



## Gerald Hugh Dockstader

June 1, 1951 - July 13, 2025

Gerald (Gerry) Hugh Dockstader, age 74, of Chestertown, Maryland, passed away July 13, 2025, surrounded by family and friends.

Born June 1, 1951, in Armstrong, British Columbia, Canada, Gerry was the son of Hazel and Robert Dockstader. He grew up in Vernon, B.C., before relocating to the U.S., where he built a fulfilling life with his spouse of 29 years, Karen Kemp. Gerry was best known for his sharp business acumen, creative eye for garden design, wry sense of humor, and tireless work ethic. Gerry built a 55-year work history in the packaging and horticultural markets in Canada and the U.S. He began in Lumby and Vernon, B.C., working for Consumers Glass. Then he moved to Toronto, ON, to work in sales and management positions.

After meeting Karen, who was heavily involved in the horticultural sector, Gerry turned his lifelong passion for nature into a second career. His work included consulting and leadership in wholesale nursery operations, where he combined his love of plants with his exceptional business instincts, bringing warmth and growth to everything he touched.

During this time, Gerry was employed by several leading companies within the horticultural industry, including Star Roses & Plants, Glenn Walters Nursery, and Master Nursery Garden Centers. He was an active member and served

as a director of the AmericanHort Board of Directors, supporting the horticultural industry in North America.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Gerry had a wide variety of hobbies and interests. Gerry had a keen eye for beauty in both nature and design. He also had a lifelong love of classic cars and motorcycles. In addition, and of paramount importance to Gerry was his deep affection for animals, particularly German Shepherds who were his constant companions in his later years. Gerry poured his energy into interests that reflected his thoughtful spirit, and he brought the same level of dedication to his relationships both human and animal. Whether offering advice to his sons, a hearty laugh, or a helping hand to his neighbors, Gerry made an impression that lasted.

Gerry is survived by his wife, Karen; son Brett, from his marriage to Connie Nichol; his wife Elizabeth, 'Liz', and their three children; granddaughter Leann; sons J.W. and Daniel, and wife Mary, with their four children. He is preceded in death by his son, Shon.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Instead of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made in his name to any of these organizations:  
MD Horticultural Careers and Training: <https://www.hrresearch.org/donate>  
Prostate Cancer Research: <https://www.pcf.org/donate/> SPCA: <https://acskc.org/>

# Tribute Wall

CK

“ *Cindy King lit a candle in memory of Gerald Hugh Dockstader*



Cindy King - July 23, 2025 at 11:36 AM

MA

“ *Mike & Tracy Abram lit a candle in memory of Gerald Hugh Dockstader*



Mike & Tracy Abram - July 22, 2025 at 05:27 PM

KC

“ *Karen, sending you and the family, my deepest condolences.*



Kim Crew-Severson - July 21, 2025 at 09:16 AM

BF

“ *Betta Fraccaroli lit a candle in memory of Gerald Hugh Dockstader*



Betta Fraccaroli - July 20, 2025 at 08:31 PM

JG

“ To Karen and the family Gerry you have our deepest condolences.  
*Jim and Deb Gillman*



---

**Jim gillman** - July 19, 2025 at 11:56 AM

DW

“ *Diane Wadkovsky lit a candle in memory of Gerald Hugh Dockstader*



---

**Diane Wadkovsky** - July 19, 2025 at 10:14 AM

NC

“ *Nancy S Conner sent a virtual gift in memory of Gerald Hugh Dockstader*



---

**Nancy S Conner** - July 19, 2025 at 08:24 AM

NC

*My Dear Friend ,so glad God put you in our lives . Some people come in your life and you barely know they have been there .However there are people like you that come in and bring such joy ,light and a presence you just like to be around them.You my friend were like that . We all are going to miss you so very much . As sad as I am for us I am so happy for you . You stepped out of time into eternity because you received Jesus Christ as your savior you got to go to heaven . No more pain ,no more sorrow ,no more worry's . You look younger and feel more alive then you ever did here on earth. This is not goodbye but see you later my Dear friend !!!*

*Karen we are here for you.*

*Nancy S Conner*

*And*

*The ROK*

---

**Nancy S Conner** - July 19, 2025 at 08:46 AM

DB

“ *Debra Blanchfield lit a candle in memory of Gerald Hugh Dockstader*

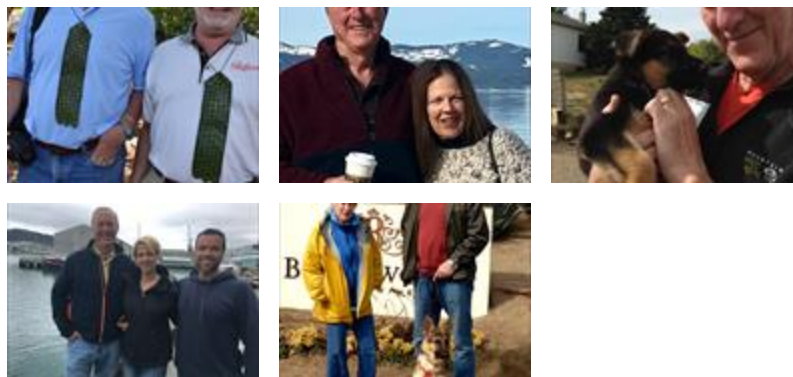


---

**Debra Blanchfield** - July 18, 2025 at 10:54 PM



“ *8 files added to the album Memories Album*



---

**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - July 18, 2025 at 09:06 AM

RK

“ Jerry was a true patriot. He loved this country and worked hard to see that the core values were preserved. Thank you Jerry.



Rita and Eddie Kulley - July 17, 2025 at 06:33 PM

MU

“ Marie Usilton lit a candle in memory of Gerald Hugh Dockstader



Marie Usilton - July 17, 2025 at 11:25 AM

TS

“ Our deepest condolences.



Todd and Diane Smith - July 17, 2025 at 08:40 AM

EC

“ Eastern Shore Dental Care lit a candle in memory of Gerald Hugh Dockstader



Eastern Shore Dental Care - July 17, 2025 at 08:33 AM

MM

*We love you Gerry and miss you terribly. Life will be much less interesting, and certainly not nearly as much fun. God's speed dear friend.*

*Bob and Mary McGinnis*

---

**Mary E McGinnis** - July 18, 2025 at 08:14 PM