



## Grant Hansel, Jr.

December 27, 2023

Grant Hansel, Jr., 91, died Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at Homestead Village, Lancaster PA.

As stated in his own words: “Born to Grant and Eunice Jones Hansel, July 25, 1932, he arrived at the family farm on the Cherry Valley Turnpike, a region settled and cleared by his pre-revolutionary ancestors. He would soon be joined by brothers Sheldon (deceased), Kent, and Ronald, then sister Nancy, and is survived by his wife, Joan Maertins Hansel, daughters, Sherry (Scott Qualls, Lancaster, PA.) and Suzanne (Wayne Burkholder, Raymond, ME.), and sons, Fritz (1959-74), Mark (Kelly Ryan-Lunenberg, MA.), and Luke (Nannette Sartoris, State Line, NV./Lake Tahoe), and also 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Grant began working field crops with his own team of horses in 1940 and would later join older farmers to rebuild or maintain their tractors in WWII night workshops.

He attended the West Winfield Congregational Church, and Central High School, West Winfield, NY- competed and won NY State Music prizes as a voice and instrumental soloist, pitched Varsity baseball for three years with no losses, played football and, graduated from high school in 1949 and earned a scholarship for engineering study at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA.

At Lehigh, three years of varsity football began with the undefeated 1950 season featuring wins over Rutgers, Delaware, and Dartmouth. He was Delta Upsilon Fraternity Rush Chairman, a Packer Chapel vocal soloist, and met expenses as a waiter and janitor. A major fire at the home farm divided his time for much of the final college semester. After the new barn was completed, he began work in 1953 at GE in Schenectady as a Metallurgical Engineer, writing two patents on welding alloys and techniques needed to build the first nuclear-powered full-size steam turbine, while introducing quality and cost savings procedures on the large steam turbine assembly department. During two years in Schenectady, he performed with the Light Opera Company.

During his 1956 military research assignment, Grant and Joan were married in Dedham, MA. New daughter, Sherry, joined them for their 1957 move from Washington DC to Hingham, MA., where they lived for the next 53 years. There, Grant was a Chairman of Trustees - Hingham Congregational Church, and a 30-year choir member, -where 2 daughters were married, 4 children baptized, and Fritz was memorialized.

Grant sang Baritone leads in Hingham Civic Theater productions, - also in the first (1963) of many annual Hingham Cabaret variety shows, many with wife Joan. He coached and managed Junior League Baseball and Pop Warner Football teams, - a total of 27 years of youth sports, - served on the Harbor Development and Finance Advisory Committees, was a member of the Hingham Yacht Club, and campaigned for Town Selectman.

In 50 years as General Manager and President of the Henry S. Wolkins Co (founded 1844), Grant managed the sale and installation of furniture and equipment for major northeastern Schools and Colleges, including theaters, lecture halls, and Laboratories. Its School Supply division made and

distributed writing and art supplies and had a large printing and paper converting operation that involved a wide variety of paper grades. Expanding operations prompted the company's 3 moves to larger quarters in 1960, 1974, and 2001. When digital learning replaced the supplies and tools used in traditional education, the printing operation and warehouse were closed, and operations ceased.

In 2010, Grant and Joan attended the 60th reunion of Lehigh's undefeated 1950 team and settled in Lancaster, PA. where he was involved in vocal choir, family history, and woodworking activities."

Relatives and friends are invited to a Musical Celebration of Life at Church of the Apostles, 1850 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603 on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. with Reverend Kathryn Kuhn officiating. The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. until the time of service. Interment will be held in the Spring of 2024 at the East Winfield Cemetery (Hansel family plot) in West Winfield, NY.

The family wishes to thank the Homestead Village nurses, caregivers, and staff who cared for Grant.

Memorial contributions may be made to the following: Lehigh Info Processing, 306 W. New Street, Suite 500, Bethlehem, PA 18015-1652 for the Lehigh Athletic Department -or- Homestead Village Benevolent Society Fund, 1800 Village Circle, Lancaster, PA 17603. A live stream of the service will be available, [www.apostlesucc.org](http://www.apostlesucc.org)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 20. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Church of the Apostles UCC  
1850 Marietta Ave  
Lancaster, PA 17603

## Celebration of Life

JAN 20. 2:00 PM (ET)

Church of the Apostles UCC  
1850 Marietta Ave  
Lancaster, PA 17603

# Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Webcast in memory of Grant Hansel, Jr.*



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**The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc** - January 20, 2024 at 01:15 PM



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Grant Hansel, Jr.*



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**The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc** - January 19, 2024 at 04:14 PM



“ *Veronika & Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Grant Hansel, Jr..*



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**Veronika & Family** - January 20, 2024 at 10:52 AM

VF

“ Veronika & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Grant Hansel, Jr..

Veronika & Family - January 20, 2024 at 10:52 AM

CR

“ Saying goodbye to Grant with lots of feelings. He never would disappoint with a story! Goodbye Grumps and thinking of all the Hansel family.

