



Mr. Herve J. Gendreau

July 14, 1930 - March 1, 2019

LEWISTON – Herve J. Gendreau, 88, a resident of Arkwright Avenue passed away peacefully Friday, March 1, 2019 at the Androscoggin Hospice House in Auburn with his loving family by his side.

He was born in Lewiston, July 14, 1930 the son of Joseph and Desneiges (Rodrigue) Gendreau.

Herve was a 1949 graduate of St. Dominic's High School where he played in the school band. He joined The United States Army during the Korean Conflict where he served as corporal in the Ordinance Corps. After serving his country he began service to his community by joining the Lewiston Police Department (LPD) in 1954 working his way up the ranks and retired as Police Chief on August 26, 1984. During his 30 years with the LPD he dedicated much of his time with traffic control, school patrol boys and girls and the Police Athletic League (PAL). He served as PAL director for over 20 years. Herve secured the site for the first battle-of-the-bands event which became known as the PAL Hops. In 2009, Museum L-A awarded Herve with the Echoes in Time plaque honoring him "As an inspiring force behind the PAL Hops that energized the music scene and enriched the history of Lewiston and Auburn."

Following his Police service he joined the Lewiston Public Works (LPW) where he served for 19 years. As Traffic Supervisor he was in charge of street signs, traffic lights, painting and responding to emergencies regarding traffic rerouting. During his tenure at the LPW he implemented many systems, some of which are still used today. Herve retired from the LPW on June 18, 2003 ending his 49 year employment and service to the City of Lewiston.

Herve loved music and was passionate about playing the guitar, harmonica and singing. He enjoyed a variety of music including French, Cajun and Zydeco. His love for music began at an early age and continued throughout his life. He loved to gather with family and friends for jam sessions. Herve was skilled at adapting his guitar playing to any style of music. He often played alongside fiddlers and could be seen and heard on TV and radio. He performed on stage and often made appearances at the local Franco Festivals. Herve also co-hosted a French radio program on Sunday mornings.

Herve was very social and enjoyed conversations with those he knew and met. He

especially enjoyed pastries and donuts from the local bakeries. He loved cigars and would generously share them with others.

He was predeceased by his parents and sister Rita Lebrun.

Survivors include his wife the former Leola Caron of Lewiston whom he married on October 3, 1959, three daughters, Denise Zdobnikow and husband, Nick of Greenwich, NY; Diane Humphrey and husband, Joe of Chepachet, RI; and Kathleen Anderson and husband Jonathan of Sutton, MA; Six grandchildren, Ashley and Sarah Zdobnikow; Ami and Matthew Humphrey; and Vanessa and Jacqueline Anderson; two godchildren, Janelle Turcotte-Anzorena and Kathleen Brown.

A Mass of Christian Burial honoring Herve's life will be celebrated in the Upper Church of the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul on Friday, March 8th at 1:00 PM. Committal with military honors to follow at St. Peter's Cemetery.

Family and friends are invited to visit Wednesday March 6th from 6-8PM only and Thursday March 7th from 1-3 and 7-9PM at the PINETTE DILLINGHAM & LYNCH FUNERAL HOME 305 Alfred Plourde Parkway, Lewiston, ME 207-784-4023.

Memorial Donations in Herve's memory may be made to the Herve J Gendreau Police Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o Lewiston Municipal Federal Credit Union, 291 Pine Street, Lewiston, ME 04240.

Cemetery

Events

St. Peter's Cemetery

217 Switzerland Rd.
Lewiston, ME,
04240

MAR **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

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Pinette Dillingham & Lynch Funeral Home & Cremation
Services

305 Alfred Plourde Parkway PO Box 181, Lewiston, ME, US,
04240

MAR **Visitation** 01:00PM - 03:00PM

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Pinette Dillingham & Lynch Funeral Home & Cremation
Services

305 Alfred Plourde Parkway PO Box 181, Lewiston, ME, US,
04240

MAR **Visitation** 07:00PM - 09:00PM

7

Pinette Dillingham & Lynch Funeral Home & Cremation
Services

305 Alfred Plourde Parkway PO Box 181, Lewiston, ME, US,
04240

MAR **Service** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

8

Basilica Upper Church

Corner Bartlett & Ash St., Lewiston, ME, US

Comments



“ Herve J. Gendreau was a human man with a demeanor that couldn't be matched. I met Herve many years ago when I worked at Public Works. Anytime we would come into contact with one another it most always became an honored encounter, for me. He had such a down to earth, honest karma that you almost didn't want the meet to end. My most recent encounter with Herve was at St. Mary's Orthopedic Center in Auburn. And, yes, as always, he spoke to me as always, a long-lost friend giving me advise to take care of myself. My sincerest sympathy to Herve's family but know that Herve was a member of a vast family throughout the City of Lewiston. We have all lost a true gem, with the loss of Herve.

Marc Jalbert

Marc Jalbert - March 06, 2019 at 09:21 PM



“ Herve was a dedicated public servant who served the city well during his years of public service much of which the public did not witness. I first met him in the late seventies thru my involvement with the Kora Shrine Circus. Although he was not a member he was always there at the arena to set up barracades and assist with parking and traffic control. He also was very proud to have recommended a child that Shriners Hospital was successful in treating. I also was the benefactor of many of his cigars thru those years. The community has lost a great man, I felt blessed to have known him.

