



Gerald Lee Campbell

May 16, 1940 - July 26, 2025

Gerald Lee Campbell, 85, of Woodbridge, Virginia passed away Saturday, July 26, 2025, at his home, in his sleep. As he was called, Jerry, was born in Toppenish, Washington, May 16, 1940, born to Robert Glenn and Agnes Campbell.

He spent his entire early life and education in Toppenish where he graduated from Toppenish High School with the class of 1958. Jerry had a big interest in music, he was able to enjoy himself playing the piano and in the 7th grade he learned to play the trombone. This continued through High School. He was part of a Jazz Band with friends from the Top-Hi Band. He also enjoys singing, he was part of many plays during his life. He spent many days working in his parents' grocery store, Bob Campbells' Market, what is now the Blue Sky Market. He was very proud of his dad and mom and their philosophy of servicing a community. His dad taught him how to earn and save money. The more hours you worked, the more you must use.

Early in life he bought a Ham Radio, at night he would listen to people all over the world. It probably influenced him regarding world affairs.

He enjoyed the days that he spent on water skis and on rafts he and his friends built out of innertubes to float on the Tieton and Yakima Rivers. As one friend said the many nights hunting rabbits on Toppenish Ridge; he got great

use out of the “Bob Campbell’s Market yellow pick-up, 1957 Chev Camao. while he made every possible gathering as a group a FUN event.

He enjoyed college. He received his B.A. in History at Gonzaga University, M.A in Philosophy at St Louis University, Ph.D., Philosophy at Georgetown University, and Ph.D., Candidate International Relations, at The Catholic University of America.

Then it was time to work. In 1967-1975 he taught as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Marymount College of Virginia. Gerald L. Campbell was a senior staff member of the U. S. House of Representatives from 1976 to 1985, the Director of Policy and Research for the National Security Caucus of the U. S. House of Representatives from 1977 to 1980, the Senior Advisor to the Director of the United States Information Agency from 1985 to 1990, and the Special Assistant to the Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, at the U.S. Department of Justice from 1992 to 1993. He was the Senior Advisor Commissioner of Health, for the Texas Department of Health., for the Texas Department of Health. 1997-2001.

Gerald was described as a Experienced Washington professional with a strong record of achievement in issue identification, strategy development, and program implementation. Highly skilled in speech writing, communications and public relations. In-depth experience in organizing private sector, Federal, and bi partisan congressional support on a wide range of domestic and international issues. Background encompasses high-visibility positions with Federal agencies, elected officials, special interest groups, political campaigns, and educational institutions. Recognized throughout career as a highly versatile and superb communicator.

Jerry enjoyed his life. He enjoyed his personal projects which he shared with the world through his website, Facebook, Flickr Page, etc. Politics was his life.

Most of the committees he was on were helping people with government resources. He was able to make a big difference in the world through his efforts while working on Capitol Hill.

In June 1990, Jerry began to inquire into nature, root cause, and the spiritual dynamics of social dysfunctional behaviors. He spent nearly five years exploring the streets of Washington D.C., associating with and befriending the homeless, violent youth, and substance abusers.

With camera and tape recorder in hand, he took black and white photographic images and recorded the personal stories of many of these individuals. Senator Sam Brownback (R-Kansas) has written about his efforts: "Your work with and on behalf of the homeless in Washington, D. C. is a model that should be emulated across the country."

The Curator of the Washington Center for Photographs said: "I am stunned by the intensity and compassion expressed in your body of work. It has been a long time since I have seen portraits which combine spiritual presence and strength with technical accomplishment. The ability to see past skin and culture and see the true individual within?"

A close friend wrote that everyone who knew him knows that he always had a kind word for anyone he met, and he always left you with something to think about.

The photographic images and personal stories displayed on his web site are representative of the artistic portion of his work.

A boy that used his first Brownie Box Camera in Toppenish to his efforts mentioned above, it was his main interest in life along with the Politics that he

took part in that was special to him. Life was great for this man.

Jerry is preceded in death by his Parents: Robert "Bob" Campbell and Agnes Campbell, Nephew: Mark R. Smith.

He is survived by: Sister, Barbara J. Smith (Dick), Kent, Wa; Brothers, Paul R. Campbell (Kathleen), Yakima, Wa Lyle D. Campbell, Everett, Wa. Nephews: Robert J. Campbell (Katie) Keller, Tx, Dan C. O'Hara, Yakima, Wa Niece: Rebecca I. Campbell, Raliegh, NC, Angela Ness (Mark), Black Diamond, Wa, Carrie O'hara Gutierrez (Joe); Andre Eleazer, Woodridge, Va and Brad Kovaly longtime friends.

Pierce Funeral Home Manassas, Virginia is handling the details. Their web site is www.piercefh.com

Web sites that you may want to explore Gerald Campbell's work:

www.flicker.com/photos/dcnittygritty

https://www.flickrriver.com/photos/dcnittygritty/popular-interesting/?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwL2C_RjbGNrAvYL22V4dG4DYWVtAjExAAEet5-95ThKMxx3Wh2itwoHXUnCo-rcy7BY0rhuv2-xJJGR7wC7fe6w56Aw9SY_aem_DgQvzUfJfj4uOYSAT_Zjcg

EASTERN EUROPE 1989 - IN MIDST OF REVELUTION

https://geraldlcampbell.typepad.com/photos/krakow_in_the_midst_of_re/index.html?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwL2DUhleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHoYta_P0W-ausToeVf8Nvxq6pjfgFTvAEEPb-q9RI43668YtCp20sFPxBBK-_aem_kzY3P5GuueRUenthrQKhfQ

