



Gray H. Sellers

October 28, 2018

Gray H. Sellers, 84, of Millersville, PA, died at St. Anne's Retirement Community on Sunday, October 28, 2018 in Columbia, PA. Born in Phillipsburg, PA, on October 26, 1934, Gray was the son of the late Ross Parker and Rose Emma (Henderson) Sellers. Gray was married to Ellen Currier Sellers for 61 years.

Gray attended the one-room school system in Patton Township before entering the State College system in 7th grade. He graduated from State College High School in 1952 and attended Penn State University where he studied Hotel Administration with an emphasis in food and nutrition. Gray began his career with summer employment in Howard Johnson restaurants followed by 3 years at the Penn Harris Hotel in Harrisburg, PA. He shifted to college food service as the Assistant Director of Food Services at Bloomsburg University and then Kutztown University. In 1966, Gray began his 26 years of employment at Millersville University as the Director of Food Services. In 1968, he moved to administration and served as Vice President of Finance and Administration until he retired in 1992. In his capacity as VP, Gray served on various boards and commissions. He chaired the celebratory event when Governor Thornburg signed the bill that created Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education and served as the first chairman of the Financial Officers of the PA State University, a position he held for six years.

Gray's principal interest during his tenure as at Millersville University was to support and encourage students, particularly when financial obstacles threatened to impede their academic goals. To support these efforts he and his wife led travel and other music-related fund-raising events. They founded yearly subscription trips to the Philadelphia Orchestra, giving members of the community and Millersville University music majors a chance to experience one of the world's finest orchestras while also increasing scholarship dollars. Travel destinations included England, France, and Russia. All of these trips included musical and theatrical events, ranging from public concerts and performances to private organ recitals to the world famous Oberammergau Passion Play.

Gray was active in the community. He was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church and a member and president of the Lions Club of Millersville and the West End Ambulance Association. He also spearheaded community events such as Strawberry Pie Day, a fund-raiser for the West End Ambulance Association, and Arthur Fiedler's visit with the Lancaster Orchestra, for which he and his co-chair Mary McGrann received the Lancaster New Era Red Rose Award.

Gray and his wife cherished their time together and with their children and their families both at home and at Hillcrest Resort in Ogunquit, Maine. He is survived by two daughters; Deborah E. (William Payne) Sellers, Ithaca, NY, Rebecca E. (Brian) Hill, North Conway, NH; three sons, Steven A. Sellers and partner (Paula Mishler), Manheim, Matthew P. Sellers and partner (Christine McGlory), Lancaster, and Andrew C. (Abigail Barley) Sellers, Harrisburg; ten grandchildren Amy, Chelsea, Julian, Jeremy, Graeme, Mackenzie, Sofia, Sam, Andrew Jr., and Luke and five great-grandchildren Amalie, Addison, Camryn, Evan, and Roman.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Gray's Memorial

Service on Saturday, November 10, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 321 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, PA, 17603 with The Rev. Glen Miller officiating. The family will receive friends at the church from 10:00 a.m. until time of service and at The Groff Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange Street (corner of W. Orange & Pine Sts.), Lancaster, PA on Friday evening, November 9, 2018 from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. Private family Interment will be held at the Millersville Mennonite Cemetery.

The family wishes to express their appreciation to the staff and the St. Anne's community for the loving care that Gray received during his six years as a resident.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Gray's memory can be sent to St. Anne's Retirement Community, 3952 Columbia Avenue, Columbia, PA 17512 or St. John's Episcopal Church.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 9. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Visitation

NOV 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
321 W. Chestnut Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Service

NOV 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
321 W. Chestnut Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall



“ *Gray H. Sellers*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *I was sorry to see that Gray had passed and did not find out until after the memorial service. I enjoyed working with Gray when I was the Asst Director, Physical Plant at Millersville University. He was always ready with an answer to a question that you may have had. I always remember when we renovated Alumni House on campus that if I saw Gray headed towards the building, I would be getting a call from the project leader that Gray was making changes. He was very specific in what he wanted and if his idea wasn't working as he thought, it needed to be modified. A good man whose main thought was for the students and MU.*

Ken Bolig - November 15, 2018 at 08:42 AM



“ *Health Issues prevent me from attending the gathering tonight or Gray's memorial service tomorrow. I will be with you in my heart. We shared so many happy memories ; Penn State, Good Food beautifully presented, Trips to the Philadelphia Orchestra (at home and away) Bach Festival, Music and the list goes on. Wish I could give you a hug right now Ellen. Thinking of you and your family. Love, ruthe*

ruthe eshleman - November 09, 2018 at 08:40 AM

JM

“ I remember when Gray was part of the management team that negotiated the very first union contract with state employees. One contract provision was that management was to hold regular meetings with employees.. Millersville State College was one of the few places to actually do it. Gray held the meetings in the impressive meeting room of the college Board of Trustees. He was good at resolving employee grievances before they became serious, but sometimes agreement was impossible. When that happened he was able to laugh at himself. One day he came into the office and announced, "All the employees are painting their basements red." Why? "Because nobody likes "gray cellars." I had the luck to be sitting in his office when he saw a magazine ad that Arthur Fiedler was available for appearances. "June, get me Arthur Fiedler on the phone!" he said to June Thumma. I don't think June got Fiedler but she got someone close enough to Fiedler for Gray to work his magic on. You know the rest. He was not an easy boss but he prepared me to work with more difficult ones and less creative ones in Harrisburg.

*John Matthews
Millersville*

John Matthews - November 08, 2018 at 04:47 PM

KF

“ So sorry for your loss. Many fond memories of him coming to Funk's Farm Market to buy produce for whatever it was he was planning to cook. He was always happy and a great talker. He will be missed. | Condolences to the family. Karen and Rick Fralich

karen Fralich - November 05, 2018 at 07:04 PM

SG

“ Gray’s room was just up the hall from my Mother’s room. We often exchanged greetings and funny quips. What a kind and wonderful person, in spite of what he was going thru. I will really miss him being there to talk to. My sincerest regrets for the loss of Gray to his family and friends and associates.
SandraLee Gingrich

SandraLee Gingrich - November 05, 2018 at 01:18 PM

SK

“ So sorry for your loss. Gray and I worked together on many project at Millersville and I have many fond memories of his love and dedication to Millersville.
Scott Kriner

Scott Kriner - November 04, 2018 at 04:59 PM



Darlene
Cassidy

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Many memories were made during the time we worked together at Millersville University.

Darlene Cassidy - November 04, 2018 at 11:37 AM

GM

“ I’m sorry to hear of your loss, my thoughts and prayers are with the family.

George Miller - November 04, 2018 at 08:19 AM