



# THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK MARYLAND

1 WEST POTOMAC STREET · BRUNSWICK, MARYLAND 21716 · (301) 834-7500

*Distinguished Citizens biography for:*

## **Jerry Knight**

b. 1941

*Honored as a Distinguished Citizen in 2025*

Jerry Knight was born on August 12, 1941, in Gainesville, Florida, and that is where he spent his childhood and youth, graduating from Gainesville High School in 1960. His father worked in the lumber industry and his mother did child care. He had two older siblings, Billy and Patsy, and he held the distinction of being “the best dancer” in his high school class.

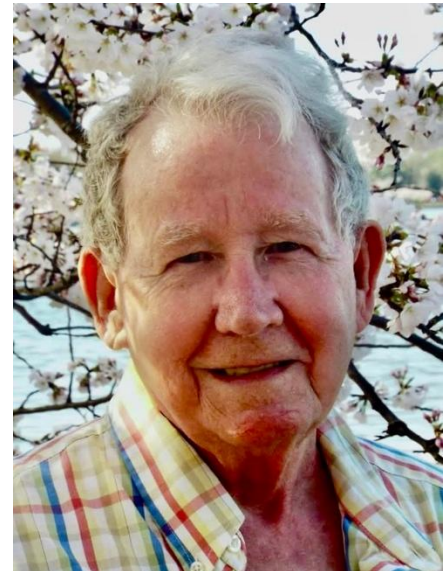
Jerry would spend the next four years in the U.S. Air Force, initially stationed in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and then in Puerto Rico. He was assigned to be an orderly room clerk doing secretarial work, which didn’t really interest him, so he did not reenlist at the end of his 4-year term.

After being discharged from the Air Force, Jerry moved back to Florida, first to Ft. Lauderdale and later to Naples. During those years, he worked as an office manager and, for a brief time, he had his own art gallery and frame shop.

While in Naples, Jerry was able to get a job as catering director at the prestigious Army and Navy Club near the White House in Washington, D.C., necessitating his relocation to that area in 1988. He was also the Club photographer and it was during this time that he met the famous chef Julie Child along with several prominent people who paid visits there such as Bob Hope, Bob Dole, and Barry Goldwater.

After a few years, Jerry decided that he wanted to get out of the city. He found Brunswick and moved here in 1991. He continued working at the Army and Navy Club, commuting there by train until he quit in 2003 after 15 years of service.

In the meantime, Jerry enjoyed going to auctions and his purchases were beginning to pile up in his house. So, in October 2004, he opened an antique store in Brunswick, naming it “Cripple Creek Antiques” after a song that his father often sang to him as he sat on his knee as a child. Other vendors rented stalls in his shop in the Cincotta building, and “this helped pay the rent.” Eventually, Jerry moved into a building just off of the downtown roundabout, thinking this would give him more exposure. But business just didn’t pick up, and Jerry finally closed his





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business in January 2011. “I never made much money selling antiques,” he said. “I just enjoyed the business and the customers.”

Jerry’s foray into community service began in 2006. At that time, there was an organization for downtown businesses, but Jerry thought there should be one for all businesses in the Brunswick area. So, he invited several members of the Mt. Airy Chamber of Commerce to come and talk with business owners about starting a Chamber of Commerce in Brunswick. Thus, the Greater Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce (GBACC) was born. Although he didn’t want to be president, Jerry was willing to do most of the work during the organization’s first year, including getting people to serve on the Board. He served an important role as secretary for 10 or 15 years before finally resigning. When he left GBACC, he was recognized as “Volunteer of the Decade.”

Jerry also became intrigued with Brunswick’s history and eventually became a member of the Brunswick History Commission in 2016, serving as secretary of that organization for several years. While on the History Commission, he worked to establish the Commission’s Facebook page and website, scanning hundreds – perhaps thousands – of pictures for the website. He was interested in having the Distinguished Citizens program revitalized after being dormant for 25 years, and he was elated to see that restoration accomplished under Mayor Snoots’ direction.

Jerry also served on the Brunswick Main Street Design Committee, being recognized twice as Main Street’s Volunteer of the Year. He also spent a short time on the City’s Economic Development Commission.

In addition to his formal roles as a community volunteer, Jerry was well known as “the man with the camera.” He was best known for his scenery photos. And he was always on hand to photograph important events in town.

Jerry is a three-time cancer survivor. In 2022, he moved to the small town of Ellijay, Georgia, where he enjoys gardening and visiting local wineries, but he misses his 31 years of involvement in the Brunswick community. Every so often “the man with the camera” returns to visit, still taking in our town’s changing scenes.

*The Mayor and Council and the Brunswick History Commission are proud to honor Jerry Knight as a Distinguished Citizen of Brunswick, Maryland.*