HOMELESS IN AMERICA: THE UNMET NEED TO BELONG

https://geraldlcampbell.typepad.com/?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwL2DeVleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHoYta_P0W-ausToeVf8Nvxq6pjfgFTvAEEPb-q9RI43668YtCp20sFPxBBK-_aem_kzY3P5GuueRUenthrQKhfQ

STORE FRONT CHURCHES OF WASHINGTON D.C.

https://geraldlcampbell.typepad.com/photos/store_front_churches/index.html?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwL2ECIleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHm8t6GwLVH1AVdTmcAgF13iOwiBo2IJFLzJoMZ4EFyamqqaNytEDoC9RKQVA_aem_wdvKvLT-ntWy4MVMU8N-kg

ESSAYS BY GERALD L. CAMPBELL

https://geraldlcampbell.typepad.com/impact/essay_by_gerald_l_campbell/?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwL2EXNIeHRuA2FibQIxMAABHqUA9NGckv2UunWREgbAmFUjKzlgS9e4ajpeVH8V7nCFpjlDIIPPLT_pY9uk_aem_M_p40mrWZ5fRtv8Js8oICQ

Tribute Wall

LB

“ *Laura Healy Birmingham purchased the Red and White Mums (Silk Cemetery Flowers) for the family of Gerald Lee Campbell.*



Laura Healy Birmingham - February 18 at 03:28 PM

JR

“ *I knew Jerry for forty years. I am sorry for his passing, mainly for myself because we had long conversations about the world and God Almighty, which I will miss. He was a deep thinker on practically everything but at the same time a regular guy. Very difficult to find such a person. Wish I could talk to him now because he now has answers to things we could only speculate about. RIP dear Jerry, and thanks for your company.*

John Robilette - August 25, 2025 at 07:53 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald Lee Campbell.*



August 18, 2025 at 03:19 PM

SH

“ Darn. Sorry to hear this. I showed up in D.C. around 74, penniless and needing a place to live after finding a job with Diebold. Told Gerry I had no money but I'd pay the rent once I got a paycheck. He didn't blink and handed me a key to the house. I learned a lot from him. May he rest in peace.

Stephen Hess - August 09, 2025 at 02:29 PM

RW

“ I cherish the 50+ years of memories. Your skill at photography was truly a gift from God. I will miss your handsome smile and twinkle in your eyes. Rozlyn Kovaly Watson

Rozlyn Watson - August 05, 2025 at 11:17 AM

“Gerry was a man whose kindness and thoughtfulness were as boundless as the world he so loved to explore, both through the lens of his camera and the depths of his heart.

He was a free thinker, someone who could look at the world with a curiosity that never faded, always seeking the truth in the spaces where others might shy away. He had a unique ability to listen—not just with his ears, but with his heart and mind. No perspective was too foreign to him, no opinion too small to be heard. And in a world that often rushes to judge, he was a rare soul who could hear others’ truths without ever making them feel small, wrong, or less than. He understood that we all see the world through our own eyes, and that is what made him so special—he embraced these differences, he celebrated them, and in doing so, he taught us all the value of empathy and understanding.

As an artist, his work was more than just images—it was his way of speaking when words couldn’t capture the fullness of what he wanted to say. Through his lens, he told stories—stories of beauty, of struggle, of the invisible lives that too often slip through the cracks of society. His passion for shedding light on the homeless in Washington DC was more than a cause; it was a mission. He knew that every face, every story, every life deserved to be seen, and he made sure they were through his photography. He captured their humanity, their dignity, in ways that opened our eyes to a truth many of us often overlook. His art was his voice, and he used it to give voice to those who had none.

*But perhaps what truly made him stand apart was his charm—his ability to be both a wonderful conversationalist and a humble listener. He could speak with depth and intelligence on just about anything, from the arts to politics, from history to philosophy, yet he never did so to impress. He did it because he genuinely cared, because he wanted to learn, to grow, to understand the world in all its complexities. And more than anything, he was never too proud to listen. He taught us the value of not just speaking, but *hearing*,*

and that in many ways, that is just as powerful.

Rest in peace Gerry, you are gone but never forgotten.

Love, your favorite niece, Colleen

Colleen Brookstein - August 04, 2025 at 08:38 PM

BK

“ *Professor Jerry. You spent decades teaching others how to live a life where answers are less important than the questions. I will always remember you racing away in the red GTO convertible, top down and running a little late, to your next classroom filled with inquisitive students. If there is a school for the angels in heaven, you are signing them up. Brad Kovaly*

Brad Kovaly - August 02, 2025 at 10:21 AM

TK

“ *Oh Jerry, I was so sad to hear of your passing. I always looked up to you like a big brother. Heck, you were part of our immediate family since I was a teenager and that was a long time ago. I will miss your quirky humor, your bold laughter, and big hugs. You made an everlasting impact on everyone you came in contact with. I know you and Aunt Bea are up there talking politics and how to solve the world's corrupt issues. Rest in Peace, Jerry. Love, Tammy Kovaly*

Tammy Kovaly - July 31, 2025 at 06:27 PM

JR

“ I'm going to miss Jerry. There is no one else I can talk to about certain things. He had a keen, insightful intelligence. We used to talk on the phone over the years, sometimes for two of three hours without ever exhausting the subject matter. Jerry was also open to humanity with a kind of invisible embrace for any and all who were authentic.....Just look at the photos he took. They are quit moving because he saw God in every person, even when He was hard to see. RIP Jerry. I wish you could tell me what the journey is like now.

John Robilette - July 31, 2025 at 08:46 AM

MA

“ Mr Jerry I miss/gonna seeing you and you always had kind words for all of your customers. Rest in love, power and peace 🕊️🕊️

Ms A - July 30, 2025 at 08:11 PM