



Donald Gates

October 22, 1929 - December 21, 2024

Donald Gates, 95, of Skaneateles died peacefully on December 21, 2024. Don was born in New York City in 1929, a son of the late Jean and Eileen Gates. He spent his early years in Forest Hills and the south shore of Long Island, where he loved the ocean and the beach. He graduated from Baldwin High School, active on both the football and wrestling teams. After serving in the US Army, Don attended Syracuse University. He was a member of the DKE fraternity and graduated in 1953. Don and his wife, Barbara, married on Long Island and started their family. They relocated to Skaneateles in 1964 when Don started as a sales representative for Lancaster-Colony.

For Don and Barbara, spring and summer were about home and garden. Fall and winter were about Syracuse football, basketball, shoveling snow and wonderful annual escapes to the beaches of Florida.

He instilled a strong work ethic in his children, encouraging each to think independently as they charted their courses in this world. He inspired each of his grandchildren to do the same. Don was the consummate family man and will be deeply missed by us all.

Don was predeceased by his loving wife of 63 years, Barbara Bullock Gates, brother Peter Gates, grandson Adam Carmeli and daughter-in-law Susan Gates.

He is survived by his children, Cindy, Eric, Dennis and Chris, seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and sister-in-law Marilyn Gates.

Services will be held at a later date. Burial will be Lakeview Cemetery, Skaneateles. Arrangements by the B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home, Camillus.

The Gates family wants to thank the staff at McHarrie Nursing Home for the comfort, care and therapy they provided our family patriarch. In that regard, in lieu of flowers, donations to McHarrie would be most appreciated to McHarrie Life Foundation, 7740 Meigs Rd, Baldwinsville, NY 13027 or at www.mcharrielife.org

Please sign his guestbook at www.BLBUSH.com

Tribute Wall

KB

“ *Mr. Gates always had minute to spare and a kind word for me as a neighborhood kid showing up at his door for the 100th time. I wish the family the best.* ”

Ken Beck - December 31, 2024 at 10:15 AM

ER

“ *I'll cherish all his stories and our laughs together forever. He will always carry a special place in my heart* ”

Emily Reith - December 26, 2024 at 04:29 AM

CG

You were special to him. We will never forget your kindness.

Cindy Gates - December 28, 2024 at 07:35 AM

DE

Hi Emily, we are having a lunch in memory of my Dad on Monday, April 21st at the Sherwood Inn in Skaneateles. Please join if you are able. It is from 12:30 to 3:30. We all appreciated the attention and care you provided to my father. Best, Dennis

Dennis - April 18, 2025 at 08:54 AM

GC

“ *My condolences to all of you. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Gretchen Kugler Chenenko* ”

Gretchen Kugler Chenenko - December 25, 2024 at 04:45 PM