

Hugh O'Connell Jr.



Hugh O'Connell Jr. 87, of Newport passed away on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at home. He was the beloved husband of Dorothy (Pike) O'Connell for 48 years.

Born in Newport on May 27, 1926 he was the son of the late Hugh O'Connell Sr. and Catherine (Kaul) O'Connell. His brother Ralph O'Connell and Sister Karen O'Connell Goodrow preceded him in death. Besides his wife, Hugh leaves his four children Michael O'Connell of North Carolina, Kevin O'Connell of Florida, Kathy Lingenfelter of Virginia and Kelly Douglas of Little Compton, RI and three step-children Daniel Benway of Wisconsin, James Benway of Manville, RI and Timothy Benway of Oregon. He was predeceased by two step-children Ronald Benway and Thomas Benway. He left several beloved grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Hugh graduated from Rogers High School. After high school he joined the Navy serving in the Pacific during WWII. He served aboard the USS Pakana and USS Turner and partook in the invasion of Iwo Jima, the assault of Okinawa and was involved in the A-Bomb test at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. After his discharge from the Navy Hugh became a Merchant Marine and then enlisted into the Naval Reserves until 1964. Hugh retired from the Newport Water Pollution Control Division.

Hugh was an active member of the Ancient Order of the Hibernians and The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Visiting hours were held Friday, January 17th from 4-7 at the O'Neill-Hayes Funeral Home, 465 Spring Street, Newport. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, January 18th at 9am at St. Augustin's Church, corner of Carrol and Harrison Ave, Newport, followed by burial with military honors at Newport Memorial Park, Holland Ave in Middletown.

Donations may be made in his memory to the St. Augustin's Church building fund, 2 Eastnor Rd., Newport, RI 02840.