

John Gerald "Jerry" Crowley - ISMA Pennant No. A-10662



Jerry at the 2004 Lodge Dinner Dance

Lodge member Jerry Crowley passed away on Saturday, July 21, 2012 at the age of 90.

Jerry had been a member of Detroit Lodge No. 7 for 27 years, and during that time had served the lodge in various capacities including lodge president in 1994. At the time of his death, Jerry was serving on the lodge board of governors. Over the years, Jerry and his wife Dotty were regular attendees at lodge dinner dances and joint meetings. Jerry was known for his marine artwork, and was a long-time member and director of the Great Lakes Maritime Institute.

He was born Sept. 3, 1921, to Edward and Mabel (nee Ready) Crowley and raised in Detroit. Following his graduation from Catholic Central High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served with the 879th Airborne Engineers in the Burma campaign during World War II.

Returning from the war, Jerry married his sweetheart, Dorothy Martin, and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Lawrence Technological University. He retired after 32 years with Chrysler Corporation and then was called back to work an additional two years as a consultant.

Raising his family in Grosse Pointe, Jerry took pride in his children's and grandchildren's accomplishments, and was often found lending a hand, or in the cheering section, at area schools, gyms, ice rinks and swimming pools. Family was at the heart of his activities and, coupled with his love of history, guided his genealogy research. Each of his children has a book of family history, a result of his countless hours spent in Detroit's Burton Historical collection and travels to Ireland and Scotland.

Jerry loved to travel and was an avid boater. Whether it was his first boat, a Chris-Craft Sea Skiff 12-footer he built himself, or the cabin cruiser still moored at the time of his death, he considered a day spent on the water with his family a great day.

During those travels and boat trips, Jerry, an artist with work displayed in 39 states, had a sketchbook close at hand. Much of his art centered around a maritime theme, with historically accurate details. Often, awakening with an inspiration, a new painting would begin with a bedside table sketch. Many of his paintings were displayed in a one-man art show at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle. He also was commissioned to do local paintings throughout the metro area.

In addition to ISMA, Jerry was a member of the American Society of Marine Artists, Scarab Club, Grosse Pointe Artists Association, Grosse Pointe Veterans Club, and the Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club.

Jerry is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Dotty; children, Kathy Steele (Joe), Tom Crowley (Bernadette), Patty Marantette (Tom) and John Crowley (Kathy); grandchildren, Megan and Brian Steele, Rachel, John and Robert Crowley, Danielle, Debra, Kelly and Thomas Marantette and Michael, Anne and Jennifer Crowley.

A funeral Mass was celebrated July 25 at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Donations may be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott St., Detroit, MI 48207 or St. Paul Catholic School Scholarship Fund, 170 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or the charity of the donor's choice.