



Gerald E. Millson

May 29, 1930 - May 26, 2023

AYER – A life well-lived came full circle as Gerald E. Millson passed away Friday evening, May 26, 2023, on the same acre on which he was born nearly 93 years ago. Jerry died peacefully surrounded by his family in the home he and his Dad had built. A second son, born to George E. and Laura A. (Pray) Millson on May 29, 1930, he was a lifelong resident of Ayer, graduating from Ayer High School in 1948 where he was known for his quick speed and agility as a football and baseball player for Ayer High School.

Jerry served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955 with the hopes that he might see the world. Instead, he was stationed at Ft. Devens where he was able to go home at night, reporting for duty the next morning.

He received his Bachelor and Master's degrees from Boston University and began his career in education. His first teaching assignment was with the Concord Public Schools where he was a Physical Education Teacher and Athletic Coach. Jerry ended his career in his hometown, retiring as the Principal of Ft. Devens Elementary School on the year of its closing. He went on to serve the Town of Ayer in many capacities, serving on the Ayer School Committee, Ayer High School Building Committee and the Board of Health. He was a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ayer.

Jerry had varied interests. He was an avid reader and particularly enjoyed

action thrillers and mysteries. After his retirement, he loved travelling with his beloved wife and family, spending summers in Maine and wintering in Florida. Jerry loved nothing more than being with his family and enjoying a sunset on the beach. A lover of nature, he tended the gardens and lawns beautifying the family home on Flanagan Pond.

A devoted husband, he met his wife, Alice R. (Titus) Millson of Ayer in the first grade. They were married for 70 years, establishing the 5th generation of the Millson family on the pond. Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Clark Millson and his wife Karen of Carlsbad, CA and Glenn Millson of Ayer; a daughter, Cynthia Plunkett and her husband William of Ayer; a brother Robert Millson of Greeneville, TN; two grandsons, Daniel Plunkett and Kyle Plunkett and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Donald Millson.

A memorial service will be held Friday, June 2, at 10AM in the Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Rd., Ayer, followed by a graveside service at Woodlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider making contributions in Jerry's name to the Ayer Shirley Education Foundation.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

Harvard Road
Ayer, MA 01432
info@andersonfuneral.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 2. 10:00 AM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home
25 Fitchburg Road
Ayer, MA 01432
info@andersonfuneral.com

Tribute Wall

ST

“ WOW. Just WOW. I just learned of the passing of our beloved Uncle Jerry.
Condolences to his direct and his extended family.
A great, supportive, kind guy and fellow BU Alum.
"Grace, mercy, and peace from G*D [Titus 1: 4]."
Love

Stephen Titus - November 21, 2024 at 08:35 AM

CM

“ Christine M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald E. Millson.

Christine M. - June 12, 2023 at 10:39 AM

PB

“ Paula Boisseau lit a candle in memory of Gerald E. Millson



Paula Boisseau - May 30, 2023 at 02:51 PM

JG

“ My condolences to Cindy, Glenn and family.
Janice Melanson Graham



Janice Graham - May 30, 2023 at 09:57 AM

MT

“ Sending heartfelt love to Alice, Glenn, Cindy, and Clark. Uncle Jerry will be greatly missed but always with us in our hearts. Uncle Jerry always made me smile with his great sense of humor and the best hugs. He was a kind and loving person to all who knew him. I remember when he would listen for the train whistle that took me into Boston at 5:30 a.m. and say there goes Mindy into work. Aunt Alice and family, love you so much. Uncle Jerry watch over us and rest in peace, my dear uncle. Love you, Mindy

Mindy Titus - May 29, 2023 at 04:11 AM

“ To the family of Gerald “Jerry” Millson—So sorry to hear of your dad’s passing.

For several Ayer Park Dept. Winter League Basketball Seasons back in the early 60’s, your dad was our coach first at the old Ayer High School on Pond Street. A few years later, Park Dept. Commissioner Al Perone, moved the winter league to the Page School gymnasium.

Your dad molded very competitive teams, coaching and mentoring good, smart, natural athletes like Tommy O’Malley, Billy Blasetti, Dicky Collins, Jay Scully, Paul Diggs, and others.

Your dad was the first gym teacher I had at the Pleasant Street School (Mrs. Rena Hurley was Principal back then) and he taught us the “contact” ball game of “CROWS AND CRANES .” (Sort of like being a turkey in a shooting gallery! Nonetheless, it was a lot of fun and we looked forward to playing that game each week.)

When your dad was AHS Baseball Coach, and the team was on a tight budget and feeling the pinch of equipment shortages (baseballs especially), as “Bat Boy” for one season, I had to chase all the foul balls hit out into the swamp next to the right field line down at the old Town Park. I remember (1961) one AHS baseball power hitter named “Moose” Carbone, who must have hit 8 or 9 balls into the swamp during one-at-bat! When Moose Carbone came up again two innings later, he homered the first pitch to left center field. I felt relief. By the end of that game, I was a “mud pie for sore eyes.” Your dad kiddingly remarked: “Philip you must enjoy playing in the swamp!”

Your dad was a great person, kind, caring, mentoring and thoughtful. He looked for potential and talent in young people and when he saw it, he encouraged or “dogged” the person to try and be his best. I know, he “dogged” me for years and I loved it! He will be missed.

(Phil Locke, San Diego, CA; formerly 5 Pond Street, Ayer, MA)

Philip Locke - May 28, 2023 at 06:01 PM

TM

Alice & family, We are sorry for your loss. You were the best neighbors to our parents and we are forever grateful for that. Jerry was a great man and well respected by everyone in town. Sincerely, Thelma, Jack & Joan (Lambert)

Thelma Maskousky - May 29, 2023 at 01:11 PM

FH

Alice & Family; My deepest condolences, He will always be remembered.

Frank Harmon - May 29, 2023 at 06:01 PM

TC

I consider myself blessed to have had Jerry Millson as a friend, mentor and coach.

As a teenager in the 1950's, I worked summers with Jerry assisting him in the maintenance of the Town Park and Sandy Pond Beach. In the late 1950's, he was my baseball coach at Ayer High School...1959 Champions.

My admiration for the man is boundless.

As an older role model for me and as a coach, he instilled values in me and taught me lessons that have honestly shaped my life and framed my years of coaching baseball at AHS.

Tom Casey

Tom Casey - May 31, 2023 at 03:05 PM

BW

Alice & Family,

I had Jerry as a physical education teacher teacher and baseball coach from 1957 to 1961 at AHS. He was an excellent instructor and coach....and a great athlete himself. I just can't say enough good things about him.

Before the pandemic I enjoyed seeing him at Orchard Hills Athletic club. Over 55 years had passed, but Jerry was still upbeat, encouraging and just a pleasure to be around.

Bill Wood

Bill Wood - June 03, 2023 at 06:51 AM

CM

I will always remember Gerry Millson with love and great respect. He was my tenth grade biology teacher and he made learning fun because of his sense of humor which he brought into our classroom every day. Later, when I became a teacher at Fort Devens Elementary, he was my principal. Always fair, always giving his all to the students, and always making the teachers and staff laugh which made our days happy and productive. Bless you, Mr. Millson, you will never be forgotten.

Christine Maxant - June 12, 2023 at 10:54 AM