



William Earl Gast Jr.

December 6, 2018

WILLIAM EARL GAST, JR. (Bill) of Lancaster, PA was called home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Thursday, December 6, 2018 after succumbing to a year-long battle with cancer. He was 94.

He is survived by his loving wife of 72-years, Betty J. Ludwig Gast, and their family of -- 3 sons: William R. Gast, married to Vivian A. A. Gast, Ambler, PA; Bradley E. Gast, Gwynedd Valley, PA; Bruce E. Gast, Fort Washington, PA, -- 4 grandchildren: Jane E. Eger (daughter of Bradley), wife of Greg Eger; Victoria A. Shobe (daughter of William and Vivian), wife of Michael Shobe; Maxfield E. Gast (son of Bradley) married to Kathy Gast; Dillon N. Gast (son of Bruce) and -- 3 great-grandchildren: Melody Jane Shobe, Kendrick James Shobe, and Emerson Bradley Gast.

Bill was the first-born, September 4, 1924, to the late William E. and Cecile M. Stowell Gast. He was preceded in death by sister, Lois M. Dunlap on May 27, 2004 and is survived by sister, Virginia L. Miller living in Lancaster, PA.

Enlisting in the Army, December 1942, Bill postponed his graduation from McCaskey High School in Lancaster, PA. He trained at Fort Knox and Camp Campbell, KY, participated in extensive maneuvers in AZ, and joined with the 743rd Tank Battalion before going overseas in December 1943. On D-Day, in

the first wave, he drove his tank onto Omaha Beach in Normandy, France and fought through the five European Battles (Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe). His final battle was the liberation of Magdeburg, Germany on the Elbe River just prior to victory in Europe. He was honorably discharged on October 31, 1945. Bill was awarded the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, the Presidential Citation with Arrowhead, the European-African-Middle Eastern Medal with 5 campaign stars, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. He was more recently knighted and presented with The Legion of Honor Medal, France's highest decoration and also received, in honor of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, the Belgian attestation and Fourragère 1940. In 2009 Bill attended "American Soldiers/Holocaust Survivors Reunion" where he was able to reunite with seven survivors from the Bergen-Belson death camp who were liberated from a train that the 743rd Tank Battalion intercepted.

Before retiring in 1990, Bill owned and operated a trucking business and later became a heavy-truck sales specialist for Wolf Motor Company. In retirement, Bill and wife Betty achieved "rock star" status from kids and contemporaries alike, for producing greeting cards, iMovies, and design work from B&B Creations with their exceptional computer skills.

A member of the greatest generation, Bill was a hero to his country, an inspiration to those close to him, and he was adored by his family.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend William's Funeral Service at Harvest Bible Church, 1460 Eden Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601 on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 11:00 A.M. with The Rev. Jonathan Walters officiating. Interment will take place at Conestoga Memorial Park with Military Honors rendered by the Red Rose Veterans Honor Guard and Salute 21. The family will receive friends at the Church on Thursday from 10:00 A.M. until time of service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to Harvest Bible Church in William's memory. A luncheon will follow the interment at The Groff Event Center, 234 W. Orange St., Lancaster, PA 17603.

Cemetery Details

Conestoga Memorial Park

95 2nd Lock Rd
Lancaster, PA 17603

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Harvest Bible Church
1460 Eden Rd.
Lancaster, PA 17601

Service

DEC 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Harvest Bible Church
1460 Eden Rd.
Lancaster, PA 17601

Tribute Wall



“ *William Earl Gast Jr.*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Dear Bill, Brad and Bruce,*

We don't have a lot of memories of your Dad but we want to send our sympathy to you and your family. I don't know if you remember us from the 70's, but we were in the College Career Class at Calvary Independent. We helped co-advise that class for a few years. I remember you being in and out of activities. It is always hard losing a parent and we are praying for you and your families during this time. May you find comfort in the Lord Jesus Christ. Don and Judi (Justice) Landis

judith Landis - December 13, 2018 at 08:15 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Earl Gast Jr..*



December 12, 2018 at 10:24 AM



“ *I am so blessed to have known Bill and Betty as part of our Bible study group here at the Oaks. They were such a blessing to us here at the Oaks and we missed them so much when they had to move to Evergreen Estates. Now Bill has moved to glory where he has a new body and no more pain. We at Bible study loved him too.*

Pat Eckman - December 11, 2018 at 07:51 AM