

## Robert Gelderman

April 23, 1929 - March 16, 2017

Robert R. Gelderman (known affectionately as “Beeg”) of Chestertown, MD, died on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at Heron Point of Chestertown. He was 87.

Born on April 23, 1929, in Evanston, IL, he was the son of the late Godfrey John and Florence Thiel Gelderman. He first graduated from Loyola Academy, in Chicago, Class of 1947, and then attended Marquette University in Wisconsin, where he majored in advertising and sales and graduated in 1951.

He married Anita Ruth Miller on July 12, 1952. Bob and Anita and their growing family lived in the Chicago suburban area until 1968, when they moved to Riverside, CT. During this time, Bob worked in sales and his business associations included Container Corporation of America, Metro Mail, O. E. McIntyre, Gorman Publishing, and Independent Publishing. He twice served as Vice President of his company and retired in 2000. He often noted that among his customers he made many lifelong friends.

In 1985, he and his wife moved to Chestertown, MD, where he was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He was active in the Chester River Yacht and Country Club and played golf with MISGA. Bob had varied interests including golfing, boating, woodworking, and his family. He was the published author of *The Yellow Dog With One Bad Eye*, a book about his yellow lab, Charlie. He considered himself a very successful hunter, because even

though he never shot a deer, his freezer was always full of venison.

Bob was always active in water safety. As a member of the Power Squadron in Connecticut, he taught numerous courses and performed boat inspections. As an active member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Bob supported operations at Sector Baltimore, and patrolled the waters of the Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay. He received multiple citations and separated from the service as a commander.

He is survived by his children, Anne Livie of Seattle, WA; Peter Gelderman (Laurie) of Trumbull, CT; Patrick Gelderman (Harriet) of Brookfield, CT; Jeannie Gelderman of Chestertown, MD; Mary Carroll (Kevin) of Westport, CT; and Susan Weir (Jay) of Skaneateles, NY; eleven grandchildren, Rebecca Schopfer, Kristin English, Katie Pfeifle, Quinton Gelderman, Geoffrey Gelderman, James Newnam, Ryan Smith, Collin Carroll, Claire Carroll, Oliver Weir and Miller Weir; two great-grandchildren, Owen English and Lily Pfeifle, and his brother, Larry Geldermann of Heartland, WI. He is preceded in death by his wife, Anita, and his brothers, John T. Geldermann and Thomas A. Geldermann. He is remembered with great love by his many nieces and nephews.

Following the loss of their respective spouses, Bob reconnected with his high school sweetheart, Anne McDonnell. Bob and Anne enjoyed five years of special friendship and enriched each other's lives and families with love and humor. Bob said of their relationship, "In the twilight of my life, God has given me a beautiful sunset."

Bob was beloved throughout his life by his many friends who appreciated his kindness, openness, and sense of humor. He believed that a person can choose to be happy, and he exercised that choice freely and frequently. He was generous with his time, attention, and special treats such as his

homemade beef jerky and peppermint ice cream.

A memorial mass will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at 11:00 am, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 508 High Street, Chestertown, MD. Interment will be in St. Paul's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the International Multiple Sclerosis Research Center, in care of MSRCNY, 521 West 57th St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10019 or by visiting their website, [www.msrcny.org](http://www.msrcny.org).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Pauls Cemetery (Kent County)

7600 Sandy Bottom Road  
Chestertown, MD

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church  
508 High Street  
Chestertown, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Gelderman*

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October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Robert Gelderman*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Robert Gelderman*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

TG

“ Dear Jeannie,

*Bob and Anita, and your entire family, were so very kind to The Geraghty Family.*

*Both Bob and Anita were so loving and so welcoming and that love was extended to all of us at The Greenwich Catholic Middle School. Mary and Suzie were really wonderful.*

*(Let me see....who am I forgetting here? ;)*

*Jeannie, you are still deeply-rooted in so many wonderful memories. An extraordinary babysitter, an incredible and 'dynamic gymnast', :) , a STAR 'Tumbling Tornado' Team Member, (could not have done any of those things without you Jeannie). You coached me most of the time!!! You were such a solid and dependable, and incredibly loving assistant and such an important part of ALL of those wonderful collaborations. YOU made them so much FUN!!! (And Bob and Anita were so instrumental in the person you came to be.)*

*I live just a mile north of Mt Washington in Gorham, NH. Nearly everyday, after riding my bicycle through the mountains, I play lots of songs on the guitar and piano....and nearly always include 'Mr. Bojangles'. :) (A wonderful 'visual' of you glimmers in my eyes every single time I sing it.... :)*

*You didn't think I would forget our unforgettable Camp Discovery collaborative performance did you? :) I will never forget the poise you demonstrated in that moment...*

