

Leroy Dennis Snyder Obituary

Leroy Dennis Snyder, United States Marine Corps veteran and retired Chatham Boro Police Department Sergeant, died on January 26, 2026, at his home.



A lifelong resident of Chatham, Leroy grew up attending Chatham schools, graduating from Chatham High in 1963. He then joined the Marine Corps, serving in Vietnam. Upon his return stateside, he became a police officer, joining the Chatham Boro Police Department. Many in the Chatham area knew Leroy through his work with the police department - he was a Traffic Safety Officer, Crime Prevention Officer, DARE Officer and retired as a Sergeant, serving more than 30 years.



Late in his career - when his own children were in college - Leroy returned to school himself, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and History from Rutgers-Newark, often one class at a time while also working full-time. Leroy loved learning - studying history was a passion of his, one passed down to him by his grandfather, who taught him about the Battle of Gettysburg and the US American Civil War. Leroy read constantly, developing his deep knowledge of US American Military History. Family vacations always included a historical site - though they never took the official tour!

In 1971, Leroy married Candee Conway, and soon three children, Regina Colleen, Michael and Erin made them a core group of five. As they grew up, he coached baseball and softball and took them fishing - including the annual outing to the Chatham Fishing Derby, where he would teach other kids how to fish and share his tackle and bait. He often chaperoned their school field trips, which he enjoyed especially when it involved a trip to a museum. Some of their favorite family memories include looking for a family Christmas tree each year - and his kids would say that the original "Griswold Family Christmas" was actually a Snyder Family Christmas. He and Candee enjoyed taking vacations together - especially their trips to California, Myrtle Beach, and Key West. Leroy loved a good crime show on TV and never missed an episode of NCIS, Chicago PD or Blue Bloods. If he wasn't watching one of those shows, you can be sure he had a baseball game on - he'd acquiesce to his wife's love of the Yankees, but it was the San Francisco Giants and Cleveland Guardians that had his undying devotion. He was never far from music - he had a particular love of military and brass bands. He loved to cook - especially for holiday meals - and was always willing to pitch-in, whether for pancake suppers at church or to carve a turkey at a holiday party. In his fifties, he began getting a tattoo every year for his birthday, starting with small motifs like a panther and a knight, to eventually full sleeves and Thor, emblazoned on his chest.

Leroy's family was his greatest joy, and that joy extended far into the people they loved. If his wife or kids loved someone, he loved them, too, and considered them part of his family.

Leroy's story and legacy will be celebrated by so many that loved him, including his wife, Candee; his brother, Peter and his wife, Diane; his sister-in-law, Patricia; his sister-in-law, Katie and her husband, Charles; his brother-in-law, Tom and his partner, Patti; his brother-in-law, Bob and his wife, Patricia; his nieces and nephews, and his three children and their spouses, Regina Colleen and Julia; Michael and Christen; Erin and David; his grandchildren, Kathleen, Rachel, Audrey, Robin and great-granddaughter, Olivia.

A memorial service to celebrate Leroy's life will be held this spring.

Semper fi!