



Dennis E.W. O'Connor

JAN 25, 1930 - APR 12, 2018



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HAWAIIAN
MEMORIAL PARK MORTUARY
AT VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES

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Dennis E.W. O'Connor

JAN 25, 1930 - APR 12, 2018

Dennis E.W. O'Connor Sr. father, son, grandfather, and loving husband of Mary Elizabeth Peden O'Connor passed away on April 12, 2018.

He was 88 years old.

O'Connor was born on January 25, 1930 and grew up in Kuliouou, Hawaii.

He graduated from Punahou School in 1948, and went on to serve in the United States Navy after graduating from the Naval Academy in 1952. O'Connor graduated from the George Washington University School of Law in 1961.

O'Connor was a senior partner at O'Connor Playdon Guben & Inouye.

He was a retired Captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve, qualified to command submarines and destroyers, and received the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, UN Service Award, and Korean Service Award.

O'Connor also served as a Hawaii State Representative and Senator, a Councilman for the Honolulu City Council, and was a past Chair of the Democratic Party for the State of Hawaii.

He was a Fellow and past State Chair of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a Fellow with the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, and was an Advocate of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

O'Connor successfully defended the constitutionality of the Hawaii Land Reform Act in the Hawaii Supreme Court and United States Supreme Court and subsequently tried many lawsuits obtaining fee land for lessees in Hawai'i.



Obituary

Dennis E.W. O'Connor

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O'Connor is survived by his wife of 60 years Mary Elizabeth, daughter Kathleen (John Lupo), sons Dennis Jr. (Louise), Whitney (Cherie) and Prosper, grandchildren Auli'i Dudoit (Travis), Kanoa and Nalu O'Connor, Ellie and Clare Lupo, Jon Gregory, and great-grandchildren Paliku and Ruth Mahie. Also, brother Wm. Patrick, stepsister Delphine Cloe (Michael), and stepbrother Warren Vilmaire. Predeceased by brother John Kevin and stepbrother Michael Vilmaire.

Services will be held on May 19, 2018 at 11: 00 a.m. at Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, please make donations to Punahou School.





Events


Dennis E.W. O'Connor

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Visitation


 **Saturday**, May 19, 2018


 10:30 AM HT

 Star of the Sea Catholic Church

Service

 **Saturday**, May 19, 2018

 11:00 AM HT

 Star of the Sea Catholic Church



Tribute Wall

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Steven J. Mchugh posted:

Dennis O'Connor was the finest man, and the finest attorney, I've ever known. He was my mentor, and a substitute father, for the biological father I never knew. He was kind, compassionate, and beautiful, at all times. I am so very, very, sad to learn of his passing. We litigated the Leased Fee cases with the Bishop Estate together, Kamilioliki Valley, Dunes Circle, The Guam Land Claims, and many other cases. He always fought hard for the little guy, the homeowner. He was stock full of Aloha, of love. He was a true friend, and spirit, of Hawaii. I shall miss him terribly, as will everyone. Debbie and I send our love to Dennis Jr., Pros, the whole O'Connor family. Steven J. McHugh, South Lake Tahoe, CA.

May 12 at 9:25 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dennis by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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