

Cornelius Sharron Obituary

Cornelius (Conny) Francis Sharron passed away peacefully at home under the loving care of his wife and eight daughters on August 20, 2021. He was 92 years old. Born in Gardner, Massachusetts in 1929, he was the son of the late Frederick J. Sharron and Margaret (Gallagher) Sharron Bouchard. Conny was predeceased by his brothers Frederick, Charles, and Mark.

Conny attended Sacred Heart School in Gardner, MA and graduated from Gardner High School in 1946. He was a graduate of Fitchburg State College, class of 1950, and received his master's degree in Education there in 1955. He continued his education by also attending Holy Cross, Boston University, and the University of Massachusetts, among several other colleges and universities.

He began his career as a math and history teacher in Gardner, MA in 1955 before becoming an elementary school principal in the Central Berkshire Regional School District in 1963, where he lead several schools throughout the district until his retirement in 1989. He was the president of various Teachers Associations including Gardner, Hinsdale Union, and Berkshire County and was a lifelong member of the National Education Association. He was a firm believer that education was a universal right, and that everyone has gifts and intelligences to be nurtured and respected.

From 1951-1953, Conny served in the United States Army working in intelligence and as a radio repairman during the Korean conflict. He was stationed in Hokkaido, Japan. Upon discharge, he joined the American Legion, and was a lifelong member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He served as Commander of Post #905 in Gardner, MA and then Commander of Post #9566 in Dalton, MA. From 1977-1978, he was elected Massachusetts VFW State Commander, one of his proudest accomplishments. Nationally, he was Vice Chairman of the POW/MIA Committee from 1993-1994, Vice Chairman of the VA Hospital Committee from 1994-1995, and Vice-Chairman of the National Community Activities Committee from 1995-1996. Additionally, he served as the VFW State Parliamentarian for thirty years.

As a proud veteran, Conny was honored to march in several Memorial and Independence Day parades for over sixty years. He was often asked to be a guest speaker extolling on the importance of care for fallen veterans, our need to rise up as a community and to love our neighbors, and the greatness of the ideals upon which America was founded.

A staunch advocate for veteran's rights, Conny volunteered tirelessly at the Northampton VA Hospital and the former Rutland VA Hospital where he received special recognition by the Veterans Administration for a lifetime of service.

While in Hinsdale, Conny served as Treasurer of the United Way and the Salvation Army. When he moved to Worthington with his young family in 1967, he became the Town Moderator, a role he held for fifteen years. He also served as the town's Veterans Agent, President of the Worthington Library Corporation, Vice President of the Worthington Historical Society, and Treasurer for Housing for the Elderly.

Conny was a diehard Red Sox fan. While serving as State Commander of the VFW, he was invited by the Boston Red Sox to throw out the opening pitch, first at Fenway Park in Boston, and then against the Minnesota Twins in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1978; one of the great honors of his life.

In addition to baseball, Conny had many interests and passions. He coached basketball and Babe Ruth Little League baseball for several years. He loved to play golf at the Worthington Golf Course, where he was a long-time member and twice hit a hole-in-one. Conny was an avid gardener; his family spent the winters pining for the ripened tomatoes of which he was especially proud. As a lifelong learner, Conny read constantly, and he loved to debate politics over coffee with friends at the Worthington General Store. His interest in other cultures led him to a lifetime of international travel. Conny loved to sing to his children, his grandchildren, and to his wife. His voice was rich and beautiful, filled with the love he felt for his family.

Conny is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Julia Joanne (Comeau) Sharron; his eight loving daughters, Helen & David Pollard of Worthington; Ramona Gallagher of Worthington; Melissa & Jeffrey Brodsky of Wayne, PA; Annie & Matthew Lagoy of Worthington; Catherine & Thomas Pease of Worthington; Margaret Sharron & Emmanuel Cecchet of Huntington; Pamela Sharron & Scott Evans of Florence; Octavia & Andrei Litvinov of Philadelphia, PA; and his twenty beautiful grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Conny's Catholic faith was unwavering. He was proud of being an altar boy, serving the mass in Latin. He was a communicant of Saint Agnes Church in Dalton, MA and spent his life giving to others as an educator, a community leader, and a volunteer. In lieu of flowers, his family requests you perform an act of loving kindness to someone in need.