



## Obituary - William Gorham

William R. Gorham, 69 Portland - William R. (Will) Gorham passed away peacefully after a short illness with his family by his side on May 31, 2017, at Gosnell Hospice House in Scarborough. He was born January 2, 1948, in Portland, to Joseph M. and Elizabeth (Greene) Gorham.

Will attended Cathedral School and Portland schools, graduating from Portland High School in 1967. He immediately joined the Marine Corp. and served our country in the Marine Corps., Marine Corps Reserves and as a Merchant Seaman.

Upon his return to Portland Will began buying apartment buildings ultimately becoming a real estate broker in the early 1970's. In the mid-1970's Will and his longtime partner, Tom Brand, opened the Sun Tavern and Oasis Nightclub at 188 Middle Street. Later during the early 1980's Will drove a taxi for Town Taxi earning the title "The Heart of Saturday Night" by Casco Bay Weekly. During the latter part of the 1980's Will focused on selling real estate working as Designated Broker first for Bay Realty and then as Designated Broker/Owner of Shamrock Realty. In 1985 then Governor Joe Brennan appointed Will to serve as a Bail Commissioner for the Ninth District Court. At the time of his death, Will continued to work as a Bail Commissioner and as a real estate broker with Keller Williams Realty.

Will's proudest achievement was becoming a father to his son Patrick who was born in 1992. Will cheered Patrick on at every stage of life, encouraging Patrick to become an independent thinker, hard worker and kind man to everyone he encounters.

Will was a kind man, always putting everyone else first. He served his community in many ways. In the early 1980's he became president of the Boys' & Girls' Clubs of Greater Portland Alumni Association. Membership in the Alumni Association grew to the largest number ever recorded by the Association. Will served two terms as president of the Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization in the early 1990's and went on to be elected to City Council as Portland's District 1 Councilor serving in that capacity from 2004 to 2007.

It was during his time serving as City Councilor for District 1 and the islands that Will found his truest purpose in life, serving the City of Portland and it's citizens to the best of his ability. He applied his intelligence, common sense and knowledge of the history of Portland to finding common ground to solve the City's problems and plan for it's future. He was particularly proud of his work on the Master Plan for the Redevelopment of the Eastern Waterfront, first as president of the MHNO and then as District 1 Councilor. Known for his sense of humor and dry wit, Will was able to collaborate with other councilors to meet in the middle of divisive issues. Will championed and supported Portland Fire Department and Portland Police Department, often doing

William was an avid sports fan. He loved watching the Patriots, Celtics, golf and every James Bond movie with his son Patrick. Patrick became Will's golfing buddy and they enjoyed going out on their friend Gary Marcisso's boat together every summer.

William was preceded in death by his parents; and beloved sister, Ann Gorham Mussenden; as well as his nephews Martin Gorham and Stephen Gorham. He is survived by his son, Patrick Gorham, his former wife Jaye Kenney Gorham, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The family would like to thank the staffs at Maine Medical Center and Springbrook Rehab for their loving care and support.

A memorial mass will take place at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 3, 2017, followed by a Celebration of life at the Guild Hall at 307 Congress Street.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in William's name to:

The Boys' & Girls' Clubs of Greater Portland

277 Cumberland Avenue

Portland, ME 04101

St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen

307 Congress Street

Portland, ME 04101