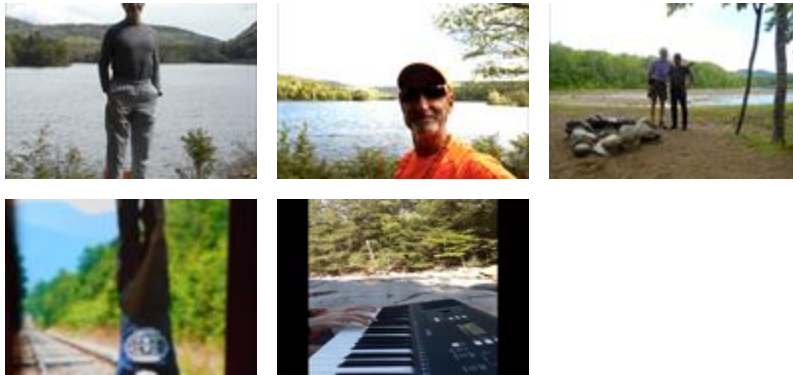
*and how proud I was of you Jeannie. (I know Bob and Anita would have been so proud of you as well.) You made EVERYTHING BETTER!!!! :)*

*It was so wonderful to have you, once again, work/play with us as a fantastic assistant camp director. Shane, Corey, Colin and Casey all benefitted so much from your 'Sparkling Personality' and joyful guidance. You made every camp experience so special!!! :)*

*It was so great of you to visit us in Stratford, CT too Jeannie. (That*

*was the last time I got to see you.) Both Bob and Anita taught you so well Jeannie. And the entire Geraghty family will never forget just how lucky we were to have you in our lives!!!*

*Speaking for all of the 'Geraghty Guys'....Thank you Jeannie!!!!  
And thank you Bob and Anita....*



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**Tom Geraghty** - May 16, 2020 at 03:59 PM

AL

“*Anne, Peter, Patrick, Jeannie, Mary and Susan, I regret that I am away and unable to attend your father's service. I did not know him long or well, but experienced him in a short time as friendly, gracious, intelligent, kind, and devoted to faith and family. I appreciate learning more through the obituary and look forward to reading his book about his dog. My prayers are with you especially this day. Grace and peace, (Chaplain) Anne*

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**Anne Ledbetter** - March 21, 2017 at 07:31 AM

KA

“ Jeannie and family - I heard about Bob's passing, and am grateful for the opportunity to send my condolences. I worked with Bob (and you) in the Independent Publishing days, and news of his passing has brought up some wonderful memories. What a wonderful man!! Wishing you and your family best wishes as you lay Bob to rest. You will be in my thoughts and prayers this week.

*Kelly Staley Antonou  
McHenry, IL  
kellyantonou@yahoo.com*

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**Kelly Antonou** - March 20, 2017 at 02:27 PM

MT

“ May the love of family and friends bring you peace and comfort.

*Michelle Thornton  
USCG Auxiliary D5S Chief of Staff*

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**Michelle Thornton** - March 20, 2017 at 02:03 PM

JL

“ I have many fond memories of playing many rounds of golf with Bob. We had great time at CRYCC and our away MISGA trips. He was a good friend and a true gentleman, He will be dearly missed.  
Sincerely, Jim Lupis

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**Jim Lupis** - March 20, 2017 at 01:52 PM

GH

“ Bob was a dear friend and Judy and I will miss him. At the moment we are out of the country and will be unable to attend his funeral Mass on Tuesday. We will remember Bob in our prayers. Judy and George Hagerty.

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**George Hagerty** - March 20, 2017 at 09:25 AM

RF

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



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**Robert Fiedler** - March 20, 2017 at 08:22 AM

JP

“ Dear Gelderman Family,

*I extend my sincere sympathy on the loss of your dear father.*

*I thank you for posting the beautifully written obituary in our Naperville Sun.*

*I shall always remember Bob as one of the more competitive fellows I have known.*

*I think it is a common trait of successful salesmen. But beyond that he was one of the friendliest guys anyone could meet. I have truly missed his genuine laugh and great humor over these last many years. Phone calls were fun, but not the same thing.*

*Ever since the move to Riverside, we have exchanged Christmas Cards, but last year we missed. Probably due to my Becka's passing Mar 5, 2016. I wonder if Bob was ill during last Christmas season.*

*I just thought of the day Bob got on the long par 5 railroad hole at Naper Ctry Club, in two strokes. He missed the eagle but made the birdie. I can't recall anyone else doing that.*

*I will keep that memory and pray that Bob will find many a golf game in Heaven....maybe with me some time.*

*Much love to all,*

*John Prescott  
33 Westmoreland  
60540*

**John F. Prescott** - March 19, 2017 at 03:03 PM

GC

“ *Gail Claggett lit a candle in memory of Robert Gelderman*



**Gail Claggett** - March 19, 2017 at 11:21 AM

AF

“ *All our love, The John Geldermann Family purchased the With Distinction for the family of Robert Gelderman.*



**All our love, The John Geldermann Family** - March 18, 2017 at 01:50 PM

KM

“ *Kevin & Mary Ellen McMahon lit a candle in memory of Robert Gelderman*



**Kevin & Mary Ellen McMahon** - March 18, 2017 at 05:02 AM

JE

“ *Josie Elburn lit a candle in memory of Robert Gelderman*



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**Josie Elburn** - March 17, 2017 at 07:32 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Gelderman.*



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March 17, 2017 at 04:03 PM