



Mr. Lance Gerard Hopkins

August 26, 1938 - May 12, 2026

On May 12, 2026, Lance Gerard Hopkins of Pittsfield passed away at home with his wife Kathleen and daughter Melissa by his side.

Lance was born on August 26, 1938 in San Antonio, Texas to Joseph G. and Ernestine L. Hopkins, a military family. Following high school, he served four years of active duty in the United States Marine Corps, then obtained a degree in Political Science from San Jose State College (CA). He entered federal government service in 1968, retired in 1995, then returned following 9/11 for 15 more years as an independent contractor with providers of services to military units.

On September 3, 1972 Lance married Kathleen M. Geary of Pittsfield, whom he met at work in Washington, D.C., and they spent the next 23 years moving from one post to another, mostly abroad.

Throughout his life, Lance was an avid reader, master of the charcoal grill, deer and turkey hunter and a friend and mentor to many. He was proud to serve his country and was honored to be a member of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America.

Lance leaves Kathleen, the love of his life and bride of over 53 years; their daughter Melissa C. White and husband Javier of Norwalk, CT, and his

grandchildren Javier and Sasha; brother-in-law Patrick T. Geary and wife Madelena of Pittsfield; nephew Patrick J. Geary and wife Emily of Pittsfield and their children Mac and Tucker; niece Kristi Schultheis and husband Kurt of Lanesborough and their sons Grey and Jett.

Lance was grateful for the love and support he received from family and friends, including those from Walden Village, and for the professional and compassionate care he received from the great staffs at the Phelps Cancer Center, and HospiceCare in the Berkshires.

Funeral services for Lance will be held Friday, May 22, 2026, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10:00 am at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 89 Briggs Avenue, Pittsfield, where he served as Lector and Eucharistic Minister, celebrated by the Rev. Matthew Barone, Pastor. To view a livestream of the service, please click here (<http://www.dwyerfuneral.com/obituaries/permalink/12094790/LTWwebcast>) Burial with full military honors will follow at St. Joseph's Cemetery. Calling hours will be Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home, 220 East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. In lieu of flowers, donations in Lance's memory can be made to either St. Charles Borromeo Church or HospiceCare in the Berkshires through the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Cemetery

222 Peck's Rd.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 21. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer -Wellington Family Funeral Home - Pittsfield
220 East St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 445-4064
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Service

MAY 22. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Charles Church
89 Briggs Ave.
Pittsfield, MA 01201
<http://stcharlespittsfield.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Lance Gerard Hopkins*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - May 21 at 11:43 AM

SG

“ *Dear Kathy, my deepest condolences on the loss of Lance. You're in our prayers here. Stephen Geary, cousin, Galway.*

Stephen Geary - June 03 at 03:58 PM

JS

“ Hi Dads,

I hope, wherever you are, you're enjoying each other's company. The two of you men who shaped me in ways I'm still discovering, sitting together, I wonder what words are flowing between you in this moment. You've got all the time in the world now to critique my mistakes, laugh at my terrible jokes, and, I hope, watch over my own children.

I wish for you to be the angels on their shoulders, channeling the same unwavering guidance, the same relentless work ethic, and the laser focus that you both carried in life. Let those qualities live on through them, so they, too, might leave their mark on the worlds they discover.

I know you would have been perfect partners in raising these kids who love you so much. I can see it clearly: the laughter, the lessons, the quiet wisdom that passes between kindred spirits who understand one another deeply. I can almost hear the conversation you'd be having now, speaking of things only the two of you could share.

Writing this is harder than I imagined and took longer than planned. Losing both of you—two fathers—is something I will have to learn to live with. Lance, I knew you longer than my own birth father. I tried for years to live in his shadow, but with you, I followed your light, your words, and your example.

I remember the last thing he told me: to hold onto his car and house keys. I didn't realize then how much more I'd be holding—memories, lessons, love. Lance, your wedding speech, the way you wove the story together, the way it revealed the depth of who you were to everyone present, it still teaches me about grace, about presence, about leaving a mark on people's hearts.

I will continue to love you both dearly.

*Your son,
Javier*

Javier White SIL - May 25 at 07:50 PM

SG

“ *Dear Kathy So very sorry for your loss. Always enjoyed talking to you and Lance . The best neighbors you could ever have. My thoughts are with you and Melissa. Sandra Gero.*

Sandra Gero - May 21 at 05:45 PM

TD

“ *Dear Kathy & Melissa, so sorry to hear of Lance passing My thoughts & prayers are with you all, Keep all those memories alive*

Tracy D'Agostino - May 19 at 05:25 AM

LD

“ *Love, Kirby Lunger and Mike Dobbert purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Lance Gerard Hopkins.*



Love, Kirby Lunger and Mike Dobbert - May 18 at 06:11 AM

LD

“ *Love, Kirby Lunger and Mike Dobbert planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mr. Lance Gerard Hopkins.*

Love, Kirby Lunger and Mike Dobbert - May 18 at 06:11 AM

MD

“ Michael DeFazio purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mr. Lance Gerard Hopkins.



Michael DeFazio - May 17 at 04:26 PM

MD

“ Michael DeFazio planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Lance Gerard Hopkins.

Michael DeFazio - May 17 at 04:26 PM

SM

“ Lance and I served together at the American Embassy in Paramaribo, Suriname, at a time when that country's democracy was very fragile and the security of both our facility and ourselves was less than it could have been. Lance was tireless in his support of everyone at the Embassy as well as a key presence in the effort to keep us safe. I could always count on him to give to the ambassador, and myself as his deputy, accurate and candid advice and reliable information about current conditions and options for us to help support the Surinamese.

Stanley Myles - May 17 at 12:30 PM

DD

“ Lance & Kathy became dear friends over the years & I referred to him as being my 2nd favorite Marine. 🇺🇸

Debbie Dwyer - May 16 at 05:19 PM