



Mr. Benedict A. "Ben" Gerardi

April 12, 1939 - November 15, 2015

Mr. Benedict A. "Ben" Gerardi, age 76, passed away peacefully in the privacy of his home on Sunday, November 15, 2015.

Born in Utica on April 12, 1939, Benedict was the son of the late Benedict and Sadie (Foresti) Gerardi. He was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1957. As a working adult, Ben concurrently received an AAS from MVCC, awarded a BS at Utica College of Syracuse University as well as attending a number of courses in their MBA program. Ben was a proud veteran of the US Army National Guard. On April 8, 1961 he wed the former Joan P. Powell with whom he shared 55 years a marriage of their era; their years together were graced with true love, a commitment to their vows, and a healthy sense of humor.

Ben's working career included many years employed in managerial procurement positions at UNIVAC Corporation, Partlow Corporation, and ICL. He ventured into a second profession as a Sales Associate at Barnes & Noble, rewarding work for which he was well-suited. Knowledgeable and intelligent, he was an avid reader with a particular interest in history. As a patriarch, Ben was thoughtful, patient, and selfless in providing for his loved ones. He was a true family man who attended all his children's activities and offered moral support and advice when it was needed. A masterful, creative baker, Ben's heartfelt talents gave rise to traditional holidays that were meaningful and memorable. He also delved in arts and crafts, especially in woodwork and hand-painted articles. Doing for others warmed his heart and

brought him joy, and every gift was given with much thought, meaning, and presentation. Over time, his job responsibilities afforded him an opportunity to relocate to Florida where he and Joan enjoyed the warmer climate for several seasons. In 2011 they moved back to the Utica area to be closer to their children. Ben held a sacred spirituality in his Catholic faith. He was grateful that God blessed him with three children who grew to become honest people, and grandchildren who brought him a realization of joy and a reflection of his best attributes that they embraced through his example.

Ben is survived by his wife, Joan; his children and their spouses, Patricia and Steve Galinn, and Sandy and Jim D'Onofrio, all of New Hartford, and Michael A. Gerardi of Rome; his grandchildren, Brendan Galinn, Taylore Galinn; Michael and Jennifer D'Onofrio, Beth Ann D'Onofrio, and Tom D'Onofrio; and his great-granddaughter, Olivia Grace. His extended family includes his nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws, C. Joan Gerardi, Jane Powell, Michael and Diane Powell, Barbara Powell, Jeff and Laura (Strubbe) Powell, and Theresa Powell. Ben was blessed with many friends, especially remembering his lifelong friendship with Fr. Felix Colosimo, and his bonds with his nephew, Joseph Gerardi, Aunt Connie Russo and her late husband Carmen Russo, and Phyllis and Joe Rocco. He was predeceased by his brother, Joseph B. Gerardi, Sr.

The family is grateful to Ben's longtime caregivers, Dr. Bhisham Garg, and Dr. Domenic Aiello for their friendship and medical expertise; and the personnel of Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. who came at a befitting time and totally embraced Ben's needs, especially Crystal, and Irene.

Visitation will be held Thursday from 4:00-6:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Ben's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Thursday evening at 6:00 at the funeral home upon conclusion of visitation with Sister Elizabeth Giarrusso, CSJ officiating the ceremony. Entombment will take place in Calvary Mausoleum at the convenience of the family.

Tribute Wall

WE

“ To the Girardi family,

The Allen and Trudy Gates family would like to extend their heartfelt sympathy in the loss of your husband, father, grandfather. We are so sorry for your loss. Our parents had wonderful memories of the times they spent in Florida with the "gang" from Whitesboro. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this very difficult time.

Trudy Gates and children (Lynn, Debbie, Fred, Wendy, and Mary)

Wendy Egresits - November 22, 2015 at 09:58 PM



GR

“ Joan, Patricia, Sandy and the entire Gerardi Family, we were saddened to hear of Ben's passing. Ben truly was a wonderful man and will certainly be missed!!! Joan you have a wonderful family and our prayers are with you each of you. Ben was truly remarkable and I know he was a special person and friend to many including my parents. I am blessed to have known him. May the Lord give you strength and peace during this difficult time.

Gary and Judy Rocco and Family

Gary Rocco - November 21, 2015 at 10:30 AM

PG

“ My heartfelt sympathy to Ben's family and regret that I did not know of his passing until this Friday evening. The Gerardi and Geraci families go back a long way. Ben's parents and mine were best of friends and they were my baptismal Godparents. In our later youthful years, it was always a pleasure to run into Ben and more recently at The Barnes and Nobel .
Sincerest condolences and God's blessings to you and yours.

Phil Geraci

Phil Geraci - November 20, 2015 at 06:11 PM

ET

“ What an incredibly kind, friendly, and helpful gentleman! My sympathy to Joan and the Gerardi family on your great loss.

Ed Troha - November 19, 2015 at 01:07 PM

JK

“ Joan

sorry to hear of Bens passing Joe Kosmider

Joseph Kosmider - November 19, 2015 at 05:36 AM



“ I would like to send my condolences to Ben's family. I worked for Ben at ICL for several years back in the 80s. He was the best boss and a wonderful person. Once he traveled to the UK when I was working for him and he knew I collected bells and he brought me back a Wedgewood bell which was just beautiful (and expensive). I still treasure that bell to this day. I am so sorry for your loss, Ben was a great man. Love, Paula Aversa

Paula Aversa - November 18, 2015 at 11:06 AM

MA

“ I have had the pleasure of knowing Ben through his daughter, and my friend Sandy. When I needed a second job Ben suggested B&N and put in a good word for me . After working in the cafe for over a year, it was clear to me that everyone loved and respected Ben! I have also tasted some of his amazing cakes and own a few wonderful handmade wooden holiday decorations made by Ben. I will cherish them forever! He will be missed .



Michele Achin - November 18, 2015 at 06:37 AM

TG

“ I just wanted to thank everyone for their kind words. My grandfather truly touched lives. Especially mine. I'm so glad he got to grow up with me.



taylor galinn - November 17, 2015 at 09:28 PM

TF

“ The Welchons Family purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Mr. Benedict A. "Ben" Gerardi.



The Welchons Family - November 17, 2015 at 08:53 PM

MR

“ On behalf of my mother and our family, we send our love and condolences to Joan and the entire Gerardi family. Ben was a class act, a true gentleman, and a wonderful cousin. We will never forget the kindness and support given by Ben and Joan during my father's illness. Your loving presence, as well as Benny's great baking, added a special sense of comfort to many long and difficult days. My parents held Benny in high regard and my mother always felt a deep and enduring bond with him from their earliest days. His loss will leave a space that cannot be filled by any other. May God bless all of you.

Marybeth Russo - November 17, 2015 at 03:46 PM

 Amy
Smith

“ One year for Halloween (at B&N) I dressed up as a Yankee and Ben let me borrow one of his Yankee baseball caps. This one particular cap was special to him and expensive. And even though I worked in the cafe with food, coffee, and syrups, Ben let me borrow it anyway. He kept (jokingly) reminding me all day to not get anything on it. Needless to say I returned it safe and sound but I think he was sweating it all day.



Ben, you will truly be missed and were always deeply loved. The world could use more men like you.

Amy Smith - November 16, 2015 at 08:09 PM

LC

“Joan, I cannot express how shocked and saddened I am for you and your family. I met Ben through my sister at Barnes & Noble and later worked with him there. What a wonderfully warm and engaging man. He never failed to ask how I and my family were. And I always had to be on my toes with his sense of humor. It's a rare gift he had. The world has lost a bright light and we are all worse off for it. I will miss him. Lois Cushman

Nature's first green is gold, Her hardest hue to hold. Her early leafs a flower; But only so an hour. Then leaf subsides to leaf. So Eden sank to grief, So dawn goes down to day. Nothing gold can stay.
Robert Frost

Lois Cushman - November 16, 2015 at 07:57 PM

MB

“Saddened by the news that traveled to me today. My first job out of college at B&N was my favorite. I got to work with people of all ages and education levels. We were a motley crew for sure but I considered these folks some of the best to ever work with. Ben you were the star of the show. You had more energy than people half your age. Your smile always made my visits back to the ol' job more than worth it. You brightened so many with your spirit. I hope that it shines on beyond this world.



*A song for a heart so big,
god wouldn't let it live.
May angels lead you in.*

Michelle Bruni - November 16, 2015 at 07:48 PM

JC

Well said Michelle.

John Castello - November 18, 2015 at 10:40 AM



“ I worked side by side with Ben for 10 years at the bookstore. He had a courtly charm I didn't think existed anymore, along with a ready and warm smile that could brighten any day. And what a wit-- a customer was looking for a book and she phrased it, "Do you know 'Where The Red Fern Grows'?" Quick as cat, Ben replied, "I imagine in the forest." I going to miss him.

Phillip Gardner - November 16, 2015 at 07:37 PM



Love this Phil!

Amy Smith - November 16, 2015 at 07:43 PM



“ Ben When you made your almost daily visit to see our beloved Carmen I will always remember the time spent at Abraham House when we shared a joke or two had a battle of the wits (you always won) an then we would switch to the meaning of life ! You my friend are a special man ! Thanks for the gluten free goodies made just for me. Rest in peace, watch over us and know you will remain in the hearts of many forever! Your GF friend !

Bonnie Mccarthy - November 16, 2015 at 07:33 PM



Your words are so true, Bonnie. Benny's baking was often the bright spot in some very tough days. His presence at Abraham House was steady and gentle...he and Joan helped us all get through a difficult time. Heaven has a new dessert chef and one great guy.

Marybeth Russo - November 17, 2015 at 03:51 PM

BC

“ Ben was a wise sage to me during the formative years I spent working at Barnes & Noble. He was the kind of man who had that knowing twinkle in his eye that held a special wisdom only a select few have. He taught me a lot about working with people and working your hardest, even when things weren't so great. He always took an interest in hearing about my art or how school was going and asked me frequently for these kind of updates. I learned a lot from him and I will hold the times we worked together in great regard. Thanks for the advice Ben. I will miss your guidance and knowing chuckle.

Billy Crossley - November 16, 2015 at 07:29 PM

LC

“ Ben, it was amazing to work with you for 13 years. Your humor and wit got us through so long days. You will be missed greatly.



lisa cushman - November 16, 2015 at 07:00 PM

PR

“ Working at Barnes and Noble was one of the most enjoyable jobs I have ever had. I gained a family and today I lost a family member who not only managed to keep me on my toes with his smart mouth but also was one of the few people my, then shy, son would open up to. You will be missed Ben. Love you my friend.



Pratu Rao - November 16, 2015 at 06:16 PM

JC

Ben, you were a great friend and a shoulder to lean on. You were a great listener and you always gave the best sound advice. You always made a point to ask your coworkers how they were doing. You watched over your flock. You had the quit wit and kept the morale up at the bookstore. You will never leave my mind or my heart.

Johnny Boy

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Johnny Castello - November 16, 2015 at 06:23 PM

JC

Sorry about the typo BEN, you had the "quick" wit.

Johnny Castello - November 16, 2015 at 06:26 PM

JP

Ben, we will miss you. You helped us through many difficult times and you were there for Cook when she needed you. Your sense of humor was a delight and you had great insight to the many characters in the Powell family. I will always treasure that beautiful white Mercury you kept so clean. You were my hero in so many ways. Rest in our Lord, Amen. Mike and Diane Powell

John Powell - November 18, 2015 at 12:00 PM