



## Terrence O'Brien Connolly

December 14, 1939 - March 14, 2026

Terrence O'Brien Connolly, of Ocala, Florida, passed away peacefully on March 14, 2026, at the age of 86. Born on December 14, 1939, in Detroit, Michigan. Terry was the fourth of nine children born to Frank and Josephine (Dyer) Connolly. From an early age, he was shaped by a strong Catholic upbringing, a deep love of family, and a genuine desire to serve others. After graduating from Detroit Catholic Central High School, he continued his faith journey by attending seminary with the Basilian Fathers at St. John Fisher in Rochester, New York.

On July 17, 1965, Terry married the love of his life, Eleanor Copperstone, in Detroit. Together they built a home centered on faith, commitment, and generosity, and were blessed with three sons—Frank, Christopher, and Terrence. Terry's devotion to his family was constant and unwavering; he took great pride not only in his sons, but later in his beloved grandchildren, whom he cherished deeply.

Service was the defining theme of Terry's life. A proud 50-year member of the Knights of Columbus, he lived the values of charity, unity, and fraternity every day. He was actively involved in his parish community, volunteering through St. Vincent de Paul, working in soup kitchens, and supporting charity bingo events. Terry had a remarkable gift for sensing when someone needed help; he never hesitated to step forward, offering his time, his tools, or simply a

compassionate ear. For many, he was the first person to call when help was needed—and the first to arrive.

He also found joy in coaching CYO basketball, sharing both his love of the sport and his belief in teamwork and good sportsmanship with his sons and their friends. After moving to Florida in 2014, Terry embraced community life there as well, becoming an enthusiastic participant in bocce, cards, and neighborhood gatherings. His warm smile and steady kindness built friendships that grew into a second family.

Terry is survived by his devoted wife, Ellie; sons Frank (Amy) and Chris; and grandchildren Evan, Brynna, Olivia, and Ryan Connolly. He is also survived by his siblings Mary Jo Gorcyca, Patrick Connolly, Maureen Furey, and Mark Connolly, as well as many cherished nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his son Terry, his parents, and his brothers Jack, Frank, Kevin, and Danny. He will be profoundly missed by the many friends whose lives he touched with his generosity, humor, and gentle strength.

A memorial gathering will be held from 12:00–2:00 PM on Wednesday, March 25, at the Arbors Event Room at On Top of the World in Ocala.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, honoring Terry's lifelong devotion to helping others.

# Previous Events

## Memorial

MAR **25**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Arbors Event Room at On Top of the World  
Ocala, FL