



## Raymond John Connery

September 28, 2020

Raymond John Connery, 93, of Smithfield, formerly of Westerly and North Smithfield, passed away from COVID-19 on September 28, 2020. While his family was unable to be by his bedside, he was not alone: they surrounded him with love and prayers, words of gratitude, comfort and peace. He was served by medical and pastoral professionals throughout his illness.

Raymond was the loving and dedicated husband of Joan (Bradley) Connery for 66 years. Their humor, kindness, consideration and respect for one another was an example to all who knew them.

Raymond is survived by his wife, Joan; his children, Andrew Connery (Kate); Susan Connery; Jane Allard; William Connery; and David Connery (Bonnie); his grandchildren, Amelia Newburg (James); Miles Allard (Megan); Bryce Connery (Kayla); Erin Connery; Luke Allard (Tiffney); Frances Connery and Linnea Connery; and his great-grandchildren, Molly Allard, Wesley Allard, Henry Newburg and Quincy Allard. Scores of nephews, nieces, cousins, in-laws, fosters, and dear friends will miss his presence in their lives.

Raymond was born to William and Ethel (Stevenson) Connery on June 3, 1927 in Bristol, RI, the 8th of 10 children. He attended La Salle Academy in Providence until his junior year, when his studies were interrupted by World War II. Following in his brothers' footsteps, Ray joined the Navy, and served for 2 years before returning to La Salle to complete his education. Raymond was a member of the Rhode Island State Police Training School, Class of 1952, and served as a State Trooper for 20 years, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant.

In the summer of 1953, young Trooper Connery met Joan Bradley on a Cape Cod beach and fell in love. Ray and Joan were married on June 19, 1954, at St. Paul's Church in her hometown of Blackstone, Massachusetts. The newlyweds moved to North Smithfield and started a family. With young Andrew, Susan and baby Jane, the Connerys moved to 28 Mechanic Street, which would be the family home for 60 years. William and David

completed the family.

In 1988, Raymond and Joan opened their home and arms to their daughter, Jane, and grandchildren Amelia, Miles and Luke. The house was busy, lively and comfortable, with dinner on the table at 6 sharp and ice cream for dessert with Nana while Boppy washed the dishes. He taught his grandchildren what he had taught Andrew, Susan, Jane, William and David: to appreciate the earth, to take pride in their home, and to eat sun-warmed raspberries right off the bush. The Connerys moved to Westerly, Rhode Island in 1992, and Amelia, Miles and Luke had the privilege of growing up at 28 Mechanic Street with their mom. It was always open, sunny and warm, just as the Connerys intended.

After his retirement from the R.I. State Police, Ray worked as the Chief Security Officer at Eastland Bank in Woonsocket. A lifelong Democrat, he served on the North Smithfield Town Council for 10 years. Ray and Joan were longtime communicants of St. John the Evangelist in Slatersville and St. Pius X in Westerly.

In their bright, airy Westerly home, Raymond tended his gardens, played golf, baked stuffed mushrooms, made large batches of chowder from quahogs he dug himself, and hosted family and many friends for holidays and summer visits. Everyone was welcome. Afternoons were spent on Westerly Town Beach with Joan, in the sun, fresh air and the sea he so loved. It was a simple life, lived with purpose.

Ray made friends easily, striking up a conversation with everyone he encountered. He enjoyed knowing his neighbors, and embraced young and old with his heart on his sleeve. Ray had strong opinions, appreciated a respectful debate, and sought to understand new viewpoints. He read the paper every day, watched the news, and listened closely to the people he met. He exercised daily with Joan, and impressed other gym-goers as he went through his routines. He was a Red Sox and Patriots fan, enjoying games from the living room and from the stands with Joan, William and Maddy. He enjoyed a delicious meal every time.

He was proud of each of his children and grandchildren, not just for their accomplishments, but for who they became and the lives they built. He was charmed by his great-grandchildren. He was grateful for the caring presence and assistance of Jane, Susan and William and gladdened by visits from Andrew and David.

