the generations of those he served with.

From grilling by the pool at “Dad’s Place” to crabbing along the shores of the Magothy River in Pasadena; enjoying the beach at Bellows Air Force Base in Honolulu to hiking the volcanic peaks of Mt. Fuji in Japan – Mike lived an extraordinarily full life of love alongside the many friends and family who meant the most to him. His presence at the head of the table will be dearly missed. When asked what advice he would have given a younger version of himself, Mike said: “Talk less, listen more, and make good choices.” Those who were blessed to know him, know the sentiment is one he lived each day.



## Obituary

**Michael Harold Birdsell**

FEB 20, 1941 - JUL 15, 2024

---

He leaves behind his devoted wife Eugenia “Genie” Anne Birdsell, née Hobbs, who held his hand through an incredible 61 years of marriage. They were wed on October 12, 1963, at Holy Rosary Church in Ansonia, Connecticut. He is survived by son Michael Edward and wife Laura; son Raymond and wife Kim; five grandchildren: Ashley, Alexander, Sophia, Michael James, and Jacob; and great-granddaughter Eleni.

He is also survived by brother Walter and wife Lucy; and their children Walter Gerard, Mary, and Susan. He is preceded in death by brothers-in-law Nick and Richie. He is survived by Nick’s daughters Felicia and Heather; Richie’s son Jason; Richie's wife Jeanne; brother-in-law Frank; Frank's children Alo, Luke, and Lila; and their extended families.




A mass will be held on Monday, July 22, 2024 at 11:00 AM at St. Jude The Apostle Church, 152 Tulip Dr., Lewes, Delaware 19958, where friends may visit beginning at 10:00 AM. A celebration of life will be held at Fish On restaurant immediately following the mass at 17300 N Village Main Blvd, Lewes, Delaware 19958.

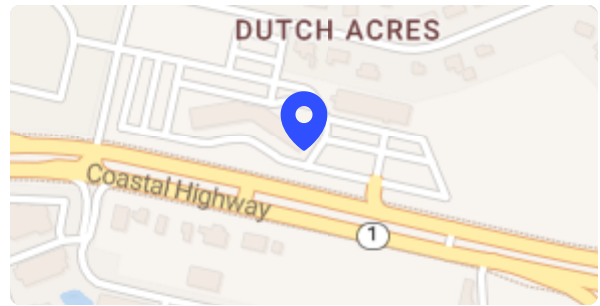
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Delaware Veterans Home, 100 Delaware Veterans Blvd, Milford, DE 19963.

Please sign Mr. Birdsell's Tribute Page located on this website.






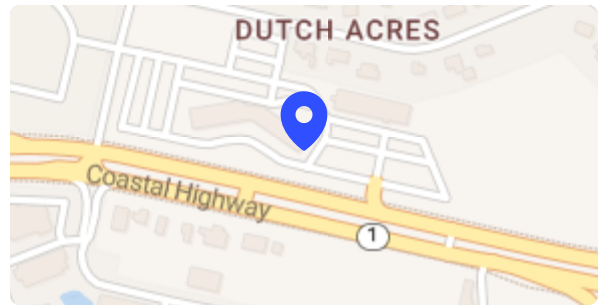
### Visitation

-  **Monday**, July 22, 2024
-  10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET
-  **St. Jude The Apostle Catholic Church**  
152 Tulip Drive, Lewes DE 19958



### Mass of Christian Burial

-  **Monday**, July 22, 2024
-  11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET
-  **St. Jude The Apostle Catholic Church**  
152 Tulip Drive, Lewes DE 19958





# Tribute Wall

**Michael Harold Birdsell**

FEB 20, 1941 - JUL 15, 2024



**Frederick Hammond** posted:

Genie, I really am sorry for your loss and the loss of my BFF. Please know that you will always be in my thoughts and prayers. Not only did we lose someone very special, but this country lost a true patriot. I know how much he loved his family and country. SEMPER-PARIT my Marine brother.

July 21 at 4:56 PM



**Mary G Messina** lit a candle in honor of Michael.

Aunt Genie, Mike & Laura and family, Ray & Kim and family - I am so very sorry for your loss. I feel so blessed to have all the great memories of Uncle Mike throughout my college years. Those were very special times that I will keep with me forever. Although I will not be there to celebrate his life tomorrow, please know that he along with all of you are in my prayers. He was a very special man....one of the good ones. Love you all, Mary



July 21 at 7:55 AM



**Felicia Mascarenas (Ficca)** sent a virtual gift in honor of Michael.



July 21 at 4:38 AM

**FM Felicia Mascarenas** July 21 at 4:40 AM  
Rest in peace, my friend and mentor.



**Madeline Valentine** lit a candle in honor of Michael.



July 20 at 3:53 AM



**George Molner** lit a candle in honor of Michael.



July 19 at 6:26 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Michael Harold Birdsell**

FEB 20, 1941 - JUL 15, 2024



**George Molner** sent a virtual gift in honor of Michael.

July 19 at 6:25 AM



**Howie Howland** sent a virtual gift in honor of Michael.

July 18 at 4:10 PM



**Howie Howland** lit a candle in honor of Michael.

July 18 at 4:10 PM



**Eugenia Birdsell** July 30 at 8:18 AM

Thank you Mike, so good hearing from Marines and friends from his past.



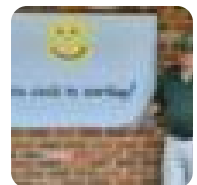
**Mike Mooney** July 29 at 12:40 PM

I served with Mike in San Miguel in the Philippines in the early 60s. He was a great friend and a sharp Marine. Semper Fidelis, Marine. God Bless your family. Mike Mooney.



**H Gray** shared a photo to the **Friends** album.

July 18 at 4:08 PM



**Howie Howland** posted:

My sincerest condolences on the families loss. Mike was a great guy and fellow Marine. Semper, Fidelis, Mike and Godspeed. 🙏

July 18 at 2:25 PM



# Tribute Wall

**Michael Harold Birdsell**

FEB 20, 1941 - JUL 15, 2024



**Jim Huminski** posted:

Genie, Mike, Ray, and Families: My wife, C.C. and I are deeply saddened by Mike's passing. Personally, over several decades, Mike and I shared many great times, including our duty together through the National Security Agency, and many memorable off-duty/social activities, particularly on golf courses. We will forever remember Mike's dedication to family and to the country, his tremendous spirit and personality, and his unique character. We know that you'll enjoy the support of many wonderful memories of your families' lives together. With our deepest condolences .....Jim & C.C. Huminski Hanover, Maryland

July 18 at 10:37 AM



**Jessica Fuller** posted:

Dear Ray, Kim, Sophia, and the entire Birdsell family, I extend my deepest sympathies to you all during this difficult time. I had the pleasure of seeing Mike at various family occasions, and he was always upbeat and funny. May you cherish all the memories you have of him. Know that he is at peace now. Love, Jessica

July 18 at 7:27 AM



**Teresa O'Dea** July 18 at 10:39 AM

To Genie & the whole Birdsell family, We extend our condolences & Prayers to all of you. May all of your memories comfort you . I will certainly be missed. Our deepest sympathy, Teresa & Bob O'Dea.



**Christina** posted:

Our family was blessed to love you, Grandpa Mike. Rest easy ❤️

July 18 at 7:14 AM



**Betty Sharp** lit a candle in honor of Michael.



July 18 at 5:27 AM



H Gray shared a photo to the **Friends** album.

July 18 at 4:08 PM



Our final golf outing together Feb 2017



# Memories only last if you share them

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



Scan to Visit