



## Elmer S. Fitzgerald, 92, of Ashby

May 20, 1933 - February 27, 2026

Elmer “Fitzy” Smith Fitzgerald Jr., 92, a longtime and devoted resident of Ashby, passed away peacefully at his Florida home on February 27, 2026.

Born and raised in Leominster, Elmer was the son of the late Elmer Sr and Geraldine Fitzgerald. He graduated from Leominster High School and proudly served his country in the United States Army. He carried that sense of duty and pride with him throughout his life.

Following in his father’s footsteps, he worked the family Fitzgerald Fruit Farm apple orchard in Leominster.

He later met the love of his life, Ann Louise Clay of Ashby. They were married in 1968 and built a life grounded in love, faith, hard work, and deep devotion to family. Together they continued his passion for apple farming by founding Merry Mac Orchards in Ashby, where he worked faithfully for over three decades. Many will remember him on his tractor — a machine he admired endlessly. His fascination with tractors of all kinds was legendary and remained a source of joy and conversation throughout his life.

Elmer’s commitment to service extended well beyond his orchards. Beginning in 1964, he was a proud and active member of the Ashby Fire Department for 52 years, serving 18 years as Chief. As Chief, he guided the department with steady leadership, support, and mentored generations of firefighters. His

dedication to the safety and well-being of the community he loved and served was unwavering. Elmer loved our small town of Ashby.

Those who knew Elmer knew he was a simple man. He loved life, God, his family, his friends, fire departments, apple farming, traveling and camping, eating home cooked meals, jelly donuts, tractors, blue grass festivals and the Deerfield NH Fair. In his later years, Elmer traveled the country in his camper, stopping at many blue grass festivals and tractor shows along the way. He was the epitome of living life to the fullest. He loved well and was well loved.

He leaves his sons, Bradford C. Fitzgerald and his wife, Carol, Kim J. Fors and his wife, Nancy and his daughter-in-law Joyce Fors all of Ashby; his sister Janice Blaikie of Pinellas Park, FL; his grandchildren Jake, Madison, Melissa, Derick, Micaela and Bryan; and nine great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Ann, his brothers Kenneth and Ronald, and his son, Scott Fors. The love he had for his family was constant, enduring and forever cherished.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the many healthcare workers who cared for Elmer, to hospice, and with profound gratitude to Hertha Diamond in Florida who provided constant care, attention and love. Your kindness, compassion, and friendship meant more than words can say. You are an angel on earth.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Elmer's memory may be made to the Ashby Fire Department at 1093 Main Street, Ashby, MA 01431 or the Ashby Congregational Church at 21 New Ipswich Road, Ashby, MA 01431.

Elmer's family will receive relatives and friends at calling hours from 4-7 PM Friday, March 6, 2026 at the Anderson Funeral Home, 250 Main Street (Rte

119) Townsend Center.

Funeral services will be held 10:00 AM Saturday, March 7, 2026 in the Ashby Congregational Church, 21 New Ipswich Road, Ashby. Spring interment will be in Glenwood Cemetery, Ashby.

# Cemetery Details

## Glenwood Cemetery

763 Main Street  
Ashby, MA 01431

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

MAR 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Townsend  
250 Main Street ~ Route 119  
Townsend, MA 01469  
(978) 597-2692

## Funeral Service

MAR 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

Ashby Congregational Church  
New Ipswich Rd  
Ashby, MA

# Tribute Wall

AT

“ So sorry 😞 for your loss..what an amazing person he is. Just a couple of times he used to drove school. Bus I remember that  
And his wife  
Great people and a great friend

Andrea thibaudeau - March 07 at 10:29 AM

AM

“ remembering learning how to water ski behind fitzys boat on long lake in Bridgeton me, then how he had to buy a bigger (75HP mercury) to try to get my 300# father out of the water,it was still a struggle, I remember my mother baking apple pies and waiting up till midnight or later for my father ,uncle "duke"(Robert Proctor)and fitzy to return from deerfield fair with the sharp cheddar cheese they would bring home from the Yankee cheese man. I remember working in the orchard picking apples and riding behind the tractor putting out mice poisen in the ground every fall. Fitzzy was always around to help my father with haying and cutting firewood he was a great friend to me and our family thank you for a lifetime of great memories

Alan Murray - March 05 at 03:03 PM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of  
Elmer S. Fitzgerald, 92, of Ashby.



March 04 at 08:23 AM

AA

“ Ashby Fire and EMS Association purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Elmer S. Fitzgerald, 92, of Ashby.



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**Ashby Fire and EMS Association** - March 02 at 05:10 PM

AA

“ Ashby Fire and EMS Association planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elmer S, Fitzgerald, 92, of Ashby.

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**Ashby Fire and EMS Association** - March 02 at 05:10 PM

CR

“ When I came to Ashby as it's Chief of Police in 1994. It was Chief Fitzgerald of the Ashby Fire Dept who welcomed me. Extending the arm of profesional friendship for which I'm eternally grateful. He was an " original " old school, hands on Chief. He was the heart and soul of Ashby.

*Chief Robert N. Willhauck, Ret.*

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**Chief Robert N. Willhauck. Ret.** - March 02 at 03:25 PM

PS

*I remember Fitzy well. I served as a firefighter under his leadership as Chief of the department and learned a great thank you deal from his expertise. Prayers for peace, comfort and strength to family. Friends and members of the Ashby Fire and EMS. God bless you all.*

*Commander Paul L. Woodcome, Sr.*

*Harold N. Keith American Legion Post 204 West Boylston MA.*

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**Paul L. Woodcome, Sr.** - March 02 at 07:53 PM

LS

*He was a wonderful person loved by all. Linda and Denis Sulewski*

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**Linda Sulewski** - March 06 at 04:57 PM

DZ

“ *What a great man! Always had a smile on his face that just made you feel happy!* ❤️🙏

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**Deb Zajac** - March 02 at 02:27 PM