Ray had a strong will and determination to live, provide, and serve. He was an honorable man who lived with integrity and dignity, steadfast in his devotion to Joan, guided and comforted by his deep faith. His family and friends are blessed by his memory, as they

were by his presence and guiding light.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Sisters of the Congrégation de Notre-Dame, Blessed Sacrament Province: USA Office of Mission Advancement, 30 Highfield Road, Wilton, CT 06897-3802. [https://www.cnd-m.org/en/usa/?page\\_id=629](https://www.cnd-m.org/en/usa/?page_id=629).

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a Mass of Christian Burial and interment at the Veteran's Memorial Cemetery were held privately.

# Comments

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“ Susan. I am so very sorry to hear of this. Although I never met your dad you always spoke so fondly of him and all he did for you and family. god bless you during this extremely difficult time and you/family are in my thoughts and prayers.

steve colella

**Steve Colella** - October 23, 2020 at 10:07 AM

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“ My sincere condolences to Susan and her family. The tribute paid to Mr. Connery moved me deeply. Though I never had the pleasure of meeting him, the words describe a man who loved his family, his country, and his life. How proud all of you must be to have had him in your lives. You are in my prayers.

Donna Thomsen

**Donna Thomsen** - October 11, 2020 at 05:22 PM

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“ Although I know Susan best, I had the pleasure of meeting Ray and Joan over the years at CND/ Quonnie prayers and suppers. They also came to my house for a big summer cookout last July. They are the warmest and most kind people you will ever meet. I loved talking politics with Mr. Connery, especially about my service on the Smithfield Town Council and his days on the N. Smithfield Council. I longed to hear more stories and spend more time talking with him, but of course life gets busy. I'm so sorry to hear that they both got sick and this terrible virus has taken his life. It will never take his spirit though or the memories he left for so many, especially his amazing family. There really are no families like the Connerys. To Susan, Jane and the rest of his children and grandchildren.. I am terribly sorry for your loss. How lucky were you to have a dad and grandfather like that. God bless Mr. Connery and god bless you all. - Suzy Alba (Smithfield Town Council President), Adam and Sawyer Stanley

**suzy Alba** - October 07, 2020 at 08:01 AM

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“ My sincerest condolences to the Connery family. I did not have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Connery, but his daughter, Susan, is a testament to a good and principled man.

David Newman

David Newman - October 04, 2020 at 06:33 PM

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“ I have great memories of Ray and his wife sailing aboard The Raven with their daughter Susan. What great company, lots of stories told with a quick wit. His name is, and always will be safe on my tongue.  
God Bless the Connerys!  
Mari & Raul Dias

mari dias - October 04, 2020 at 12:04 PM

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“ I had the privilege of knowing Mr. Connery and being a part of the family during some formative years growing up in Slatersville. He was witty, fair, kind and a strong presence. I hope that their memories of him, and others' memories as well, will provide comfort. My best wishes to you all.

Christine Walker Ogden - October 03, 2020 at 01:55 PM

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“ Our hearts and prayers go out to Joan and all the members of Ray’s extended family.

As for Ray himself we’re sure he has many new friends and will soon be running for mayor of the heavenly kingdom.

It was mentioned above how dear Raymond would talk to anyone. And so for us a “Good morning. How are you” in a church parking lot after a Sunday mass turned into long joyous and fun filled relationship.

We feel very blessed to have known Ray and Joan and many members of their extended family.

And so we thank you Ray for having added some much joy and fun and of course your great chowder and stuffed mushrooms to our lives.

And to you and Joan and all your family Godspeed

Frank and Karen

**Frank and Karen** - October 03, 2020 at 11:24 AM

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“ My sympathy to the Connery Family.... I worked at Eastland Bank in the days when Ray was our Security Officer. I always remember his cheerful personality and great smile. He was a wonderful and real "gentleman". May he rest now in the peace of His Lord.

