



Gerald Aponte

December 2, 1942 - July 13, 2025

Gerald M. Aponte, 82, passed unexpectedly and peacefully in his sleep at his home in Farmingdale, NJ on July 13, 2025.

Born on December 2, 1942, to Louise Martin and Henri Stumpf in Noumea, New Caledonia, “Jerry” came to the United States in 1945 with his mother and infant sister, Linda, on a Navy transport ship. They landed in San Francisco and traveled by train to reunite with Louise’s husband, John Aponte, in Bronx, New York, following John’s service in the Pacific Theatre during WWII. The family relocated to Ocean Grove, NJ in 1953, which he considered ‘home’. He was a graduate of Neptune High School, Class of 1961.

After moving to North Arlington, NJ with his own young family in 1961, Jerry’s long and distinguished career in public service began when he became a firefighter with the North Arlington Volunteer Fire Department in 1962. His life in law enforcement started at the Borough of North Arlington in 1966. He rose through the ranks from patrolman to Chief of Police in 1986. During this time, he completed two degrees and a multitude of certifications and trainings, including: a BS in Criminal Justice from Mercy College, an MS in Social Sciences from Long Island University, and the FBI’s Law Enforcement Executive Development and Criminal Justice Management programs in Quantico, VA. He was also a graduate of the 116th session of the prestigious FBI National Academy in 1979; less than 1% of law enforcement personnel

worldwide are selected to attend. He was an instructor at the Bergen and Essex Counties Police Academies, helping launch many careers.

In 1990, Jerry became Chief of Police in Rolling Meadows, IL, and in 1995 assumed the additional role of City Manager. Among his many contributions there, perhaps his proudest was the development of the Police Neighborhood Resource Center, which started as an experiment and evolved into one of the most successful community policing programs in the country. He created a national model for integrating law enforcement into the community to prevent crime. The PNRC brought resources to a largely Mexican immigrant population in suburban Chicago. The PNRC offered ESL classes, a domestic violence program, homework help for children, and free medical services for low-income residents. Jerry was widely embraced by this community he supported.

In 1998, he moved to Manchester, CT in order to be closer to family, and assumed the role of Chief of Police. Retiring from this department in 2003, Jerry joined the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team as Chief of Iraqi Training Unit in Baghdad from 2004-2005 during the Second Persian Gulf War. He was deeply invested in the unit's work to professionalize the Baghdad Police and loved the Iraqi people. His unit was housed at the Al Sadeer in Baghdad when the hotel was attacked in 2005, during breakfast. He reembraced his Catholicism after this event, and often joked he was "just trying to get to purgatory" during his lifetime. His family is certain he got a pass straight to the good place.

Jerry was incredibly proud of his career and was a master storyteller who could talk to anyone with genuine interest. He was also an avid fisherman, motorcycle and car enthusiast, bespoke dollhouse maker, and community handyman who loved travel and history. He was beyond devoted to his family and is survived by his wife of 42 years, Jacqueline Aponte; his daughters,

Lesley (Gerry) de Labry, Sharon Aponte, and Barbara (Frank) Comer; his stepchildren, Carin (Robert) Bartels, Diane Bradley, and Robert (Susan) Strack; eleven grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; his sister, Joelle Aponte (Ed Kolling); many nieces and nephews; his large extended family in New Caledonia; and so many friends far and wide. He leaves a void in our lives that will be impossible to fill.

He was predeceased by his parents, and his sisters Linda (Charles) Keenan and Carlyn Aponte.

Per Jerry's request, there will be no services or funeral. We ask that you remember him for the brilliant friend and mentor he was, and for the profound impact he had on the lives of those who had the pleasure of knowing him. The number of lives he touched is evident from the countless stories being shared with us, and we appreciate them all.

Cemetery Details

Private

Tribute Wall

TW

“ I got to introduce Gerry to the Town of Manchester when he became Police Chief. He got to show me the ways of the world with is breath of experience. He was without question the best police chief I worked along side. He taught me how professional community policing should be done and it worked. Our family’s shared great times together and we are still close to this day. Our thoughts are with Jackie and the Aponte family. RIP my Brother.

Tom, Mary, Michelle, Sarah, Trudy Weber

Tom Weber - July 30, 2025 at 06:14 PM

SA

Thank you, Tom.

Sharon Aponte - August 07, 2025 at 12:00 PM



“ I have great memories of Chief Aponte during his 5 years in Manchester, CT. I was heavily involved in our neighborhood Blockwatch & he truly supported community policing. We attended seminars in Boston & Lowell, MA and he also helped out with what was then known as Christmas in April helping the neighborhood paint an elderly person’s porch. We both shared a love of Ocean Grove, NJ & remained friends via Facebook where I just learned of his passing. He was a great person & I was privileged to know him. May he rest in peace - til we meet again...

Leslie Frey - July 30, 2025 at 01:35 AM

SA

Thank you, Leslie.

Sharon Aponte - August 07, 2025 at 11:59 AM

GG

“ We became friends when he served in Rolling Meadows and have continued to share our Life experiences, may he rest i peace to be his friend indeed a privilege.

George Graves - July 25, 2025 at 08:29 PM

SA

Thank you, George.

Sharon Aponte - August 07, 2025 at 12:00 PM

SK

“ Chief Gerry Aponte, while we only worked together for 5 years, we remained friends for 22 years. Fortunately, the last time we spoke was just two weeks ago. Rest in Peace my friend. Our deepest condolences to Jackie (my wife's driver while in CT) and the entire Aponte Family.

Terry and Sam Kotsch Capt. Ret. MPD

Sam Kotsch - July 25, 2025 at 04:31 PM

SA

Thank you, Sam.

