



Philip Joseph Gara

April 17, 1927 - December 20, 2011

Loudonville-Philip J. Gara Sr, 84, passed peacefully Tuesday, December 20, 2011 in the Community Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital. Born in Albany, NY he was the son of the late John and Sarah Doherty Gara and was a lifelong resident of the Albany area.

Phil graduated from Christian Brothers Academy, class of 1945. He proudly served in the United States Navy in WW II on the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt CV42. He had a lifelong career in the grocery industry, managing for Carnation Corporation, Lever Bros., McDermott Food Brokers, and then became owner of the Ross Davis Food Brokers, Inc in 1966 from which he retired in 1989.

Not one to be idle, he went on to become Executive Director of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society where he modernized the facility and founded the New York State K-9 Law Enforcement Memorial. His last position was a courier with the B.E.S.T. Systems in Colonie. Phil was a leader in the community serving as a past president of the Grocery Manufacturers Representatives of Eastern New York, past president of the Eastern New York State Food Brokers Association, regional representative of the National Food Brokers Association, member of the Board of Trustees of The College of St. Rose, member of the Board of Directors of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society and member of the Board of Directors of Wolfert's Roost Country

Club. He was a communicant of St. Pius X Church, Loudonville and past Parish Council member.

Phil was also past president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 5, Albany, NY where he served as chairman/founder of the first St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1951; and then as Grand Marshall of the 50th Golden Jubilee Parade in 2000. He enjoyed reading, golfing, fishing, horse racing, watching his Red Sox, and spending time with his beloved grandchildren.

Phil was predeceased by his beloved wife of 44 years, Mildred M. Murphy Gara in August of 1993. He was the dear father of Philip J. Gara Jr M.D. (Karen), Michael A. Gara Ph.D. (Ron), Patrick J. Gara (Debra), John J. Gara, Dennis F. Gara (Laura), and Sharon M. Gaffney (Dan); cherished grandfather of Andrew Gara (Alison), Colin Gara, Caitlin Adamczyk (Ian), Lauren Gara, Joshua Gara, Joseph Gara, Kelley Gilbert (Todd), Patrick Gara Jr (Maria), Scott Gara (Devry), Tara Murphy, Conor Murphy, Kerry Gara, Kyle Gara, Sarah Gaffney and Connor Gaffney; great grandfather of Chase, Benjamin, Ryan and Rachel; brother of the late John O'Gara and Mary G. Boland; brother in law of Jean Eaton, Dolores Michalski and The late John A. Murphy; many nieces, nephews and friends survive.

Funeral services Friday, December 23, 2011 at 10:00 am at St. Pius X Church, Loudonville where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Rev. Michael A. Farano V.G.

Relatives and friends are invited and may call Thursday, December 22, 2011 3:00 to 7:00 pm in the McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany.

Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rensselaer.

Those wishing to remember Phil in a special way may send a contribution to either St. Pius X Church Music Ministry, 23 Crumitie Road, Loudonville, NY 12211, or Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, 3 Oakland Ave, Menands, NY 12204 or The Community Hospice, 445 New Karner Road, Albany, NY 12206.

To leave the family a special message on their guest book, obtain a prayer card or directions, or share a photo or E-card with them, please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Previous Events

Service

DEC **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Pius X Church
23 Crumitie Road
Loudonville, NY

Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Philip Joseph Gara*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - December 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Philip Joseph Gara*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *To Pat & Family:
Our sympathies to you and your family on the passing of your father.
Sorry I was not able to attend as I was called out of town##imported-begin##George & Carole Deyo##imported-end##*

December 23, 2011 at 10:36 AM



“ *John, Sharon, Phil and Family - My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Your father was a wonderful man and an inspiration to all and he will be missed. Even though he is no longer with us, heaven will be a better place with him in it.##imported-begin##Gary Wrobel##imported-end##*

December 22, 2011 at 09:48 PM



“ Andy--- Chris and I would like to extend our condolences to you on the death of your grandfather.... and to ask you to pass on our sadness to your family as well. After reading the funeral notice, it is clear to us that your grandfather was a very special man. Nothing is more special, however, than being a loving father and grandfather and I'm sure that is where he made his greatest impact in life. I hope you are well, Andy..... and that you have many fond memories to help you through this most difficult time.

Sincerely, your old coach, Jon Hoek##imported-begin##Jon Hoek, QHS, X-C, Ret.##imported-end##

December 22, 2011 at 08:35 PM



“ Dr. Gara and family: Please accept my condolences on the loss of your father. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time, keep your memories alive as you remember all of the wonderful times you've had together.