Cheryl Ryan - January 20, 2024 at 08:36 AM



“ 260 files added to the album LifeTributes



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - January 19, 2024 at 03:56 PM



“ 117 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc** - January 18, 2024 at 04:59 PM

SH

“ *Sending love, smiles and hugs to the entire Hansel clan during this trying time. We were incredibly fortunate to have met Grant and many of his warm and wonderful family spending time together on ski slopes, in Lancaster, and sailing as well. We will always remember Grant as a strong, independent and impressive man; husband, father, grandfather (and later great grandfather). We are grateful for the good times, important life lessons learned. We will keep you Grumps - in our hearts as your singular spirit lives on. You truly were one-of-a-kind!*

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**Sally Harrison** - January 16, 2024 at 12:53 PM

SQ

*Dearest Sally, You were one of Grumps' special ones. So many great times together. And yes, lessons for each of us! Love to you*

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**sherry qualls** - January 18, 2024 at 01:16 PM

GJ

“ Joan and family. Linda and I were so sorry to hear the news about Grant's death. I know you all moved quite a few years ago, but forgot it was to Lancaster. We used to visit there lots when we lived north of Baltimore. we have lots of fond memories of Grant, from Hingham Congregational Church days. Especially his role on Trustees and in the choir. His energy for whatever he was involved with was very contagious!! Sending our thoughts and prayers your way. Our best, Linda and Gerald Jones

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**Gerald Jones** - January 13, 2024 at 11:12 AM

SQ

*Thank you so much for this note. Much appreciated*

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**sherry qualls** - January 13, 2024 at 03:46 PM

EL

“ I am Nancy's cousin Ted. When I lived in Canada, my late wife Marilyn and I would attend some of the Hansel reunions, and we visited Eunice in about 1985. A great family.

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**Ed Lauer** - January 12, 2024 at 03:19 PM

JL

“ I was driving home last night from Hanover back to Hingham. After a distance on Prospect Street, my usual turn was to the next right to get home most expeditiously. For some unknown reason, whim spoke to me to continue on straight. I decided to go the adventure and see what lay ahead. As I drove, I realized one of these was the Hansel house, without taking my eyes too far for too long from the task of driving. In a junior high visit over to Fritz's house, it left a strong lasting impression with me how the house was a little lower than street level and parallel set, fairly close to the street. In the shared sadness, Grant came to speak at a special assembly with great heart, urging the students on to a great sense of school spirit. Alas, some of us just stared out windows, dabbled in amusements and wonderings, and remained illiterate to whatever the school colors happened to be at the moment.

As I drove slowly to the voices of ghosts of the past, down to the left, I could hear and see Sherry's rousing election speech, also from the junior high school auditorium's stage, all over again, in all its power. No boring speech was her's but a rousing call for open rebellion against the perceived lousy lunches that we were served. Never in all my public school years listening to drivel student council election speeches was there one so electrifying that had people off their feet and yelling to great approval. I could feel and see her great high on stage as she electrified the peoples rebellion. Perhaps no federal Department of Agriculture bureaucrat succumbed to the young rebel upstart's demands but she had already succeeded in something vastly more important as we all jumped to our feet in more spirit than we ever expected of ourselves.

And I open the town newspaper just now...

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**John Leonard** - January 11, 2024 at 03:38 PM

SQ

Oh John. Thank you for this. Hugs to you

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**sherry qualls** - January 13, 2024 at 10:16 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Grant Hansel, Jr..

January 07, 2024 at 09:48 AM



“ The Hansel family was my 2nd family growing up, mark was my best friend and we were always getting in trouble and grant would look at us with that look and deep voice say something stern and then all forgotten . He was a big man with a big heart a father figure and mentor .  
The Hansel family all of them are wonderful clearly inherited from grant and Joan I will miss grant he was such a big part of my life.

scott gillis - January 05, 2024 at 10:51 AM



Scott, you remain a part of this family. Love to you

sherry qualls - January 13, 2024 at 10:18 AM



“ I was blessed to be a close friend of Mark and the Hansel family while growing up in Hingham. Grant and Joan always opened their home in Hingham and Warren Vermont to their children's friends. Their love for each other, their family, and their community always an evident and beautiful example for all who have known them. Grant was such a strong, caring, and intelligent man who lived a wonderful life. I am very grateful to have known him. Sending my sincere condolences to his beautiful family. Susan (Beale) Davis

Susan Davis - January 04, 2024 at 08:58 AM

SQ

*So good to hear from you Sue. Dad always had a soft spot for you and we all cherished our time with you. Thank you for these thoughts.*

sherry qualls - January 13, 2024 at 03:48 PM

TR

*“ I have many wonderful memories when Grant and Joan visited the Hansel's (son Mark and daughter-in-law Kelly) in Massachusetts. They were sweet grandparents and always had interesting, intelligent stories to tell. A life well lived.*

Tracey Ellen Ryan - January 02, 2024 at 01:25 PM

SQ

*Tracey thanks for this. Dad always loved the whole Ryan crew. He was so pleased to be a part of Natalie and Chris' wedding and to see you all again.*

sherry qualls - January 13, 2024 at 03:49 PM

TR

*“ What an intelligent and lovely man. Thank you for such a beautiful obituary summarizing a life well lived. I had no idea he had musical and vocal talent. I have many memories of Grant visiting his son Mark Hansel's home with his wife. He and Joan were a lovely couple, always kind and interesting. Tracey Ryan (sister of Kelly Hansel).*

Tracey Ellen Ryan - January 02, 2024 at 01:22 PM

JF

*“ I came to know Grant Hansel to be a uniquely intelligent man, possessing skills and interests in so many different pursuits throughout his life... he was a leader, a family man, a successful businessman and someone I always considered my friend. My deepest sympathies to his family. - Jay Fee*

Jay Fee - January 01, 2024 at 11:21 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Grant Hansel, Jr..



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December 30, 2023 at 09:30 AM