



Mr. David Phelps Gray

SEP 7, 1939 - SEP 23, 2024



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Mr. David Phelps Gray

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David Phelps Gray, known affectionately as "Poppa", passed away peacefully, Monday September 23 surrounded by his loving family, at his home in Walkersville, Maryland. He was 85. Dave served as a Frederick County Commissioner for 20 years, between 1990-2002 and again from 2006-2014. During his tenure he served as both President and Vice President.

Among Dave's proudest accomplishments were initiating Frederick County's recycling program and advancing the cause of Agricultural Preservation.

Dave was born in Canton, Ohio in 1939. He attended the University of Delaware, graduating in 1963 with a B.S. in electrical engineering. He, and his wife Sharon, provided tax consulting services through their home business, Gray Enterprises, for more than 40 years.

Dave served on numerous boards and commissions in Frederick County, including the Planning and Zoning Commission (1979-90), Board of Health, National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, Board of Education, Substance Abuse Council, Board of Trustees, Frederick Community College, Maryland Council for New Americans, Board of Elections, and Board of Library Trustees. He was a member of the Legislative Committee for the Maryland Association of Counties.

Dave is survived by his wife of 41 years, Sharon Gray of Walkersville, sisters Susan Rose and Linda Wiegand of Florida, daughters Lisa Dietrich, Jill Milenski (Aaron), Lynde Jo Engel (Charles), Jan Gilpin (Rob), Michelle Frock (David), Jo Gray (Jenny McBride), and Deana Dietrich (Billy Crook).

Nichole Smith-Szarenski (Tony) became the 8th girl of "Poppa" Gray's world and the start of 20 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren both biological and of the heart. Most of them all are now boys. David is also survived by many nephews and nieces.



Obituary

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Dave had an enduring curiosity, and love of life, nature, travel, especially National Parks, and astronomy. He was known for his kind and helpful nature, fairmindedness, and quirky sense of humor. He never met a sweet he didn't enjoy or a cup of coffee he couldn't spill.

In keeping with his life-long philosophy, with his constant interests and hope for a better future, Dave donated his body to scientific research through the Maryland State Anatomy Board.

A service will be held on Saturday October 12, 2024 from 10:00-10:30am followed by an open time from 10:30am - 1:00pm for friends and family to "recycle" your memories. Services will take place at the Chapel at Resthaven Funeral Home located in Frederick.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Walkersville Volunteer Rescue Co. P.O. Box 202 Walkersville, MD 21793 or Frederick Health Hospice 1 Frederick Health Way, Frederick, MD 21701.

The family extends a thank you to all of those who provided care for him, with a special thank you to Dr. Haseebuddin from Family Urology Associates, and Ari and April from Frederick Health Hospice.



Events


Mr. David Phelps Gray

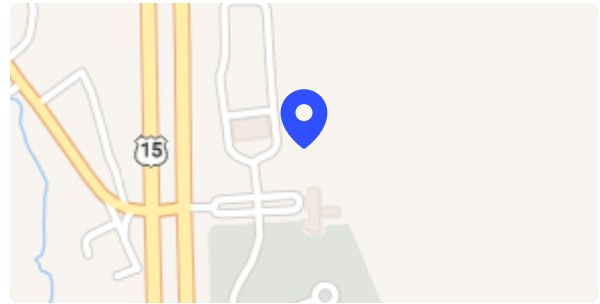
SEP 7, 1939 - SEP 23, 2024

Service

 **Saturday**, October 12, 2024


 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM ET


 **Resthaven Funeral Home**
9501B Catocin Mountain Hwy, Frederick MD
21701

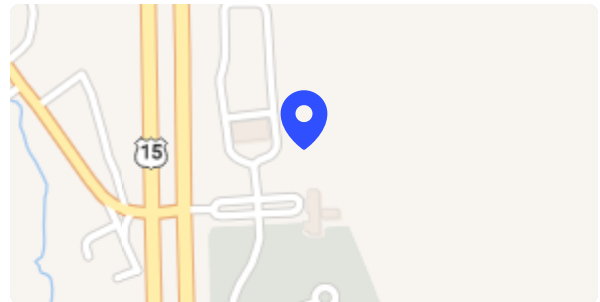


Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, October 12, 2024

 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM ET

 **Resthaven Funeral Home**
9501B Catocin Mountain Hwy, Frederick MD
21701





Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Gracious Lavender Basket to the Gray family.

October 11 at 7:02 AM



Love Sharon & Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of David.

October 11 at 7:02 AM



Janice posted:

One of my favorite memories was on the campaign trail with Dave - when he was running for County Commissioner. He loved to chat, so we didn't hit many houses but I'm quite sure he turned out voters and it was always clear that after talking with Dave they would vote for him! What a dear dear man, and a role model for young people - including my own. My heart goes out to Sharon and Dave's entire family. Rest in peace Dave, we miss you. Janice Wiles

October 4 at 10:43 AM



Lori posted:

We are deeply saddened to hear of Dave's passing. He was such a remarkable person, and his kindness and warmth touched the lives of so many. He always took time to chat with us and share a funny antidote. His caring smile will be missed. May God bless, Sharon, the children, grandchildren, family and friends, with love and strength during this difficult time. May your memories bring you comfort and peace. With our deepest sympathy, Lori and Scotty Combs

September 29 at 5:37 AM



Rev. Albert K. Lane, Iii (Bert) posted:

To David's family, Dayna and I express our deepest sympathy to you on his death. For many years, we called Walkersville "home". We delighted seeing him in and around the community, and we especially enjoyed conversations we had at the Walkersville Post Office. May God grant you peace and comfort in your loss. Bert

September 27 at 5:06 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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