

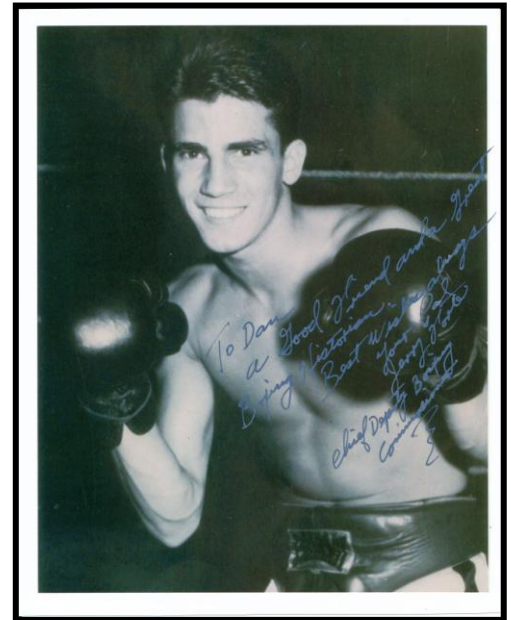
Ring 4 Boxing Hall of Fame Amateur Legend Jerry Forte Passed Away November 2, 2021

By Mickey Finn, President of Ring 4

On November 2, 2021, Ring 4 Boxing Hall of Fame amateur legend Jerry Forte passed away at the Lahey Hospital in Burlington, Massachusetts, after a brief illness at age 78.

Jerry was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on March 9, 1943, a son of the late Rosato and Inez (Tarquini) Forte and was raised in Boston and moved to Billerica, Massachusetts, 40 years ago.

Jerry was an active amateur boxer from 1961-1963 and compiled a 23-4 (KO 13) record in Golden Gloves and AAU sanctioned contests and engaged in over 30 exhibitions against some of New England's best amateurs and pros, sometimes giving away as much as 80 pounds.



From the first day that he walked up the steep set of stairs at the original New Garden Boxing Gym on Friend Street, his mindset was to be the best and that he was. He was taken under the tutelage of the great Al Clementi, who once told him (in my presence at an Italian American Sports Hall of Fame Dinner) that he always thought Jerry would be the Bantamweight Champion of the World - I thought so too.

Forte's career in the ring was what every boxer dreamt. In 1962 he defeated Lowell's legendary Ray Jutras by a decision en route to capturing the 112 pounds New England Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions and did that in Lowell, which was unique in its own way - not many Boston boxers got the decision in Lowell even if they won. By the way, he was an 8 to 1 underdog, so that tells the story of Jutras.

Jerry's full resume of Golden Gloves and AAU amateur titles include the 1961 112-lb New England Traffic Club Championship; 1961 112-lb Massachusetts State Championship; 1961 118-lb New England Diamond Belt Championship; 1962 112-lb Greater Lowell Golden Gloves Championship; 1962 112-lb New England Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions Championship; and 1962 112-lb New England AAU Championship.

Unfortunately, Jerry could not compete in the 1962 National Golden Gloves Tournament due to severe cuts sustained over both eyes in defeating Herbert Oliver in the New England Golden Gloves tournament final. Ray Jutras replaced him and went on to win the inaugural 112 pound National Golden Gloves Championship in Chicago, Illinois, on March 7, 1962.

In 1995 he was inducted into the Ring 4 Boxing Hall of Fame for his contribution to the Sport of Boxing. In September 2021, Jerry was the recipient of the Ring 4 All-Time Amateur Boxing Champion Cup.

