



Robert "Bob" Gray

APR 23, 1940 - NOV 25, 2022



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Robert "Bob" Gray

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Robert "Bob" Gray, 82, of Canastota, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 25, 2022, at Crouse Hospital surrounded by his loving family. Bob was born April 23, 1940, in Ephratah, NY to the late Clarence and Anna Mae (Smith) Gray. Bob's mother passed away when he was 7 years old and he was raised in Gloversville, NY by his late Aunt and Uncle, Delilah and Burt Clemons. He graduated from Gloversville High School and the University of Georgia. Early in his career he was a chemist at Knight Oil in Johnstown, NY, where he became one of the main developers of "Spray Nine." After leaving Knight Oil he worked for Korkay Inc. in Broadalbin, NY for many years before moving to Canastota, NY with his family, where he co-founded Reliable Products in Oneida, NY. Bob was an inventor at heart and before his retirement he devoted over 30 years as the Vice President and Chief Chemist at Reliable where he developed the entire line of chemical specialties there.

Bob was an avid gardener and loved his vegetable garden. He had an inquisitive mind and was always experimenting and tinkering with things. He was an avid Georgia Bulldogs Football fan and could be found most Saturdays watching UGA games. He also loved dogs and had many dogs over the years including Nancy, Spot, Spike and Shelby. He spent summers at his camp in Caroga Lake, NY and enjoyed playing horseshoes, sitting around the campfire, tinkering around the camp, splitting wood, being outdoors and socializing with family and friends. Most of all, Bob loved spending time with his sidekick "Pearl" and his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Shirley J. (Oathout) Gray; his children, Robert (Debbie) Gray of Baldwinsville, Michael (Michelle) Gray of Jamesville, Hillary Heintz of Baldwinsville, and Jeffrey Gray of Baldwinsville; grandchildren, Kayla (Dan) Fleming, McKinley Gray, Garth Gray, Gavin Gray, and Garrett Gray; great-grandchildren, Nevaeh, Daniel, and Joseph; siblings, his twin sister, Roberta Mead of Herkimer, and Alma Hoyer; of St Johnsville along with several nieces, nephews, cousins, and close friends.



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Along with his parents and Aunt and Uncle that raised him, Bob was predeceased by his sister Louise and brothers Kenneth, Leonard, Clarence, and George.

In keeping with Bob's wishes, there will be no public calling hours or services. A private funeral service with family is entrusted to THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME. Bob will be laid to rest near his camp in Caroga Lake, NY.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Bob's name may be made to The UGA Foundation - Food Science and Technology Fund at The University of Georgia. Gifts in memory of Bob Gray can be made the UGA Food Science and Technology fund online (<https://t.uga.edu/66G>) or by check (make checks payable to UGA Foundation and include IMO Bob Gray/Food Sci & Tech Fund in the memo). Checks can be mailed to UGA Foundation, 1 Press Place, Athens, GA 30602.



Tribute Wall

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Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home shared a **Tribute Video**.



November 29 at 8:56 AM



Yvette Falzarine lit a candle in honor of Robert.

My heart goes out to all of you. I have so many fond memories of spending summers in Caroga Lake at the camp on Scott Road. I remember like it was yesterday. You're all in my thoughts & prayers. Light & love to all of you.



December 7 at 2:09 AM



Shirley Gray December 9 at 2:41 AM

Thank you Yvette. So nice if you to think of us.



Russ Eaton posted:

Shirley and Family So sorry to read about Bob's passing. We had many great times over the years playing horse shoes in Caroga. Ironically, but sad, Bob's obituary in the Gloversville Leader Herad is listed the same day as my mothers. I know our families enjoyed being neighbors for many, many years in Caroga. Godspeed Russ Eaton

December 3 at 7:54 AM



Shirleygray December 6 at 3:26 PM

Thank you, Barb. Yes, many fond memories of summers at camp. So nice that members of both our families will continue to enjoy Caroga.



