



Dr. Stephen H. Gordon

May 12, 2026

Dr. Stephen H. Gordon, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, educator, mentor, and one of the most respected educational leaders in Connecticut, passed away peacefully at the age of 84 on May 12, 2026, at UConn John Dempsey Hospital, surrounded by family and love.

To those who knew him personally, professionally, or through the countless students and educators whose lives he impacted over more than five decades in public education — including leadership roles at Coleytown Middle School, William H. Hall High School, and Amity Regional High School — he was a steady hand, trusted advisor, and a man defined by integrity, intelligence, discipline, and quiet strength.

Born in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood on September 25, 1941, he developed early the work ethic, competitiveness, and leadership qualities that would define the course of his life. He attended Boston University, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Education while also distinguishing himself as a four-year letterman on the university's baseball team. During his senior year, he served as team captain — an early reflection of the leadership abilities and respect he would command throughout his life.

A lifelong New England sports fan and accomplished athlete himself, he carried the lessons of teamwork, discipline, leadership, and resilience from the

baseball field into every stage of his life.

He later earned his Ph.D. in Education from Columbia University and went on to dedicate his professional life to public education and institutional leadership.

Dr. Gordon spent decades serving students, teachers, families, and communities with uncommon dedication and vision. He ultimately concluded his distinguished career as Superintendent of Amity Regional School District, serving the communities of Bethany, Woodbridge, and Orange, Connecticut, where he remained in the role for 11 years — more than double the national average tenure for the position. His leadership brought continuity, stability, and excellence to the district during periods of significant educational and societal change.

Those who worked alongside him knew him not only as an accomplished administrator, but as an extraordinarily thoughtful and strategic leader whose intelligence, judgment, calm demeanor, and communication skills earned widespread respect. He was known for his rare ability to balance innovation, political savvy, humor, and decisiveness while leading with consistency and composure. His final contract at Amity notably carried the title of “CEO,” reflecting both the scope of his responsibilities and the confidence others placed in his leadership.

Following an early retirement from Amity, he continued giving back to the field of education as a professor at University of Hartford, where he taught postgraduate courses focused on Educational Leadership.

But beyond the accomplishments, titles, and professional recognition was the man his family knew best.

To his children, he was far more than an educator or executive. He was a mentor, protector, teacher, sounding board, and source of unwavering love and guidance. He possessed a tremendous sense of humor and was known within the family as an exceptional storyteller. His leadership extended far beyond the workplace, often serving as the steadying and unifying presence within his family when it was needed most.

He possessed the rare ability to make others feel steady during uncertain moments. His advice carried weight because it was grounded in wisdom, experience, humility, and character.

He approached life with discipline, dignity, intellectual curiosity, and deep personal integrity. He believed in accountability, education, preparation, and treating others with respect. He led not through volume or ego, but through consistency, intelligence, composure, and example.

His family takes comfort not only in the life he lived, but in the manner in which he lived it.

He was preceded in death by his son, Arie Gordon, and his sister, Gloria Goverman, both of whose losses remained deeply felt within the family.

He is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Virginia Gordon; his sister, Pamela Miller; sons Lance and Sean Gordon; daughters-in-law Andrea and Karyn Gordon; seven grandchildren — Olivia, Sean Jr., Jack, Brady, Gabriel, Zachary, and Madalyn Gordon — along with countless nieces, nephews, friends, former students, colleagues, and extended family members whose lives he touched over the years.

While his passing leaves an immeasurable void for those who loved him, his

legacy endures through the family he shaped, the students and educators he mentored, the institutions he strengthened, and the countless lives made better by his presence, wisdom, and leadership.

His life was one of purpose, discipline, service, and love.

And to his family — especially his children — he will always remain not only deeply respected but profoundly loved.

Godspeed, Dad.

And no worries, big man — the Patriots, Red Sox, and Celtics will continue to make you proud.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, May 29, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Molloy Funeral Home 906 Farmington Ave. in West Hartford, Connecticut. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave
West Hartford, CT 06107
(860) 521-5270

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Tribute Wall

BZ

“ Today I’m remembering my uncle, who could always make everyone laugh. His sense of humor, quick wit, and ability to brighten any room are memories I’ll cherish forever. He may be gone, but the laughter and joy he brought to our lives will never be forgotten. Miss you, Uncle Steve!



Bunnie Zegley - May 29 at 09:12 AM

SL

“ Sue ellen L. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dr. Stephen H. Gordon.



Sue ellen L. - May 27 at 07:26 PM

DJ

“ His tribute couldn't be more precise on describing Mr Gordon as I knew him growing up. I remembered him as being such a nice guy to me when I used to come by the house as a kid, and after reading this what a great person he was. Rest easy Mr Gordon, you're in heaven now. I am simultaneously sad to hear the news and in awe of all the things I didn't know about his great and accomplished life, but more importantly what a good person he was. My prayers are with his family and friends.

With love and sincerity,

Dan Jacobson

"Every man has two deaths: when he is buried in the ground and the last time someone says his name."

Dan Jacobson - May 16 at 05:49 PM



Dan, thank you for your kind words. Grateful for your thoughts and wish you and your family all of the best.

Lance Gordon - May 20 at 05:09 PM

KF

“ It was my honor to work with Steve in West Hartford and in the Amity school district. His leadership improved teaching and learning in both districts. He was a joy to work and laugh with, and a close friend with many of us.

Ken Freeston - May 15 at 08:06 AM



Ken, thank you for your kind words. He thought the world of you and truly enjoyed the time you spent working together.

Although under the worst of circumstances, I look forward to seeing you next week and to the opportunity for you and Cheryl to meet Steve's sister, all of Steve and Bonnie's grandchildren, as well as both Sean's wife and mine..

Lance Gordon - May 20 at 05:15 PM

LG

“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Lance Gordon - May 14 at 09:12 PM