



## Gary Arthur Geffken

December 11, 2022

Gary Arthur Geffken lost his long, fierce battle with squamous cell carcinoma on December 11, 2022, surrounded by his family and dear friends at his home in Royal Oak, MD. He was 72.

Gary was born and raised on Staten Island, NY, where he graduated from St. Peter's High School. He received his Bachelors of Arts degree in 1971 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a major in economics. Having been assigned Draft #2, he joined ROTC, completed his officer training, and was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Navy.

Gary was highly proficient in all elements of naval surface warfare stationed aboard the destroyer USS Corry during the Vietnam war. He was assigned to naval gunfire missions off the coast where he served as the ship's tactical officer in charge of defending the ship in battle. During his two tours of duty, he held many jobs including Chaplain and Navigator. He left the Navy in 1975 as a Lieutenant.

He settled in Haverford, PA, and began a 30-year career on the floor of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange specializing in options trading. Originally recruited by Weeden and Co., he later joined Casella Securities as a partner, then opened his own firm, Staten Island Securities, which later was sold to Knight Financial and ultimately to Citigroup. Not surprisingly, among the

stocks he specialized in was Anheuser Busch. He remained a Busch fan (Bud red, 10 oz, please) throughout his life.

He retired to his property in Royal Oak and joyfully spent thousands of hours as a volunteer in the boat shop at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, achieving lifetime member status working on ancient wooden boats and driving them, learning about engines, and exchanging salty stories and myths with his good friends, usually over a sandwich and a Bud at C Street.

He earned his captain's license in order to lawfully operate the bigger vessels at the Museum. He was thrilled to accompany the young crew aboard the 1909 buy boat Old Point and the 100-year-old tug Delaware on epic journeys to Poquoson, VA, Washington, DC, Bethel, DE, and other Chesapeake ports.

For 25 years he captained the chase boat that accompanied the racing log canoe, Edmee S. during hundreds of races on the Miles, Tred Avon, and Chester rivers. He had a special place in his heart for the young sailors, shipwrights, and artisans at the CBMM boat shop and aboard Edmee S. who keep alive the legend and lore of log canoe racing. His greatest joy was watching his son, Andrew, move from bail boy to winning skipper aboard several log canoes.

Gary was widely known and loved by his many friends in Talbot County, MD. as a kind and generous, quiet and funny, dependable friend who faithfully visited sick pals in the hospital, freely lent thoughtful advice, and could provide almost any needed equipment from "out in the shed." His old friendships, especially with his best childhood buddy and his college roommate, and his faithful band of local friends were enduring spots of light and support during his long illness.

He is a former member of the Merion Cricket Club, the Tred Avon Yacht and

Miles River Yacht clubs and Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

He enjoyed visiting museums and especially those with great art. On one trip to Italy, his companion recalls him visiting 11 major museums and 27 important churches in three cities in six days and remembering details of virtually every one for years afterwards. He loved the art of the sea, maritime images and especially the fine work of his friend, Marc Castelli. Everyone of Castelli's log canoe series hangs in the Royal Oak house.

He is survived by his children, Andrew Schaefer Geffken (Katie) of Takoma Park, MD, and Currie Margaret Geffken of Morgan Hill, CA; his beloved granddaughter, Genevieve McKernan Geffken; his longtime companion, Julie Parker McCahill of St. Michaels, MD; her daughter, Melissa McCahill Deerin (Sloan) of Chevy Chase, MD; his beloved "fake" grandchildren, as they dubbed themselves, Devon, Jack, and James Deerin; and his former wife, Deborah Mohr Geffken of Haverford, PA. He is the son of the late Margaret McKernan Geffken and Adolph "Brud" Geffken of Staten Island and Toms River, NJ.

He left this earth as he had lived on it, quietly, patiently, and with enormous strength, looking out over the beautiful Tred Avon River and Tar Creek, with great reluctance for the party to be over.

A memorial service is planned for Monday, January 2, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. in the VanLennep Auditorium of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, MD. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and specify Edmee S. fund, 213 N. Talbot St., St. Michaels, MD, 21663; or to Talbot Hospice Foundation, 586 Cynwood Dr., Easton, MD

21601.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum  
St. Michaels, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ Gary and I did not get into too much trouble together, but we should have. We didn't get caught and lived to tell about it. WE had a lot of fun over the years. He was a great friend and I miss him.

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**Dick Laughton** - April 18, 2024 at 05:07 PM



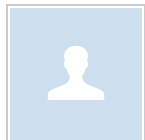
“ Gary Arthur Geffken

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October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



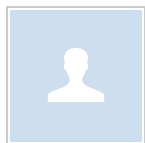
“ USS CORRY (DD817) Bill Laskin

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**Bill Laskin** - June 03, 2023 at 10:35 AM



“ Gary Arthur Geffken

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January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Gary Arthur Geffken

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January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ Farewell and God's speed old salty. Many memories from the Fab Four on the PHLX of GEFFKEN, Dunn, Edelson and Karas. Gone but will never be forgotten. Too many laughs in the trading pits to mention. Strike the tent big boy. You will be missed. Joe Karas

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**Joseph karas** - January 03, 2023 at 08:43 AM

MP

“ Gary was a great friend and certainly a partner in mischievousness! I will fondly remember all the time we spent together, and I'm so glad I had the chance to know him.  
To his family - Know that I'm there for you.

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**Marshall Patterson** - December 27, 2022 at 10:30 PM

BG

“ Gary and I lived in the same dorm at UNC. We shared many beers and good times. We had not kept up over the years but nothing in his obituary surprised me. He always was a kind, good friend and loved his NROTC training. I'm fortunate to have reconnected this past year if only for a short time.  
For all the family, I'm sorry for your loss.

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**Bill Groce** - December 23, 2022 at 10:07 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Arthur Geffken.



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December 22, 2022 at 11:07 AM



“ here are some photos from Gary as a kid...and the last time i saw him...at a 1974 Lighthouse Hi;ll reunion...on our BALLFIELD!!



Stephen Andrew - December 21, 2022 at 08:31 PM

BF

“ Binney and Dave Fouts purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Gary Arthur Geffken.



Binney and Dave Fouts - December 21, 2022 at 06:06 PM



“ To the Geffken Family--Please accept my Family's condolences on your loss. Gary and I went started as neighborhood friends on Lighthouse Hill...and went from kindergarten through 8th grade together. We were Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts together. We played baseball and football all the time on the "ballfield" carved out of the "woods" ILLEGALLY in the mid 1950s in our neighborhood. What always strikes me about obituaries is how little we actually knew of our friends and neighbors!! I had no idea of his Vietnam and USN service!! Gary and his Parents were "rockstars" on Lighthouse Hill!! Please see the Lighthouse Hill Facebook page for old photos and memories!! Stephen Grabe & The grabe Family

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**Stephen Andrew** - December 21, 2022 at 11:31 AM