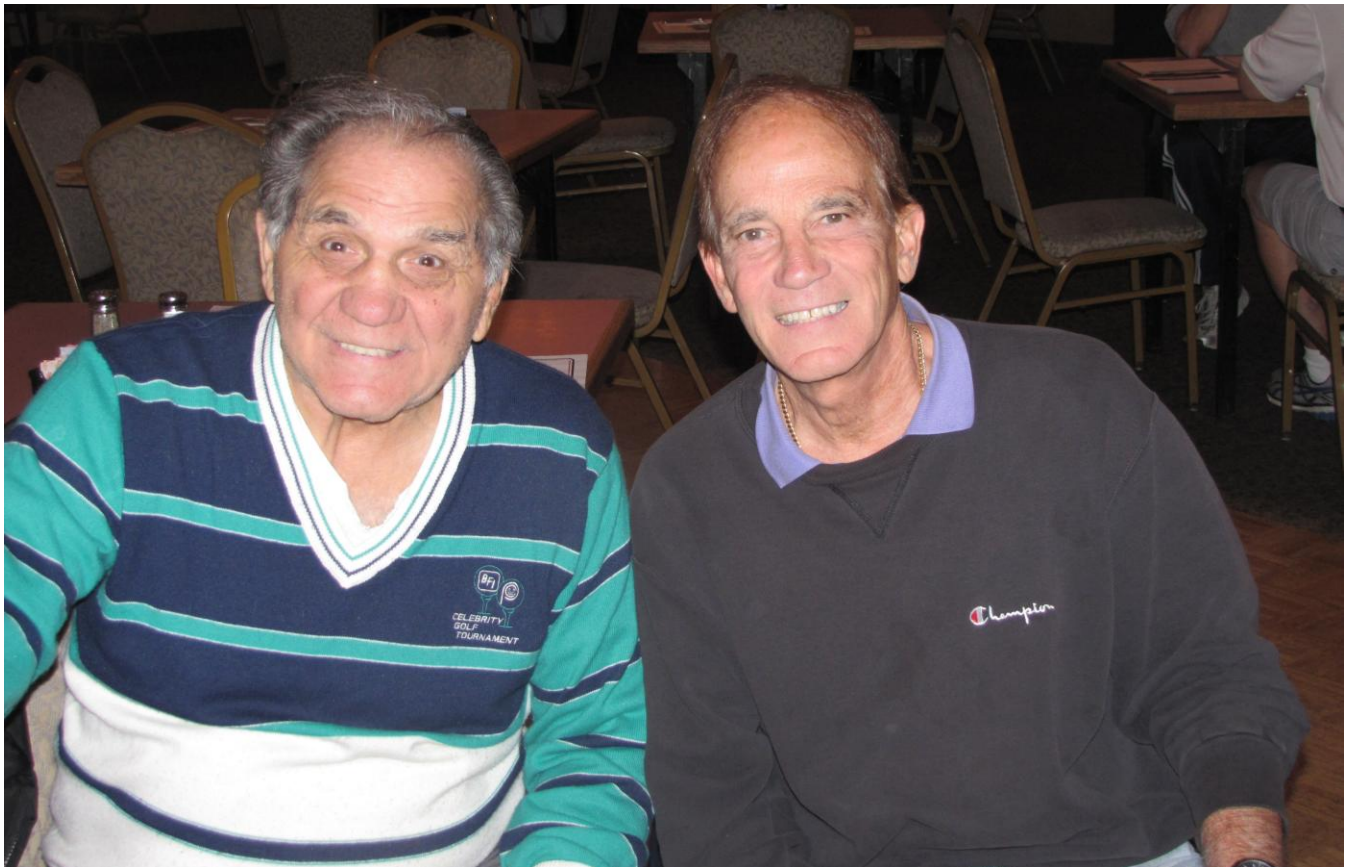
Jerry served as a Deputy Boxing Commissioner and judged many fights in the State of Massachusetts. I always said the only time he ever missed a fight was when there were two cards on the same night. He wasn't omnipresent.

Jerry was employed as an Auditor for the State of Massachusetts for over 20 years prior to his retirement.

He is survived by his beloved wife Betsy (Delgado) Forte, his daughter, Christina Forte-Maragioglio of Billerica; his grandchildren, Giana and Lorenzo Maragioglio; and his brother, Robert Forte of Florida.



Jerry Forte and former World Lightweight Champion Carlos Ortiz



Jerry Forte and his boyhood idol former World Welterweight Champion Tony DeMarco