



## Gary John Bellis

December 9, 1944 - October 12, 2025

Gary John Bellis (Pop or Poppy), a humble, determined, and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather; passed away peacefully October 12, 2025. Born December 9th, 1944, in Butler, Pennsylvania, he was the cherished son of the late Joseph John Bellis and Florence Margaret (Lynn) Bellis.

Family was everything to Gary. He is survived by his four sons; Joseph J. Bellis (Linda), Colby L. Bellis, Corey L. Bellis (Joanna), and Gregory J. Bellis, his five grandchildren, Amanda (John), Alyssa, Chelsea (Dylan), Brooke, and Andrew; as well as his great-grandson Lucas and soon to be born great-grandson Carson. For Gary passing on family stories, history, and skills was his life's work. His quiet, and not so quiet strength offered an everlasting foundation for his family.

Gary was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 58 years, Carol Joyce (McKean) Bellis. Their lives were a testament to enduring love, having shared countless memories. They particularly enjoyed traveling together whether it be a lazy weekend drive or one of the many long car trips which took them to 47 of the 48 continental states.

As a father, Gary will be remembered for his fantastic story telling. He could create funny and engaging fiction off the top of his head and then go on to tell exciting stories of history, sports, or geography. He was also known for his craftsmanship, from blacksmithing to woodworking, and for fixing almost anything around the house but plumbing (he really didn't like plumbing.) He

could make or fix anything and taught his boys to do the same.

The Bellis home was the most fun house in the neighborhood because Gary built tree houses, tipis, toboggan trails and, for the last 27 years, a magnificent train display for all to enjoy. He even built a baseball field in his backyard to give the t-ball team he coached more practice time.

In his professional life Gary began his career as a blacksmith and soon after became a machinist for Pullman Standard and then AK Steel (ARMCO) until his retirement in 2007. His careers showcased precision, determination, and keeping his co-workers entertained with regular doses of his practical humor. Gary was highly experienced in a plethora of skills and crafts and made a point to pass his knowledge on to his children and grandchildren. He loved nothing more than to spend a day whipping something up in his shop, often innovative and sometimes actual artwork.

Gary's life was enriched by his hobbies and the simple pleasures of nature. An instinctual outdoorsman, he had an uncanny ability to sense the deer's patterns and where they would be. He loved gardening and had a way of caring for plants and trees that kept them living when others might have allowed them to die. However, his deepest passion, was fishing, a tradition shared across generations. He was often quoted saying "just one more worm" a saying he learned from his own father. He enjoyed this hobby in locations like the 3-mile bridge in Pensacola Bay, a favored spot he shared with his father and later with his sons, to the "swimming hole" on the Connoquenessing Creek just a short walk from North Butler where he lived in his early years. Poppy passed down both a skill and a sacred place of connection with family.

He loved animals with a passion. Whether it was the rabbits he kept "for the grandkids," hunting beagles, or his spoiled beagles later in life, or wildlife that regularly wandered across his property, he loved them all. The bears, deer, birds, turkeys, and squirrels were all his friends and he had a way of charming them just as he did with everyone he met.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his brother, Russell J.

Bellis.

His memory and legacy will be forever cherished by his sons and their partners, his grandchildren, great-grandsons, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. Gary's humble dedication, enduring strength, and cherished traditions will be deeply missed.

Friends will be received from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, October 16, 2025, and also from 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, October 17, 2025, at Young Funeral Home, Ltd., 127 W. Jefferson Street, Butler.

A blessing service will immediately follow at Calvary Cemetery, 1004 N. Main Street, Butler, with Deacon Mitch Natali, of All Saints Parish, Butler, officiating. In lieu flowers, memorial donations may be made to Butler Humane Society, [www.butlercountyhs.org/make-a-donation/](http://www.butlercountyhs.org/make-a-donation/) or Dementia Society of America, [www.dementiasociety.org](http://www.dementiasociety.org)

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

1004 North Main Street  
Butler, PA 16001

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **16**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Young Funeral Home, Ltd.  
127 W. Jefferson St.  
PO Box 1522  
Butler, PA 16003  
(724) 283-3333  
youngfuneralhome@zoominternet.net  
<http://www.youngfuneralhomes.com/index.php>

## Visitation

OCT **17**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Young Funeral Home, Ltd.  
127 W. Jefferson St.  
PO Box 1522  
Butler, PA 16003  
(724) 283-3333  
youngfuneralhome@zoominternet.net  
<http://www.youngfuneralhomes.com/index.php>

## **Blessing Service**

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**OCT 17 (ET)**

Calvary Cemetery  
1004 North Main Street  
Butler, PA 16001

# Tribute Wall

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“ Gary loved fishing, great memories of our two families, renting cabins at Muskie Bay, Ontario in the mid 70's. All 5 of our children were under the age of 6. This was before Greg. I don't remember how successful fishing was but Gary could tell you exactly how many fish were caught!

Gary could make anything out of wood. He drafted and made a beautiful wood camelback toy box for our son Mark. Which is now a beautiful heirloom passed down to Mark's son Dylan.

Gary loved rabbits. We rabbit sat for them once. That was one mean rabbit. He was kept in a cage and not happy about it. Gary didn't share that information until he brought the rabbit, along with a pair of oversized working glove's to use when you opened the cage to feed him.

I picture Gary, united once again with Joyce, all their siblings, parents, some nephews and nieces and what a glorious, heavenly day that must be.

My thoughts and prayers are with you boys and your family's during these days. They will always be in our hearts. I am sorry I can't be there.

B.J. McKean

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Betty J McKean - October 15, 2025 at 06:26 AM