Sharon Aponte - August 07, 2025 at 12:00 PM

AB

“Gerry was a wonderful person and a very strong, knowledgeable, confident leader. Although we first met professionally while implementing a consortium COPS MORE 911 computer systems grant, I’m proud to say, we became good friends. He invited me to ride on a state-wide police charity motorcycle ride. Naturally, all the police officers and the participating civilians were driving Harley motorcycles. I showed up with a Honda Goldwing. Gerry said nice bike, for a few more dollars you could have bought a Harley. Get in the back of the line.

On another occasion we were in a meeting with the Town Manager when my father had just passed away and I happened to have a post card of New Caledonia where my father was shipped to in WWII. Gerry recognized the picture on the post card and said that was my church. In a cheerful, playful manner he stood up, walked over to me and said; “my brother”.

It was an honor to have known him, and I will never forget the many quality facets of Gerry. Sadly, he will be missed, but his many positive impacts will carry on.

ARTHUR BEIRN - July 25, 2025 at 12:44 PM

SA

I love this...thank you.

Sharon Aponte - July 25, 2025 at 12:47 PM

GM

*Gerry was one of a kind! Strong starred you in face when I was doing wrong in the Boro He was the first one to pick you up! I will mis you
Gerry my brother's best friend
Mudge*

Gregg Martin - July 26, 2025 at 04:08 AM

GD

I have known Gerry since I was 10 years old and he was always just the nicest and friendliest person you could ever meet. I will miss seeing him walking here in Equestra in the early mornings. I am still shocked and sad for those who loved him. Rest in peace my friend, Geri DP

GERI DELLAPIETRO - July 29, 2025 at 03:25 PM

MM

“ Chief Aponte was a great mentor and friend. Always willing to share experiences. I remember when we had Jackie and Gerry over for dinner and I asked him what he drank, he said scotch. Not being a drinker, I searched for a bottle and filled a glass. He was laughing uncontrollably and told me scotch is served by the ‘finger’ not by a full glass!

Marc Montminy - July 25, 2025 at 08:37 AM

SA

He loved his Scotch. Thanks so much for sharing.

Sharon Aponte - July 25, 2025 at 12:48 PM

BH

“ Simply the best a great Chief, mentor and friend. He brought community policing to Manchester Ct a legacy that still continues. Thanks Jerry love you my brother was hoping to never say good bye so I'll say till we meet again! RIP my treasured friend

Bernie Hallums - July 25, 2025 at 01:08 AM

SA

Thank you, Bernie.

Sharon Aponte - July 25, 2025 at 12:48 PM

DD

“ dear jackie i am so sorry for you lose, he was a dear friend, a great neighbor, as were you. words cannot express how much he is already missed, to the family gerry left behind, being a friend and { cousin} with him was one of the best things to happen to me. he is sooooo missed.

Dennis Dragotti - July 24, 2025 at 01:01 PM

SA

He adored you, Dennis. Thanks.

Sharon Aponte - July 25, 2025 at 12:49 PM

EL

“ I remember Gerry from No. Arlington police department. He was a very wonderful person. RIP Condolences to his family,

Elaine E Locasto - July 24, 2025 at 12:03 PM

JL

“ A great friend and mentor, may he rest in eternal peace.

James O'Connor retired Chief LPD - July 23, 2025 at 09:12 AM

SA

Thank you, Chief O'Connor.

Sharon Aponte - July 25, 2025 at 12:49 PM

MK

“ My sincere condolences to all family and friends.

Mark Kozuch

Mark R Kozuch - July 22, 2025 at 06:54 PM

SA

“ 1 file added to the album Jerry



Sharon Aponte - July 22, 2025 at 01:42 PM

JR

*Our deepest condolences to the Aponte family. We are so sorry for your loss. May he rest in peace.
The Rokosny Family.*

John Rokosny - July 22, 2025 at 05:18 PM

DD

Very sad to learn of Jerry's passing. He will be missed around the Equestra community. Thoughts and prayers to the family.

don and Jacky donahue - July 24, 2025 at 12:11 PM

RM

“ *Our deepest condolences to the Aponte family. Gerry was a gentleman and a true law enforcement professional.
Rocco & Anne Miscia*

Rocco Miscia - July 21, 2025 at 10:03 AM

SR

“ My deepest sympathy to Jackie and family on Gerry’s passing It was an honor to know him, and witness his dedication to his Jackie. I will never forget what a gentleman he was as several times walked me to my car, sometimes holding an umbrella, and put my walker in and made sure everything was okay before he went on his errands He was a gentleman through and through. He will be missed by all who knew him. RIP Dear Friend 🙏

Sally Rubino - July 18, 2025 at 08:36 PM

JH

“ John Hearn lit a candle in memory of Gerald Aponte



John Hearn - July 17, 2025 at 06:19 PM

JH

Rest in Peace Chief! You were a great Chief and a great man. The world will be worse off without you in it. End of Watch - 07/13/25

John Hearn - July 17, 2025 at 06:20 PM

GM

“ Glenn And Linda Meisch lit a candle in memory of Gerald Aponte



Glenn and Linda Meisch - July 17, 2025 at 05:25 PM

GM

We will treasure our wonderful memories of Jerry. Sending love and prayers to Jackie, Carin, and Diane, and all the family.

Glenn and Linda Meisch - July 17, 2025 at 05:28 PM

RB

“ *Please accept my deepest condolences.
Chief Gerald Aponte, memory will always be
in our hearts.
Sincerely,
Robert Bellenger*



Robert Bellenger - July 16, 2025 at 09:01 AM

SA

Thank you.

Sharon Aponte - July 26, 2025 at 10:18 PM

BH

“ *Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in
memory of Gerald Aponte*



Bongarzone Funeral Home - July 15, 2025 at 07:42 AM