



Gerald Melanson, of Ayer

January 10, 1933 - March 16, 2026

Gerald Melanson passed away peacefully on March 16, 2026, in the comfort of his home and care of his family. Jerry was born in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada to Jacob and Alvina Melanson on January 10, 1933. He was cared for by Vital and Juliette Bourgeois after the death of his mother.

His skills as a welder brought him here to the United States, settling in Ayer, MA. and working at the Shanklin Corporation for 35 years.

Gerald, known as "Coach Jerry" taught youth hockey at Acton-Boxborough. When he was not coaching at AB, Jerry was spending his time with the special needs program in Concord. Coach Jerry also helped out at the nearby Groton Youth Hockey's learn-to-skate program. His dedication earned him Massachusetts' Assistant Coach of the Year in 2001. Jerry's commitment to his volunteer work also earned him a Massachusetts commendation citing June 16, 2001 "Jerry Melanson Day."

He is predeceased by his wife, Yvonne Melanson as well as his sister Stella Cormier and stepsister Irene Leblanc.

Gerald leaves three daughters and sons-in-law, Janice A. and Lindsay Graham of Shirley, Joanne M. and Jay Migrants of Leominster, Linda M. and Matthew Kauppi of Townsend and son Gerard A. and Kim Melanson of

Lunenburg and seven grandchildren, Matthew Graham, David Migrants, Daniel Migrants, Nathaniel Kauppi, Justin Kauppi, Nicole McDonald and Kristen Melanson. He also leaves a great grandson, Mason McDonald. He is also survived by his stepsister Florence Bourgeois.

A private burial will be held in the spring.

Tribute Wall

EM

“ My sincere sympathies Janice, Joanne, Linda & Gerry during this difficult time.
RIP Mr Melanson

Eugene Melanson - May 06 at 05:45 PM

WC

“Gerry you were fantastic and will be sorely missed. However, Batman had Robin, the Lone Ranger had Tonto, and Bob Caldwell had Gerry.
Rest in Peace,
Wayne Caldwell”

Wayne Caldwell - March 21 at 02:22 PM

DS

“ Denise Stepleton lit a candle in memory of Gerald Melanson, of Ayer



Denise Stepleton - March 21 at 10:52 AM

DS

Joanne & family, sending condolences in the passing of your loved one. I did not know Gerald. I can see that he was very well liked.

Denise Stepleton - March 21 at 10:56 AM

MN

“ RIP Coach Jerry. I always knew if a rink was open somewhere that you were in there skating. You taught hundreds of kids to “run like a hoss” and “push da crate”.

Mike Noeth - March 19 at 09:08 PM

DF

“ Dan & Amy Fairweather lit a candle in memory of Gerald Melanson, of Ayer



Dan & Amy Fairweather - March 19 at 06:15 PM



“ Janice, Joanne, Linda, Gerard and the Melanson Family, Sending you all my deepest condolences on the passing of your Dad. Coach Melanson was a great coach to my brothers and the Ayer Beavers back in the day. He was a hockey legend. May he rest in Peace. Sending prayers and healing to you all during this most difficult time. 🙏📖✍️

Donna Madigan - March 19 at 02:44 PM

PC

“ Thoughts, prayers, and condolences to Janice, Joanne, Linda, and Gerard on the passing of Uncle Jack. I can only imagine the Heavenly celebration that took place when he crossed the Pearly Gates and reunited with Aunt Yvonne, my Mother Stella, Pepere, and Memere. I have many fond memories of our visits to Pepere's trailer in Cocogne, New Brunswick with Uncle Jack and Aunt Yvonne. R.I.P. Uncle Jack.

Paul Cormier - March 19 at 08:43 AM

JB

“ I am deeply saddened to hear of our respected and revered Mr Melanson’s passing. He was known for different roles, of course family being the most treasured. To the Hayes family he was someone who always waved, offered services when he could after my dad passed, and shared a kind neighborly quality everyone should know in their lifetime with great conversations! I am so sorry for your devastating loss - even though our brains know this life ends to move on to the one without pain or tears or suffering, our hearts never quite comprehend the sadness that comes at the letting go and during the waiting to be reunited once again. May his memory continue to be a blessing to all those who knew him. He was a wonderful role model of what “love your neighbor as yourself” really means. May God grant your family peace and comfort during this transition as he is greeted by those who have gone before him with love and joy. He will truly be missed!



Janet Hayes Bias - March 18 at 09:21 PM

AS

“ I’m so sorry to hear of Gerry’s passing. Gerry was such a kind and gentle man. I enjoyed walking with him at Devens years ago. We had some great conversations. May he rest in peace ❤️

Agnes Shanahan - March 18 at 07:46 PM

CS

“ Keeping you in our prayers~Don & Chris Souter 🙏



Chris Souter - March 18 at 07:17 PM

TE

“ So sorry to be reading this Janice. I know you put forth every effort to care for him. Please accept my condolences.

Tim Elmer - March 18 at 04:57 PM

AC

Joanne sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad. Prayers to you and your family.

Anne and Bob Cormier - March 18 at 07:45 PM