Maureen (Kilcline) Whitman



**MAUREEN WHITMAN** - October 02, 2020 at 08:19 PM

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“ Joan and family,

It was my honor and privilege to serve beside Ray as a member of the No. Smithfield Town Council. He was always pleasant with his wry sense of humor. My heart is with all of you at this time. I know he will be sadly missed by everyone with whom he came in contact.

Sincerely,  
Joyce M. Nunn

Joyce M. Nunn - October 02, 2020 at 04:13 PM

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“ I was saddened to learn of Mr. Connery's death. I will always remember his wonderful smile and great sense of humor. Each time I pass 28 Mechanic Street I still find myself looking for "one of the Connerys" Mr and Mrs Connery created a warm family home that made you feel "at home". My sympathies to the whole family. Nancy Rouette Donohue

Nancy Donohue - October 02, 2020 at 03:44 PM

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“ So very sorry to hear about this loss. Ray was such a wonderful man and I knew him from working at the Village. Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.



Mary Blais - October 02, 2020 at 01:06 PM

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“ Sending love and peace to the family of Raymond Connery. Knowing through his daughter Susan what a fine man he was, we are grateful for his time among us. A wonderful example to his children and grandchildren, his love and steadfast faith abides with them always.

In sympathy,  
Kathy Jellison

Kathy Jellison - October 02, 2020 at 12:03 PM



“ Joan and Family,  
My sympathy to you all. I had the pleasure to serve on the Town Council with Ray 40 years ago. Ray was quick with wit, the indomitable spirit of a RI Trooper and the compassion of a man of faith. May fond memories support you through these times.

Ronald N Renaud

**Ronald Renaud** - October 02, 2020 at 11:40 AM

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“ My heartfelt sympathy to Joan and family. I met Ray when he attended the many Reading Association functions he lovingly attended to aid his wife Joan in her volunteer work. His gentle manner and sense of humor were always evident. When he and Joan moved to Westerly it was always a delight to meet them while shopping or just out for a day together. He was always charming and remembered anecdotes about our last meeting.

Ray was a true gentleman. His love for Joan was always evident and his positive outlook for humanity at the forefront. God bless you, Ray. And God Bless, Joan and his family.

Sandra Lamb

**Sandra Lamb** - October 02, 2020 at 10:42 AM

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“ I cherish my memories of the Connery family and the happy memories my children had of them. . I extend my deepest sympathy to all the Connery's with Love,  
Dottie Dowling.

**Dottie DOWING** - October 02, 2020 at 10:17 AM

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“ We are so sorry for your great loss. We have such fond memories of Ray. He would walk up the 5th fairway with Joan and always give a big wave. We loved when he would stop by on his walks to talk, he had such great stories and an exceptional wit. My sons loved when he would invite them to around of golf. It truly was an honor to know him.

God bless  
Roger and Roberta Harnois

**roberta Harnois** - October 02, 2020 at 09:26 AM

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“ I remember Ray fondly from our days at WST and Eastland. I was his sidekick (or he my "guardian") when we delivered \$30 million of negotiable securities from Woonsocket to New York City. The ride home on RT 95 was, let's say, memorable in that Ray demonstrated his high speed driving skills. We even had dinner at former Governor Licht's favorite restaurant in New Haven. A good man. God will keep him.

**Joe Jarocki** - October 02, 2020 at 08:50 AM

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“ To Susan and the Connery family,  
Please accept our deepest sympathies for your loss and our appreciation of the extraordinary life your father led. What could be more rewarding than being remembered so honorably by your children.  
Our prayers will be with you over the days ahead.  
Stay close!  
God bless,  
Bill and Mary McQuade

**Bill McQuade** - October 02, 2020 at 08:33 AM

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“ I have worked at the Village for over 21 years and some residents just win your heart , Ray was one of them,,,,I will miss him, the banter between him and Joan and his kindness....  
Karlene Hogan

**Karlene A Hogan** - October 02, 2020 at 07:49 AM

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“ So sorry to hear of Ray's passing. He was so caring and left a legacy of love through his family. Much love to all the Connery's in this difficult time.

**Nancy Wolanski** - October 01, 2020 at 07:39 PM