G.A."Buster" Downing

Buster Downing - March 06, 2019 at 08:42 PM



“ First and foremost, Herve was a savior for so many teens at risk. The Pal Hops were the saving grace every Friday night for literally thousands of teens who would have otherwise had no place to go. That said, the opportunities provided to the aspiring teens with a garage band to perform in front of extremely large crowds by Lewiston standards was an amazing opportunity to cultivate talents that lead to a continued and ongoing per suit for the love of music. To this day bands that evolved during this era continue to perform. (OBW, we are in our 70s) and the diehards of our generation still cheer the bands. Herve was also a dedicated civil servant as police chief and when he retired, he was still committed to making Lewiston a better place working with public works. I personally owe a great debt to Mr Gendreau, as the PAL HOPS kept me focused and out of trouble. Rest in peace sir, knowing you have affected so many lives in our community.

Ron Landry
The Rockin Re-Kons

Ron Landry - March 06, 2019 at 06:20 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Herve J. Gendreau.



March 06, 2019 at 12:52 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mr. Herve J. Gendreau.



March 06, 2019 at 11:58 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Herve J. Gendreau.



March 06, 2019 at 10:30 AM



“ Your Dad was an awesome man. I remember when my father was an Alderman, he worked with your father and knew him well. He always spoke highly of him. I am very sorry for you loss.

Claire (Pleau) Labonte

Claire Labonte - March 06, 2019 at 09:04 AM



“ Herve was a great man. His humor and wisdom were unmatched. it was always a pleasure listening to him in the Carpenter shop at LPW. His lifetime achievements show what a devoted man he was. We'll miss you, Chief. Salut, mon ami. Bob Pelletier.



Bob Pelletier - March 06, 2019 at 06:22 AM



“ He changed our lives, he gave us a stage. Imagine what the 60's would have been like without the PAL Hop. As a 14 year old, the opportunity to form a band and play before an audience at the City Hall Auditorium in front of 1000's was an unparalleled experience. So many were inspired to play music. Herve was proud to make Lewiston-Auburn the capitol of the Maine music scene and his presence every Friday was a driving force in the career development of so many bands and musicians. In fact, the PAL Hop attracted national attention and served as a launching pad for local artists to become recording and performing artists in both the US and Canada. Truly, music became the focus of our lives. How can we ever thank him enough for the opportunity to enrich our lives and the lives of so many who grew up during the PAL Hop era. It was the gift of a lifetime.

As one of the bands that Herve fostered during this era, the Moon Dawgs are forever grateful for the opportunity he provided us and will never forget the inspiration and enthusiasm he generated. I will never forget the Friday night of a major blizzard when we were outside City Hall ready to move our equipment and I asked Herve if he really wanted to hold the PAL Hop. He looked at me with a grin and said "the show must go on". And so it does. Thank you Herve, you will never be forgotten.

Roger Michaud

Roger Michaud - March 05, 2019 at 07:10 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Herve J. Gendreau.



March 05, 2019 at 06:12 PM



“ America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Mr. Herve J. Gendreau.



March 05, 2019 at 01:04 PM



“ Ray Borgatti Perma-Line purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Mr. Herve J. Gendreau.



Ray Borgatti Perma-Line - March 05, 2019 at 12:30 PM



“ Lewiston PAL Board purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Mr. Herve J. Gendreau.



Lewiston PAL Board - March 05, 2019 at 10:58 AM



“ Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Herve J. Gendreau.



March 05, 2019 at 10:55 AM



“ Mindy C. purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Mr. Herve J. Gendreau.



Mindy C. - March 05, 2019 at 07:49 AM



“ To the Gendreau family, our hearts ache for your loss. He was a public servant protecting his community but more so, he was a loving husband and father for his family and is a great loss. I offer my thoughts and prayers to the Gendreau family and pray that he is welcomed with lights and sirens into the Kingdom of God. May the family find peace throughout this grief period and know that he will still be there, always in your thoughts and hearts.
Andy Levesque

Andy Levesque - March 05, 2019 at 06:29 AM



“ Miss Denise, Our condolences to you and your family. Much love to you in this time of grief. Peace be with you. Doreen and Paul



Doreen Everett-Ludwig - March 04, 2019 at 10:46 PM



“ Donna Browne lit a candle in memory of Mr. Herve J. Gendreau



Donna Browne - March 04, 2019 at 10:26 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all my dear friend Denise and her family.

Donna - March 04, 2019 at 10:28 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Herve J. Gendreau.



March 04, 2019 at 04:10 PM



“ I am honored to have known Herve and so glad I had the opportunity to visit him last Wednesday; it was meaningful to hear him talk about God and Jesus. When he was a City of Lewiston employee, he would bring all the women at City Hall chocolate hearts on Valentine's Day and if we weren't wearing red, he wanted to know why! He had a good sense of humor and always made us smile! In addition, he was always SO PROUD to work for the City of Lewiston; he loved his city and served it with all of his might. He will be greatly missed! Dottie Perham-Whittier

Dottie Perham-Whittier - March 04, 2019 at 04:04 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Herve J. Gendreau.



March 04, 2019 at 02:52 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Herve J. Gendreau.



March 04, 2019 at 02:38 PM



“ Memorial Donations in Herve’s memory may be made to the Herve J Gendreau Police Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o Lewiston Municipal Federal Credit Union, 291 Pine Street, Lewiston, ME 04240.

Funeral Staff - March 04, 2019 at 02:06 PM