



Bernard Henry Gallagher

November 19, 1928 - December 5, 2017

Bernard Henry Gallagher of Beltsville, MD, died on December 5, 2017, at Corsica Hills Nursing Home. He was 89.

Mr. Gallagher was born on November 19, 1928, a fifth generation native of Alexandria, VA. He graduated from George Washington High School. In 1948, he joined the US Army Reserve and was called up in 1950, serving during the Korean War. He completed his military career as a Sergeant First Class. He married Charlotte Ward on June 24, 1957, and the couple made their home in Landover Hills, MD, later Beltsville, MD. He worked in the railroad industry, starting his career in 1946 with the Southern Railroad, later moving to the Fruit Grover's Express, and then the Washington Terminal Company. He was a Steam Locomotive Machinist and Carman. He went on to work for Allen Mitchell & co. of Washington DC, a machine shop and was a contract machinist at NASA Greenbelt. He retired in 1990.

Mr. Gallagher was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Beltsville, MD, the Knights of Columbus, and the National Historical Railroad Society. He was instrumental in the restoration of the Pullman Car "Dover Harbor," and held the title of Chief Mechanical Officer Emeritus. He was dedicated in the service of his brother Machinists serving as a shop steward and Local Officer. He was an accomplished model railroad train builder, and railroad historian.

He is survived by his loving wife, Charlotte Mary Gallagher of Beltsville, MD; his children, Madeline Mitchell (David) of Alexandria, VA, Bernard Gallagher of Beltsville, MD, and John Gallagher (Jeanine) of Cordova, MD; a sister, Jean Whalen of TX; grandchildren, Blaine (Jessica), John, Austin, Juliana, Alexander and Scott; and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bernard Travers Gallagher and Eleanor Kate Kingsley Gallagher; a daughter, Marie Miller; and a brother, Michael Gallagher.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11 am, on Wednesday, December 13, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Beltsville, MD.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the National Railway Historical Society, 1001 G St. NW, Ste. 800W, Washington, DC 20001 (www.nrhs.com); or to the Alzheimer's Association, PO Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090 (www.alz.org).

Tribute Wall



“ *Bernard Henry Gallagher*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Bernard Henry Gallagher*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Bernard Henry Gallagher*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

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“Bernie was my rail mentor, a gentleman and a dear friend for 27 years, and I am crushed at his passing and very sorry for his family's loss.

Bernie introduced me to the Dover Harbor, the world of private cars, and full-size railroad maintenance and operations. He gave selflessly, and took the time to teach me much of what I know in this domain. One of the most important things he taught me was how to look at a project, see it phases looking ahead, and work through it one step at a time - it is an invaluable skill. As a machinist he was incredible.

Bernie was kind, gentle, and had a wonderful, often dry, sense of humor. He had a way about him that made you want to be around him, made you want to learn, and made you want to be a better person. I could listen to him tell stories for hours. He used to hold court every Saturday during lunch at Dover Park and we would, as he put it, "talk over the world situation." We used to go to a lot of meetings together too, and I would pick him up in the car and do just that.

We had some amazing rail trips together, including a 2.5 hour ride from Manassas to Red Hill, Virginia in the cab of N&W No. 611, a steam locomotive in May 1994. He was stoic but there a smile on his face that said he was in his element. Another great trip was to Florida in Dover Harbor for a CSX charter in 1997. I also let him drive my 2005 Ford Mustang, and he really seemed to enjoy it too.

Bernie, you may be gone from our presence, but your spirit will always be with us and aboard Dover Harbor.

*Jim Lilly
Chief Mechanical Officer,
National Railway Historical Society, Washington, D.C. Chapter, Inc.*

PS - There is also a tribute with photos to Bernie posted on our web

site.

James W Lilly - December 09, 2017 at 09:30 AM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



James W Lilly - December 09, 2017 at 08:37 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



James W Lilly - December 09, 2017 at 08:36 AM

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“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



James W Lilly - December 09, 2017 at 08:34 AM