



## James Kenefick O'Brien Jr.

March 22, 1930 - December 26, 2014

James Kenefick O'Brien Jr., 84, of St. Michaels, MD, passed away peacefully on December 26, 2014, at the University of MD Medical Center at Easton. He was born in Germantown, PA, on March 22, 1930.

James was the only son of the late James K. O'Brien Sr. and Mary Carr O'Brien of Bala Cynwyd, PA. Mr. O'Brien graduated from Malvern Preparatory School in Malvern, PA., and from Fordham University, School of Business in 1955. James served as a First Lieutenant during the Korean War and continued serving in the Army Reserves for an additional three years.

As a businessman, James was President of O'Brien Industries of Livingston, NJ, for thirty years.

In 1992, James authored and spearheaded the passing of a Constitutional Amendment for Victims' Rights. The Amendment was passed into Law in the Election of 1992 and the Law went into effect in December of 1992.

James was elected Freeholder of Morris County, NJ, in 1993 and served for five years ending his term, as Director of the Board of Freeholders. James continued his service to his community when he was appointed Commissioner of the Victims' Rights Compensation Board for the State of New Jersey, by then Governor Christie Todd-Whitman. James served the Board until 2001.

In 2001, James moved to St. Michaels, MD, where he served on the St. Michaels Community Center Board, on the Board of Community Connection, as well as the Board of the Child Advocacy Center of Easton, MD.

An avid sailor, James belonged to the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club in Lake Hopatcong, NJ, and the Miles River Yacht Club in St. Michaels, MD.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-nine years, Georgia Courtney O'Brien; three children; James O'Brien III, Maureen O'Brien Scott and Erin O'Brien Higgins; six grandchildren, James O'Brien IV, Joseph O'Brien, Stephen O'Brien, Kenneth Higgins, Samantha Higgins and Colin Higgins; and his sister, Sarah O'Brien Lucynski. He was predeceased by his daughter, Deirdre O'Brien.

A funeral Liturgy will be celebrated on Saturday, January 3, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Michaels Mission Church, 109 Lincoln Ave., St. Michaels, MD 21663. Inurnment will take place at a later date in Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Deirdre's House (formerly The Deidre O'Brien Child Advocacy Center) 8 Court Street, Morristown, NJ 07960, or visit [www.deirdreshouse.org](http://www.deirdreshouse.org).

## Cemetery Details

### Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

## Previous Events

### Funeral Liturgy

JAN 3. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

St. Michaels Mission Church  
109 Lincoln Avenue  
St. Michaels, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Kenefick O'Brien Jr.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *James Kenefick O'Brien Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *James Kenefick O'Brien Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Joan Masucci Crialese lit a candle in memory of James Kenefick O'Brien Jr.*



**Joan Masucci Crialese** - January 04, 2015 at 11:26 AM

PG

“ I was heartbroken when I learned of Jim’s death. He was such a special man to so many people. What a wonderful mentor he was to me during the creation of the DOBCAC, and I will be forever grateful for the professional and personal growth I experienced as a result of that relationship. I wish we could turn back the clock and all be together again making history fighting for victims' rights. Georgia, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. There will always be a special place in my heart for you and Jim. May he rest in peace.

Love,  
Patty Gallagher (Founding Director, DOBCAC of Morris County)  
Naples, FL

---

**Patty Gallagher** - January 01, 2015 at 11:43 PM

JK

“ A heartfelt loss of a great guy. We enjoyed many years of boating with Jim and Georgia. Jim had the greatest sense of humor and always kept us laughing. Our Love and Condolences to Georgia and Family. ❤️  
Jan & Bob Keebler

---

**Jan & Bob Keebler** - January 01, 2015 at 01:00 PM

ED

“ Elaine Donegan lit a candle in memory of James Kenefick O'Brien Jr.



---

**elaine donegan** - January 01, 2015 at 09:56 AM

ED

*Rest in heavenly peace. I was 25 years old when Deidre was murdered. I was working in Whippany, NJ at that time, and my co-workers said I looked like Deidre and I were sisters. They were right. I never had a sister, but if I had one she certainly would be it. She even had a white firebird like I did. I have thought and prayed for her for years. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. Now you are reunited with her and the LORD.*

-----  
**elaine donegan** - January 01, 2015 at 10:03 AM

CP

“ *My Prayers are with the O'Brien family at this most difficult time. Thank you Jim for the work you did for crime victims' rights. You and your family, as well as your beloved daughter Deidre will never be forgotten, especially in New Jersey. Rest in Peace.*



-----  
**Clair Palumbo** - December 29, 2014 at 10:54 PM

RR

“ *I am deeply saddened to learn of Jim's passing. While I had not seen Jim in many years, we were kindred souls, fellow survivors and colleagues in the field of crime victims' rights and services. We shared many challenges and victories in our common quests for victim justice. I learned much from Jim and his legacy will long live in honor of his daughter, Deidre. My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to his family. May he rest in peace.*

*Roberta Roper  
Founder and Board Chair, Maryland Crime Victims' Resource  
Center, Inc. (formerly the Stephanie Roper Committee &  
Foundations, Inc.)*

-----  
**Roberta Roper** - December 29, 2014 at 08:26 PM

AS

“ *The families and children in the community of St Michaels and Talbot County have lost and unsung hero. Not long after the O'Brien's moved to the Eastern Shore, the Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center (TCAC) opened. Jim continued his legacy of advocacy for Child Abuse victims through his time on the TCAC Advisory Committee and also as a board member of Talbot Community Connections. Our center grew with the wisdom Jim imparted from the founding years of Deidre's House in New Jersey. I am honored to have had the support of Jim O'Brien as a colleague and a friend.*

*Prayers for healing for Jim's family.*

*April A. Sharp, Director  
Talbot County Department of Social Services*

---

**april sharp** - December 29, 2014 at 05:15 PM

ME

“ *We are so sadden by the loss of Jim and our prayers and thoughts are with all those who loved him. His contribution to victims' rights and child victims of abuse and neglect are immeasurable. The staff of The Deirdre O'Brien Child Advocacy Center (Deirdre's House) and the children and families we serve will be forever grateful for all he and Georgia have done. Through the founding of Deirdre's House they have changed the course of thousands of children's lives. Their contribution will continue to touch child victims for generations to come. Deirdre's House will be a living tribute to Jim and we will continue to honor his memory by being the door to hope and healing that he envisioned.*

*Maria Vinci Savettiere, Esq.  
Executive Director  
Deirdre's House*

---

**Maria Vinci Savettiere, Esq** - December 29, 2014 at 08:43 AM

PA

“ So sorry to hear of his passing. He was a wonderful person. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.  
*Dennis & Patrice Anderson*

---

**Patrice Sachs Anderson** - December 28, 2014 at 03:14 PM

CC

“ Wonderful memories, "Guido's Tours", Oxford Regatta weekends, Annapolis to Oxford races and happy hours on "Irish Mist"; just some of the shared experiences that made knowing Jim and Georgia such a fantastic time in our lives. Love, prayers and condolences to Georgia and the family.  
*Cindy & Mike Christie*

---

**Cindy & Mike Christie** - December 28, 2014 at 11:20 AM

DG

“ The many years we had with Jim and Georgia with our boats will never be forgotten. Good times we did have,  
*Tony and Debby Greenwood*

---

**Debby Greenwood** - December 27, 2014 at 04:48 PM