Kathy##imported-begin##Kathleen Butterfield##imported-end##

December 22, 2011 at 05:57 PM



“ I met Mr. Gara when I was a bridesmaid in one of his children's wedding. He had such a wonderful spirit and loved life. I will always remember how kind he was to all his children's friends. My sympathy to his family.

Gloria Niedringhaus Jarvis##imported-begin##Gloria Niedringhaus Jarvis##imported-end##

December 22, 2011 at 09:30 AM



“ To the Gara Family:

I am so sorry for your loss. I know what an amazing man your father was. I hope you know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Chris Myer##imported-end##

December 22, 2011 at 08:56 AM



“ Dear Dr. Gara.

Please accept my deepest sympathy. I know how much you loved your father and no amount of words can make his passing any easier to bear. Just remember-our Lord is with you always and now your father will be too.

Sincerely,

Karen Anderson##imported-begin##Karen Anderson##imported-end##

December 22, 2011 at 08:19 AM



“ *it was a pleasure knowing and attending G.M.R meetings with Phil. He could light up a room with his big Irish smile and always ready jokes and funny stories about his days with Lever Bros. He will be missed.*

Joe Regan ,Lever Brothers##imported-begin##Joe Regan##imported-end##

December 22, 2011 at 07:55 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. May God be with you during this time of sorrow.##imported-begin##Bill and Sandra Tidd##imported-end##

December 22, 2011 at 07:03 AM



“ Dear John:

We are so sorry for the loss of your dad. We are thinking of you at this time.

May the many happy moments you and your dad shared through the years comfort you now. We send our sincere sympathy to you and your family.##imported-begin##George & Florie Palange##imported-end##

December 21, 2011 at 10:01 PM



“ Patrick, sorry to here about your dad, he was a great guy , could of ran for Mayor, he used to go to the Kozy Kitchen on Shaker Road and when he walked in , it was like he was in cheers where everybody knows your name. He will be missed. Ebbie##imported-begin##Ebbie Van Wagenen##imported-end##

December 21, 2011 at 09:17 PM



“ John,
As you know, we met your father at the Serrittela party this past summer. He impressed us with his young spirit and ability to make you feel like you have known him for a long time. I wish we had! Our condolences to you and your family.##imported-begin##Michael & Alana Patrizio##imported-end##

December 21, 2011 at 05:28 PM



“ To the family of Phil, he was a great person who made everyone smile! His committment to everything he did put him in a catagory of his own and will be missed by all!1

Very sorry for your loss

BOB GUYER###imported-begin##Bob Guyer##imported-end##

December 21, 2011 at 03:04 PM



“ Dear John and family,
What a wonderful life Phil had. He was a great father and family man. You certainly did a tremendous lot of work to help him enjoy everything that he could. I shall always remember his special touches to our trip this past summer.

Thinking of you so much during this time.

Lynne###imported-begin##Lynne Ewen##imported-end##

December 21, 2011 at 01:21 PM



“ *Your Father and I graduated from CBA together and I saw him often over the years particularly when he was at the Roost playing golf. My last conversation was about his commitment to the animals and the Humane Society.*
JOHN HAUSEN

*I also knew Phil during High School days and beyond and We both remember him as one very likeable & personable who we were happy to see.
We are glad he crossed our path.*

We wish you an eternity of sweet memories of one great guy

CAROL HAUSEN

CAROL HAUSEN##imported-begin##CAROL & JOHN HAUSEN##imported-end##

December 21, 2011 at 01:07 PM



“ Sharon,

I am so sorry for the pain you are feeling right now. It sounds as if your father lived a very full, rewarding life, and touched many people in his life. Just looking at a few of your pictures makes me smile thinking about how much fun your father seemed and that you and Sarah must have gotten his sense of humor! I hope that you and your family know that you have a supportive family with Wallace and if you need anything in the next few days, or weeks or whenever, PLEASE ask. We are only a call away and would not mind in the least. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##Jessica Atkins##imported-end##

December 21, 2011 at 08:20 AM



“ We are all very sorry for your loss Sharon and Family. Much appreciation goes out for his service to our Country and his compassion for others including animals in need of rescue. I can see he passed those wonderful qualities down to you. I hope the kids are going to be ok. My heart goes out to all of you. With deepest sympathy.... The Redden's.##imported-begin##Tim Redden##imported-end##

December 21, 2011 at 07:19 AM