Barbara Valovic December 5 at 11:27 AM

As Russ said many fond years of memories of the Gray family and Caroga Lake and how fitting that they shared the obituary page in the Leader Herald ! I know our first summer of renting from your dad for a week escalated to many more weeks, then years of of having such great neighbors !! So sorry for your loss of such a wonderful man !!



Shirley Gray December 3 at 11:17 AM

Thank you so much, Russ. I just learned that your mom passed. My sympathy to all. Yes, our families shared many good times. I will always remember when my dad passed in the nursing home, your mom went with my mother as she was at the camp alone. Thanks again, Shirley



Media

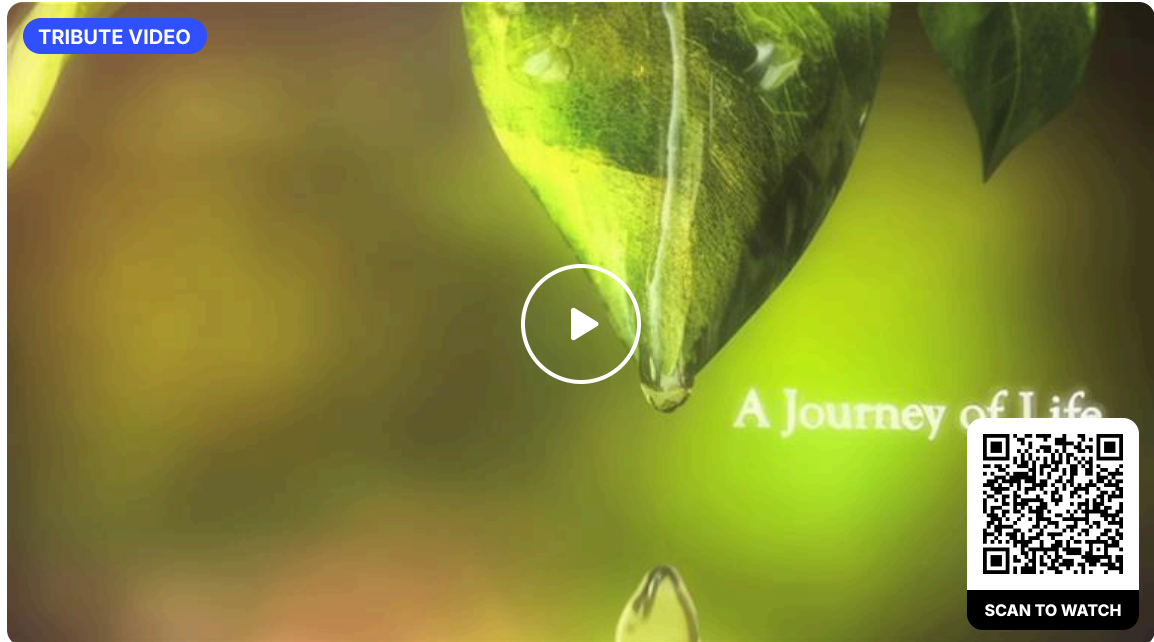
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November 29 at 8:56 AM



Gloria Gray December 6 at 12:37 PM

So many good memories of Bob Shirley and all his family many Prayers God Bless And May He RIP 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏



Shirley Gray December 3 at 11:29 AM

John and Linda, Thank you for your kind words. Yes, Bob was very special. He was a very caring husband and father. He also had a special place for Carrie in his heart. Shirley



John Bennet November 29 at 5:51 PM

To Shirley, Jeff and the whole Gray family. Linda and I are so sad to hear about Bob. Even though it's been years some people you always remember and I will always remember and be very grateful for something Bob and you Shirley did. Back in 2004 when my father past away you came to the calling hours to pay your respect. But you went farther, our daughter Jennifer was devastated that her grandfather was gone. In her grief she was inconsolable. But Bob came up to me and asked if him and Shirley could take her out for a bit so she would calm a little. That gesture meant the world to me and Linda. To the whole Gray family I want you to know that Bob was special. With Love John & Linda Bennet



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Robert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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