



Harvey Gumto

October 25, 1940 - May 12, 2020

Harvey Erich Gumto of Renfrew, Pennsylvania passed away peacefully at age 79 of natural causes on May 12, 2020 in Clearwater, Florida.

Harvey was born to Erich T. and Ruth (Christy) Gumto on October 25, 1940. He grew up on Churchland Street, Pittsburgh in the shadow of his family's greenhouse. He enjoyed a happy childhood with his sister Marlene and cousins Harry and Paul and graduated from the University School of Pittsburgh in 1959. In 1961, Harvey completed his studies in Horticulture at Penn State University where he met the love of his life, Carol Parker whom he married in 1963. Harvey felt the call to service and enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves initially as an artilleryman and later serving in the 339th General Hospital.

Harvey took over the family business from his father, which originally started in 1906, and brought the greenhouses to Butler County in 1972. He transformed a mere cornfield into a 2-acre agricultural and horticultural operation, all while maintaining the same quality standards his ancestors set over 100 years ago. It was here that he and Carol raised their three children, Lynn, Erich, and Scott. In 1985, he expanded further and opened the retail Gumto Garden Center. He also raised white-faced cattle and enjoyed his acreage as Beef and Bloom Farm. After 55 years of dedicated and passionate work, Harvey retired in 1995 passing the reins of the family business to his eldest son, Erich. After retirement, Harvey was the unofficial superintendent of the Harvey-Stebbins well pad.

Harvey was an adventurous man, as evidenced by his hot air balloon. Though he did not believe in taking days off work, when he did, he loved to ski, scuba dive, and boat. Harvey would frequently pile the family into his motorhome and take them on cross-country adventures. Though he visited numerous countries and took countless cruises, his favorite trip was always Walt Disney World. He was known for returning from every adventure with a good story - sometimes ones you heard more than once. Known amongst his friends and family as "Captain", he and Carol realized their dream of owning a home (and a boat) on the ocean and spent many wonderful winters in Clearwater, Florida. Harvey was a charitable man - when someone needed help, he would quietly take up the call and never

expected anything in return. Though Harvey had many passions and was involved in multiple organizations, he was happiest when his friends and family came to visit him at “the farm” where they could enjoy a nice scotch and share many laughs. He was an entertainer to his core.

Harvey was greatly involved in the community. He was the Past Commodore Algonquin Canoe Club, and was active in the Western PA Flower Growers Association. A man of great faith, he was a member of both the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh and the First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown. Harvey belonged to the Infinity Masonic Lodge #546 and Scottish Rite Valley of Pittsburgh. As an active member of the Syria Shrine and Knights and Nobles of Butler, he spent many years spreading joy as a Clown “Rosey Posey” in Syria’s Harige Unit. He was past president of Caravan #14 and was past director of the ROJ Pittsburgh Court #2. Additionally, Harvey was a member of the American Legion Post #77, Butler Elks #170, and the Butler Country Club. In 2011, Harvey was awarded the 33rd Degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

Harvey is survived by his wife of 56 years, Carol Parker Gumto; his children: Lynn (Tom) Martig, Erich (Raylene) Gumto, and Scott (Danielle) Gumto; his sister Marlene Warner of California; nephews Mark Warner and David Warner of California; and brother-in-law Robert Ray (Sylvia) Parker. He is also survived by seven beloved grandchildren: Leisel (Dr. Jordan) Zabo, Brianna Martig, Esq., Jordon (Hannah) Martig, 2nd Lieutenant U.S. Army, Noah Gumto, Ian Gumto, Madison Gumto, and Mackenzie Gumto, as well as a multitude of cousins and friends.

Much of Harvey’s life was made possible by the generous donation of a kidney twenty-five years ago. As such, Harvey would encourage all who are able to become an organ donor. In addition, donations can be made in his name to the Erie Shriners Hospital for Children (1645 W. 8th St. Erie, PA 16505) or to the Scottish Rite Pittsburgh Learning Center (3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237).

Visitation services will be outside at his residence on Wednesday May 20th, 2020 from noon to six o’clock in the evening. The funeral services will be private. In the spirit of Harvey’s frequently used motto “never miss a party”, a celebration of his life will be scheduled at a later date.

Cemetery

Brownsdale Cemetery

Butler, PA,

Events

MAY **Visitation** 12:00PM - 06:00PM

20

His residence
PA, US

Comments



“ Harvey was like a brother to me, he would give you the shirt off his back. He would keep going.no matter of his heath. God Bless you Brother we will miss you.
Brother Stan

stan walchesky - May 19 at 04:04 PM



“ Sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers are with you

Richard Moczulski - May 19 at 03:34 PM



“ Harvey gave me the opportunity at a young age to learn from him. He was an excellent teacher, mentor, and inspiration for me to pursue my goals with hard work and dedication. Harvey taught me and I am sure many others the value of honesty, sincerity, and trust in business., I was deeply saddened by your loss, I am praying for God to help you to overcome the pain you feel, my sincere condolences., David Hughes

Rose Hughes - May 19 at 08:16 AM



“ Rose Hughes lit a candle in memory of Harvey Gumto



Rose Hughes - May 19 at 08:07 AM



“ Our Sympathy to the Gumto Family. Jim & Cindy Schnur. Schnur's Greenhouse.

Cindy Schnur - May 18 at 10:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



joyce Lapinski - May 18 at 07:22 PM



“ Our hearts go out to the Gumto Family.
Harvey was always willing to do anything for the Hughes. We had great times at Kennywood trips every year. Harvey Drove the limo for our Wedding day, also emptied the greenhouses to decorate Laube Hall for our reception. You will be missed,Harvey.

Joyce Ann, Ken Kenny, Jennifer Lapinski

joyce Lapinski - May 18 at 07:19 PM



“ Our sympathy to the Gumto family. Harvey was such a fun person to be around. May your memories give you comfort.

Annamarie and Paul Starr

Annamarie and Paul Starr - May 18 at 06:33 PM



“ Condolences to the Gumto family on the passing of our dearest friend and neighbor. Harvey you will be truly missed, but know that your many stories and jokes will stay with us forever. You were always such a kind, caring person and so much fun to be around. Rest in Peace our friend.

David and Eleanor Hackett

Eleanor Hackett - May 18 at 01:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gary Hughes - May 18 at 01:05 PM



“ 202 files added to the album LifeTributes



Young Funeral Home - May 18 at 11:16 AM



“ As a teenager I loved spending a few hours working in the greenhouse when I come from an hour away to visit my family. This was my first ever paid "job," as Harvey always paid me for work I would have done for free! I remember skiing with him, Erich and Raylene, staying in the camper at 7 springs. I was too young for the hot tub but he snuck me in! Spending a week at the house in Clearwater was so much fun, especially going out on the boat, it's no wonder he loved spending time there with his family. He will be so missed, he was so much fun and had the kindest heart.

Janine Heatley - May 17 at 10:57 PM



“ Gumto Family so sorry to hear of your loss. My brother and I grew up across the street from Harvey and Marlene. I can remember Harvey as being very quiet and reserved, reading about his adult life was like reading about a completely different person. I am so happy to hear he came out of his shell.
Shirley Fennell Shackelford

Shirley Shackelford - May 17 at 05:51 PM