



Robert F. Gates

August 13, 1919 - January 12, 2014

Robert (Bob) Franklin Gates, 94, died at Cornwall Manor on Sunday, January 12, 2014. Born in Durant, Oklahoma on August 31, 1919, to Wallace Wesley and Dora Albright Gates, he was the third of six children.

Bob was drafted into the Army during WWII while he was at Oklahoma A&M College, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps as a pilot. Upon completion of pilot training he was commissioned a second lieutenant and assigned to the Ferry Command delivering all types of aircraft throughout the US and overseas. He received the Air Medal for the first successful delivery of P-38 aircraft over the North Atlantic. Following this service he was assigned as Captain in the Air Transport Command flying C-54 transports from Wilmington, Delaware to the border of China. It was while stationed at New Castle, Delaware that he met Jean Barr Howell, and married her on May 1, 1943.

While in the service, he became interested in working to improve aviation safety, so upon discharge he moved his family to Kansas City, Missouri in 1945 and joined the Civil Aeronautics Administration as a Flight Operations Inspector assigned to supervise TWA. In 1949 he became Section Chief in Washington D.C. for low visibility runway operations, which later moved to the FAA Technical Center near Atlantic City, NJ. During this time the family resided in Ocean City, NJ. His work continued for 20 years until his retirement from the FAA in 1972 when he received the prestigious FAA Achievement

Award.

In retirement he organized a consulting business, Gates Associates, which kept him busy advising on airport lighting systems for many domestic and international airports. After six years of consulting, Bob and Jean fully retired to Buck Hill Falls in the Poconos where they enjoyed golf, tennis, lawn bowling and cross country skiing. After 20 years in Buck Hill they moved to Cornwall Manor.

Bob was also a popular Explorer Scout Master and Sunday School teacher for many years. He sang in church choirs for over 75 years and also held several lay positions in various churches

He was a devoted husband, and loving father having encouraged growth in arts and careers. He leaves behind Jean Howell Gates, 94 at the Health Center of Cornwall

Manor; son Henry (Jaqueline) of Cambridge, Mass; daughters Virginia (Frank) May of Buck Hill Falls, PA and Elizabeth (Richard) Petrunis of Mays Landing, NJ. Eight Grandchildren include Sandra Cassel, John May, Joshua Gates, Jessica Makovsky, Erica Gates, Kristopher Gates, Evan Petrunis and John Petrunis and five Great-Grandchildren Mason and Gina Cassel, Makalya and Mila Gates and Ashley Makovsky. Two surviving sisters are Della Craighead and Lois Lenz. He is predeceased by his eldest son Robert Jr (Molly) a prominent documentary film maker from Charleston, WV. He was also predeceased by sisters, Rubie Bryant and Dora Mae Yates and brother Walter Gates.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00am Thursday, January 16, 2014 at the Cornwall United Methodist Church, Cornwall Pike & Alden Street, Cornwall, PA with Rev. James Heath officiating. The family will receive visitors following the service. Interment will be on a later date at Fort Indiantown Gap National

Cemetery, Annville, PA. The family requests in lieu of flowers that a contribution in the name of Robert Gates be made to the charity of choice.

Arrangements Entrusted to Porterfield-Scheid Funeral Directors & Cremation Services, Ltd., Lebanon. For further information contact 717-272-4634 or to submit an on-line condolence visit www.porterfieldscheidfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert F. Gates*

October 22, 2023 at 10:35 PM



“ *Robert F. Gates*

October 06, 2023 at 08:29 AM



“ *Robert F. Gates*

October 05, 2023 at 11:43 PM



“ *I did not know Mr. Gates but after reading his story, that is my loss. He had a life I could only dream of. I would have loved to have had a career in the aviation field. Love, prayers, & condolences to his wife, children, grandchildren, & other friends & family. May God give you all you need in this time of loss.*

Andrea Stalnecker - Lebanon, PA - January 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ I am so sorry I cannot make it on Thursday, as I'll be teaching. He drove me to tears when he showed up at a church event, proudly wearing his uniform a few years ago. His sweet, gentle spirit, terrific sense of humor, insights in Sunday School class, presence in the choir and wonderful stories will be very much missed. I am sorry I waited too long to get him together with Mae Graybill from Harrisburg; he wanted very much to meet Harrisburg's "Rosie the Riveter," and Mary Feik, who was also a pilot and participates in the Lebanon Civil Air Patrol activities. And I adored his dedication and love for Jean; it is clear they emulated what a good marriage is about for all who knew them. May the sweetness of your memories bring you comfort.

Kathy Snavely - Mt. Gretna, PA - Friend - January 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Jean and family, I truly enjoyed knowing Bob when I was the choir director at Cornwall United Methodist Church. His friendly, outgoing personality combined with his incredibly beautiful servant heart made it so easy to just fall in love with him. It was an honor to serve alongside him. He leaves a wonderful legacy for you! May God grant you all peace and comfort as you grieve the loss of this wonderful patriarch of your family.

Marcy Weik - Quentin, PA - Church Acquaintance - January 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ His warm smile on a Sunday morning would always brighten my day, thank you for your friendship and laughs, thank you for teaching us the true meaning of friendship and learning how to play bouche ball during the alpha course, we love you and Jean we will see you again

Tracy Boyer - Lebanon, PA - friend from church - January 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I became acquainted with Bob, during my past employment, working in the Activities Department at Cornwall Manor. It was a pleasure to talk with Bob each day he ate lunch with his lovely wife, Jean. His positive smile and friendly conversations brought joy into the dining room! His table friends looked forward to his interesting conversations, talks on current events and his caring support to their health issues. I personally will not forget Bob's positive attitude, love of his wife and family which he always spoke about. He was a man of integrity, had a love for life, and cared for those around him. He will be sadly missed, but not forgotten.

Mary Lee Harpel - Lebanon, PA - friend/Cornwall Manor - January 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM