



Mr Donald Bilyeu

November 27, 1932 - February 27, 2017

Donald Paul Bilyeu of Lenox, MA passed away on February 27, 2017 from complications of Parkinson's disease. Born on November 27, 1932 in the Bronx, NY, he was the son of the late Harold and Elizabeth Bilyeu. He attended elementary through high school at St. Nicholas of Tolentine and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Manhattan College in 1954.

He was employed by GE Ordnance in Pittsfield and participated in the Polaris through Trident missile defense programs, retiring in 1992. He also served as Lenox Town Warden and as gate attendant at Tanglewood for many years. He enjoyed movies, classical music, opera, computer animation, water color painting and gardening. He and his wife, Barbara, met by chance in a cable car in Zermatt, Switzerland in 1962 and were married September 5, 1964 in Bloomfield, CT at Sacred Heart Church.

In the 1970's and early 1980's he was a member of the Vineyard Community at the former Cranwell School and participated in William Gibson's plays, "The Body and the Wheel" and "The Butterfinger's Angel". He was a communicant of St. Ann Church in Lenox.

Besides his wife Barbara, he is survived by his children, Elizabeth (Beth) Twohy and her husband, Peter, of Cockeysville, MD, David Bilyeu and his wife, Catherine, of Lakewood, CO, and Scott Bilyeu, also of Lakewood; grandchildren Kyra and Conor Twohy, Devon and Taryn Bilyeu, and Cameron Bilyeu. He was predeceased by his sister, June Moylan.

The family thanks HospiceCare of the Berkshires and Renée Carl for their support and care of Don. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, March 2 with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at St. Ann Church at 11 AM, concelebrated by Rev. Gerald Finnegan SJ and Monsignor John Bonzagni. There will be no calling hours. All attending the funeral Mass are invited to a reception immediately following at St. Ann Family Center. Burial in St. Ann cemetery will be private. Donations in his memory may be made to HospiceCare in The Berkshires at 877 South St #1w, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Cemetery Details

St. Ann's Cemetery

1 Ore Bed Road
Lenox, MA 01240

Tribute Wall

MW

“ Just that he was the best Uncle, ever, kind, interested in you, fun to ski with. He was curious about everything and had many interests. I have one of his water color paintings on my wall that my Aunt Barb gave me. I miss him!!

mary walton - February 24, 2024 at 02:11 PM

MW

“ I can't believe it has already been 5 years since my Uncle Don passed away. He was a true renaissance man!. I loved skiing with him and talking about all manner of things. We shared a love of art and recently his wife, my Aunt Barb sent me one of his beautiful water colors. It now graces my home where I can be reminded of him and his great spirit.

Mary Denise Walton - February 23, 2022 at 12:04 PM

CC

“ Dear Barbara,

I remember you and Don with great fondness. I haven't been to Pittsfield in recent years, going only to NH and ME to visit Ginny and Garrett. However, I think of you often and have wonderful memories of your visits and hiking Monument Mt. with Don and Bernie.

I'm still in the Netherlands, having retired from teaching at the college level last year.

*With great sadness,
Carol Conover
conover@xmsnet.nl*

C Conover - March 10, 2017 at 09:40 AM

KG

“ Barbara I just learned of Don's passing. I know the last few years have been difficult for both of you. Parkinson's is a horrible disease. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I understand you are at Beth's for a while. Take care...Kaye Gallagher

Kathleen Gallagher - March 07, 2017 at 04:38 PM

CM

“ Aunt Barbara, Beth, David and Scott,

Please accept our most sincere condolences for your loss. Uncle Don was a great guy who has given me many special memories – from skiing lessons while visiting you in Lenox (watching him effortlessly cruise down the mountain in those old-school skis), to coming all the way to small-town Belle Plaine, MN. with David for our wedding. He built a beautiful life with your family, coming a long way from sharing that tiny, step-down, one-bedroom apartment in the Bronx with Mom, Grandma and Grandpa. I will always remember him as a big-hearted guy with an easy smile. Uniquely smart, funny and caring. His memory will stay with me always.

Chris and Annette Moylan

Christopher Moylan - March 02, 2017 at 01:01 PM

NI

“ Dear Barbara and Family you are in our prayers.

Don was a pious man. On Sundays when we were going skiing, after we met In Minneapolis in 1961, Don always wanted to stop on the way to the slopes to go to church. At GE we were working in the same area and that gave us plenty of opportunities to complain to each other. After retirement Don became a competent artist whose work was always admired by fellow artist.

In the past few years when Don's health was getting worth he never complained and was ready to talk about his family and reminisce about events of our past.

May God give you strengths at this difficult time.

Nick and Marina

Nick - March 01, 2017 at 09:31 PM