



## Jerry FitzGerald

May 10, 1935 - March 1, 2014

Jerry Francis FitzGerald, 78, of Pawleys Island, SC, passed away on March 1, 2014. He was born in Pittsburgh, PA. On June 29, 1958, he married his wife, Betty, in Athens, NY.

Jerry is survived by his son, Frank FitzGerald, (and wife Susan), daughter, Ann FitzGerald, and son, Jim FitzGerald, (and wife Sandra); sister, Patricia McGuire, (and husband Richard), brother, Jack, (and wife Eva) and brother, Dick, (and wife Joanne) and two grandchildren, Dan and Kate. Jerry was a loving and generous father, husband, grandfather and friend to all.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hubert and Betty FitzGerald, and his wife of 49 years, Betty.

Jerry was graduated from Kingston High School (PA) in 1953, from Boston University in 1957 and completed an advanced degree at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. He loved sports, and played baseball, basketball and Division 1 football. He taught and coached at New Britain High School, CT, moved to Tolland and became football coach and principal at Rockville High School for many years, retiring in 1992. Jerry also cherished the camaraderie and competition of golf.

A special thank you to the Grand Strand Medical Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit for their loving care and support.

Services will be held at Goldfinch Funeral Home in Pawleys Island, on March 6 at 11:00 AM. Donations in Jerry's memory may be made to his favorite charity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, PO Box 1000 Dept 142

Memphis, TN 38101-9908.

An online guestbook is available at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Service

MAR 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Litchfield-Pawleys Chapel

202 Hinnant Lane

Pawley's Island, SC 29585

(843) 237-1336

[info@goldfinchfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@goldfinchfuneralhome.com)

<https://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall

DV

“ *" I believe in myself, my team and my coach." Deepest sympathies to the Fitzgerald family. Mark Hanson, Mike Moulin, Jim Stark ,Derek Votta RHS Football '69-'72*

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**Derek Votta** - March 08, 2014 at 07:58 PM

CB

“ *Jerry was the best neighbor anyone could ask for. His kindness and helpfulness meant a lot to me and my late husband. We were neighbors for a good many years in Tolland and was missed terribly when he and Betty moved away. He was happy in SC and we were happy for him. Frank, Ann and Jim - My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Remember the good times. Love, Carol Bunce*

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**Carol Bunce** - March 07, 2014 at 03:42 PM

C'

“ *To the Fitzgerald family ~ at Rockville High School Mr. Fitzgerald "Fitzy" took me under his wing and convinced me to make some choices that changed my life forever. We reconnected a few years ago by mail correspondence. I was able to thank him, as I thank him today. I am grateful for his return letter and for his drive to make sure a young teenager saw the value of success. With a heavy heart I give you all my condolences. Fitzy will be sorely missed.*

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**Cathy Gibbons RHS class of '84** - March 07, 2014 at 10:13 AM

CG

*Please forgive my typo. It is no reflection of the quality education I received at RHS and the entire Vernon CT school system.*

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**Catherine A Gibbons** - October 19, 2025 at 12:49 AM

C'

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**Cathy Gibbons RHS class of '84** - March 07, 2014 at 10:13 AM

WP

“ My Deepest Sympathies go to your family. I was a student at New Britain High School from 1960 to 1963. I was a starting guard and linebacker on our football team where "Fitzy" was one of the backfield coaches. I will always remember him as being the "brains" of our offense. He was creative in his approach to the game of football and I was fortunate to have had contact with him. He was a role model for me as well. He dressed well, spoke well, and was not afraid to hand out compliments when we deserved it. His example rubbed off because after I graduated from NBHS I went on to Bates College on a football scholarship, graduated 4 years later and embarked on a career in education where I was a Guidance Counselor for 40 years.

Thanks Coach! You were a good Man!!! Bill Paris, NBHS Class of 1963

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**william Paris** - March 06, 2014 at 05:23 PM

HS

“ To Jerry's family,  
I worked for Jerry as an English teacher and Drill Team coach at Rockville High School. He was very helpful to me, and he taught me a great deal! My sympathy and kind thoughts go out to you!  
Heather Styckiewicz

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**Heather Styckiewicz** - March 06, 2014 at 10:54 AM

CT

“ From one of his students at RHS my thoughts and prayers are with his family. May he rest in peace. - Carrie Topolski, Class of 1988



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**Carrie Topolski** - March 05, 2014 at 07:43 PM

JB

“ Frank, Ann and Jim, I was saddened to hear of your fathers passing. I will always remember him as a person who was very passionate about the things he did in his life. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you as you go through this difficult time. Jim (jimmy) Bunce

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**Jim Bunce** - March 05, 2014 at 07:35 PM

MM

“ Dear Frank, Ann and Jim (and families) - I was so very sorry to hear of the passing of your father. May the many memories you have of him help you get through this very difficult time. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Mary (Bunce) Messenger

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**Mary Messenger** - March 05, 2014 at 12:03 PM

EF

“ I was saddened to learn of Jerry's passing. He was a true gentleman. I met him when he became a football coach at RHS. My late husband, Martin Fagan, considered having Jerry on the faculty a real coup. He was a devoted husband and Dad. He will be sorely missed. Ellen Fagan

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**ellen fagan** - March 05, 2014 at 09:32 AM

LC

“ To Jerry Fitzgerald's family,  
My deepest sympathy to you all. I worked with Jerry at Rockville High School when he was the vice principal and then the principal. I was in the guidance department. He was a kind person who had a great sense of humor but at the same time he was very disciplined and expected only the best from his staff. There were difficult moments during those times but many more wonderful happy and funny times also. There are great memories from those days. Jerry was always supportive and caring.  
My condolences to the family.  
God Bless,  
Linda Cimadon  
Murrells Inlet, SC

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**Linda Cimadon** - March 05, 2014 at 08:20 AM

JH

“ Jim Hennessey purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Jerry FitzGerald.



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**Jim Hennessey** - March 05, 2014 at 06:59 AM

TA

“ Dear FitzGerald family:  
Jerry was a friend and mentor to me. He taught me how to coach football and how to be a better administrator. Our golf games were many and memorable. He was a valuable asset to the Rockville High School community. He is gone too soon but the fond memories will remain. My deepest sympathies.

Tom Allan  
Vernon, CT

Tom Allan - March 04, 2014 at 01:26 PM

RC

Dear Frank, Ann, and Jim-  
Please accept our heartfelt sympathy on the passing of your father. We are thinking of you at this difficult time and we are deeply saddened by your loss of this great man. We treasure many happy memories with Jerry- helping "Fitz" to move his family into their new home on Willy Circle in 1964, R.H.S. football games, "golf wars" at Manchester Country Club, social events, and especially the time we spent with Jerry and Betty on Pawley's Island. There is an old saying that "We make a living by giving." Jerry's life epitomizes that adage and to us Jerry was a hero who enriched the lives of countless of teachers and students through his incredible talent, caring attitude, and loving service to others.

Ron and Judy Cournoyer

Ron and Judy Cournoyer - March 17, 2014 at 04:59 PM

KF

“ Karen Nielsen Lis Nielsen, Gerd Fischer and Julian Fischer purchased the Imagination Blooms for the family of Jerry FitzGerald.



Karen Nielsen Lis Nielsen, Gerd Fischer and Julian Fischer -  
March 04, 2014 at 10:37 AM